

DC Water Hosts Regional PFAS Summit to Further Understand Forever Chemicals

DC Water teamed up with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWWCOG) to assemble researchers, utility leaders and government officials to explore the impacts of PFAS and implications of policymaking.

The meeting came one week after the US EPA released a proposed drinking water rule limiting the amount of PFAS in drinking water. The limit was set at the lowest level of detection. PFAS are a group of more than 6,000 man-made chemicals that have been manufactured and used in home consumer products since the 1940s. PFAS are used in many applications because of their unique physical properties such as resistance to high and low temperatures, stain resistance and nonstick characteristics. These qualities make them desirable for use in carpets, clothing, food packaging, cookware and many other products.

PFAS exist worldwide in the air, soil and water. Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed and have PFAS in their blood. The U.S. EPA says that continued exposure above specific levels to certain PFAS may cause adverse health effects.

The science around these chemicals is evolving. Scientists are hard at work understanding the chemicals, their risk to human health, and how to mitigate that risk.

PFAS are created by manufacturers. Water utilities do not produce or manufacture PFAS. Instead, these chemicals are present in the source waters that are treated to produce drinking water. They enter the water from manufacturing plants and from using everyday products.

A common theme throughout the Summit was the heavy burden that would be placed on water utilities and their ratepayers to remove these substances, when a smarter and faster action would be to ban the substances and remove them from polluting our waters to begin with. That action would have many benefits to the environment and public health.

DC Water is following the guidance of EPA Region 3, our regulating authority and will take necessary action as needed. In the meantime, we support efforts to hold manufacturers accountable for removal of PFAS from our source water in the first place. For more information please visit dcwater.com/pfas.

CEO's Message

On World Water Day, March 22, DC Water hosted a regional summit to explore the emerging issues of "forever chemicals" called PFAS (see cover story). Co-hosted by the Council of Governments, the forum assembled thought leaders, regional policy makers and public officials to explore the current science and implications of proposed policies.



Nationally recognized leaders explained PFAS—where they come from, how we are exposed to them and how they get into drinking water, wastewater and biosolids. Common sense already tells us the best way to eliminate PFAS is to stop their production and to keep PFAS from entering drinking water sources in the first place. These scientists and industry experts drove that message home in every presentation.

Public health is our number one priority, and we will continue to follow EPA's requirements. Looking through an equity lens, I have concerns about how we meet these requirements. Some suggested technology would cost in the billions, and any unfunded mandate will place an even greater burden on our customers, many of whom already struggle financially.

Addressing emerging issues is not always the easy thing to do. But it is the right thing to do. I will continue to support the open discussion and exploration of challenging issues like PFAS.

David L. Gadis, CEO
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How does your garden grow?



With the arrival of spring, many residents are sprucing up their lawns, planting in their flower beds and assembling their planters and outdoor furniture. DC Water reminds you to keep these tips in mind:

Bloom for Blooms

Bloom®, DC Water's soil conditioner and compost substitute, provides slow-release nutrients to feed plants, and organic matter to build soils, all in a single biosolids product for home gardens and lawns, farms and more. Bloom is made from EPA-certified Class A Exceptional Quality biosolids at Blue Plains, the world's largest advanced wastewater plant. It is treated with extremely high temperatures and high pressure to kill off any potential pathogens.

Using Bloom saves ratepayer money and provides environmental benefits such as a reduced carbon footprint and putting the nutrients back into the earth where they belong, but in a slower release form than commercial fertilizers that can harm the environment with excess nitrogen.

Properly treated biosolids add needed nutrients to gardens and restore impoverished soils. One happy customer remarked, "My wife noticed that our grass was greener than my brother-in-law's, even though we used the same seeds." The difference in color and texture can be attributed to the slow-release nitrogen and iron in Bloom, which yields darker grass and greener leaves.

The rich nutrients and organic matter in Bloom provide an added boost to trees and flowers, stimulating consistent, healthy growth over multiple seasons for hobbyist growers. Bloom is also used on a large scale for farms spanning hundreds of acres, leading to increased crop yields and better drought resistance, all at a lower cost than chemical fertilizers.

In areas of the District with clay-heavy, compacted soils, Bloom is revitalizing landscaping by improving drainage and assisting with aeration, in turn fostering lush flowers, bushes, trees and lawns. To purchase Bloom, visit bloomsoil.com or reach out to bloom@bloomsoil.com.

Keep your meters clear

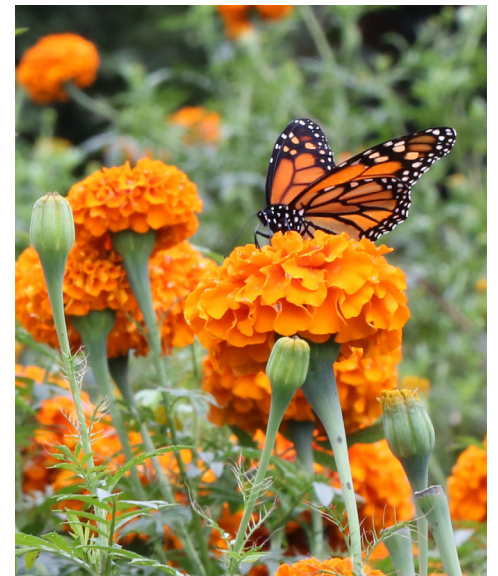
DC Water meters transmit usage information to headquarters using radio and cell transmissions. Please be sure to keep flower pots, cars, patio furniture and plantings off of the top of the meter. If your meter doesn't transmit you will get an estimated bill. **Keep your water bill accurate by keeping your meter clear.**

Pay attention to the HUNA

If you get a phone call or email from DC Water's High Usage Notification Application, that means your usage has spiked to the point that you probably have a leak or running water on your property. Pay attention, inspect in and around your home, and call DC Water or your plumber if you can't find the leak. (Also update your contact information. We can only make contact through information in our system.)

Dial Before You Dig

Call 811 at least two working days before you start any digging project. Describe the nature and location of the project and Miss Utility will mark the utilities.



Catch Up Offer Expires May 31, 2023

For a limited time only, DC Water is helping eligible customers catch up on their water bills by waiving late fees and penalties and reducing their balance by 10 percent! There is no application process and no waiting period – just pay the Catch-Up Balance by May 31, 2023. (For faster posting, customers can pay by phone at **202-354-3600** or online at mydcwater.com) DC Water cares about affordability and strives to find ways to help customers, even developing new, innovative assistance programs. For more information visit dcwater.com/cares. **Payment must post by May 31.**



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