



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment

March 11, 2011

Contact:
Lorraine Bukowski
Public Relations Manager
(203) 336-7662

Aquarion Stomping Out Its Carbon Footprint

Significant initiatives diminish company's CO₂ emissions

Aquarion Water Company has been working diligently on a series of measures to reduce its “carbon footprint,” or the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) it emits into the air – a reduction that equates to removing more than 1,000 cars from our highways this year.

Globally, awareness of CO₂ emissions has grown significantly during the last few decades with the debate over its impact on the Earth's atmosphere. The use of fossil fuels continues to increase the amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere, where, along with other gases, it forms a heat block or “greenhouse effect,” which has been proven to be detrimental to the Earth's environment.

While best known for its status as one of the nation's major public water suppliers, Aquarion is justifiably proud of its commitment to the environment. Recent awards from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Housatonic Valley Association, two leading environmental organizations, underscore Aquarion's dedication to environmental stewardship.

Numerous initiatives demonstrate Aquarion's resolution to reduce its carbon footprint. The most significant of these is a recent change in electric power providers, which will reduce CO₂ emissions significantly through the new provider's use of hydro-electric power in lieu of fossil fuels. This move will save more than 840 tons of CO₂ emissions in 2011.

Solar energy

Aquarion started experimenting with solar energy about five years ago, using it to run treatment systems at several of its reservoirs. In 2009, it partnered with TNC and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to use solar and wind technology to help migrating eels pass safely over one of its dams to open waters.



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment

Early in March, Aquarion completed another pilot project that harnesses solar energy to generate some of the power used at the company's operations center in Bridgeport. A spokesman at United Illuminating said UI is monitoring Aquarion's progress with this effort to determine whether a similar system would benefit any of its other commercial customers.

Most recently, Aquarion and a Shelton-based energy company negotiated plans to construct a larger solar energy system at the water treatment plant in that city. The new system will "track" the sun's location throughout the day for optimum collection of solar rays. When constructed this spring, the project should reduce energy consumption at the plant by approximately 10 percent.

Other efforts

Aquarion has replaced older, inefficient heating systems; converted systems to natural gas; and installed other energy-saving devices throughout its facilities. Also, without jeopardizing its ability to respond to customer needs, Aquarion has reduced its vehicle fleet size and downsized vehicle types.

In addition, fluorescent lighting upgrades at Aquarion's corporate headquarters and larger water treatment facilities, together with an LED lighting project supported by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund at Aquarion's environmental center in Easton, will continue to reduce carbon emissions even further.

"Aquarion has long operated with a formal environmental policy that compels us to make environmental concerns an integral part of our planning and decision-making processes," stated Charles V. Firlotte, President and CEO. "This policy also requires us to strive to prevent and reduce environmental impacts of our operations, which is exactly what these measures are accomplishing. I'm proud to say that 'stewards of the environment' is not just a slogan for us; it is the way we do business."

Aquarion Water Company serves approximately 580,000 people in 39 communities throughout Connecticut. It is among the seven largest investor-owned water utility companies in the U.S., and the largest in New England.

###