

Educating the Public on Water Conservation

By Randy Hellbusch

More water systems than ever are installing water line service meters on all of their users. There are many reasons, but mainly it is because there is currently money available for assistance with such projects.

Often times meters are not a real popular decision among users that are not used to being metered. The majority of citizens are against the idea of metering because they haven't been properly informed of the benefits of meters and the positive results metering can bring to a water system. Most users automatically just think of the immediate impact on their own wallet. All they see is that meters are going in and their monthly bill is going up! What many don't realize is that their bill is going to increase regardless of the meters, and many would possibly even see a larger increase if meters are not installed. This is where a good public education program can really help. For instance, most people find it hard to believe how much water a leaking toilet or faucet can use in a day's time.

NeRWA has materials that can help to educate water users on conservation and water use. Just give us a call and we can get you some information that will help you educate the public on water use.

Another excellent resource for this type of assistance is the National Small Flows Clearinghouse based at the University of West Virginia. Their e-mail address is www.nsfrc.wvu.edu They have some great educational items that can really assist you in making changes and improvements to your water system go much smoother.

If your water system is currently installing meters, contemplating meters or if you have any other issues that you would like some assistance with, give us a call at 1-800-842-8039.