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# WATER WATCH

Spring 2012 ❄️🌸🌻🌻

[aquarionwater.com](http://aquarionwater.com)

Connecticut

## Aquarion Follows Sun To Savings

Aquarion Water Company recently went live with a solar panel installation at its Shelton treatment plant, in a pilot program to determine if the company can rely on solar power to cut energy consumption.

Aquarion partnered with OPEL Solar of Shelton to install modern solar technology late last year as an energy source for operations at the Trap Falls treatment plant. The solar panels move with the sun as it traverses the sky, which increases the panels' exposure time to the power source.

The installation is sizable: three of the panels erected next to the treatment plant measure 78 feet by 10 feet. Another unit measures 27 feet by 19.5 feet. In addition, the array includes a small, fixed unit similar to solar panels in use throughout the residential marketplace.

The project provides Aquarion with another opportunity to pursue its exploration of alternative energy sources, continuing to reduce its carbon footprint in a cost-effective manner. OPEL benefits because, with the treatment plant located near its corporate offices, it now has a local demonstration site for other potential customers to view.



*David Connors, left, Director of Supply Operations, and Michael Liberante, Treatment Manager, examine some of the new solar panels at Aquarion Water Company's Trap Falls treatment plant in Shelton.*

Currently, Aquarion personnel are studying the long-term workability of the systems for installation at other treatment and pumping facilities. Combined with other solar and wind power applications the company already has installed, and with energy-efficient lighting upgrades

at all its CT facilities, Aquarion is well on its way to realizing its goal of an annual reduction in carbon dioxide release.

## Aquarion Searches For More Environmental Champions

Do you know someone who has helped to preserve or improve our environment in the area of water, air, soil, trees, plants and wildlife?

If so, these individuals are eligible to win the Aquarion Environmental Champion Award in one of four categories: Youth, Adult, Business and Non-Profit Organization.

With a nomination deadline of May 1, Aquarion will present the awards June 2 at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo. Presenters will include U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Commissioner Dan Esty of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and John DeAugustine, Group Publisher for Hearst Media Services of CT.



For winners in the Adult, Business and Non-Profit categories, Aquarion will bestow a \$2,500 grant in their names to an environmental non-profit organization of their choice. The winning student will receive a \$1,000 savings bond.

"Across Connecticut, there are countless volunteers who dedicate themselves to preserving our precious environment," said Aquarion President and CEO Charles V. Firlotte. "As a water utility that prides itself on environmental stewardship, we at Aquarion recognize the impact of their efforts on our natural resources – our water, of course, and our air,

soil, trees, plants and wildlife. (Continued on page 2)

## Conservation Corner

### Time to Think Spring...for Watering

Soon winter will be a distant memory, and green will be the predominant color in your lawn. That means it's time to start thinking about healthy lawns and irrigation, Watering lawns and plants too much and too frequently can result in shallow roots, weed growth, disease, and fungus. However, there are numerous tips from the EPA's WaterSense program you can follow in determining when and how much to water your lawn and gardens, whether you use a hose, sprinkler or irrigation system.

- If you step on your lawn and the grass springs back, it does not need water.
- Water your trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants.
- Water when the time is right. Early morning (4-7 a.m.) is an ideal time: the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are relatively cool, all of which minimizes evaporation. If you wait until midday, on the other hand, you can lose up to 30 percent of water to evaporation.



#### Free Alternatives

You also have options that provide free water for exterior uses, such as watering plants and shrubbery, or washing cars, windows or decks.

- Save water from a rainy day. Rain barrels, such as the popular blue barrel Aquarion offers its customers at a steep discount each spring (see page 3), collect stormwater that runs off your roof and holds it until you need to fill a watering can or bucket.
- You can use water from the air conditioning condenser, dehumidifier, and even your fish tank to quench your garden plants. Or catch the excess water from your showers, or from rinsing fruit and vegetables in the sink (just be careful not to re-use water that contains bleach, automatic-dishwashing detergent or fabric softener).



#### Outdoor Insights

A little care outdoors can save a lot of water.

- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off leaves, dirt or other debris.
- Check your garden hose for leaks where it connects to the spigot. If it leaks when you run your hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.
- Adjust your irrigation system with the seasons – you don't need as much water in the cooler spring months as you do in summer.

If you have an irrigation system for your lawn, familiarize yourself with the control settings and adjust the watering schedule regularly to conform to seasonal weather conditions.

(Continued from front)

## Aquarion Searches For More Environmental Champions

Our impetus behind this award is to honor those whose dedication of time and energy improves our environment." To obtain more details or a nomination form, visit [aquarionwater.com](http://aquarionwater.com) or [facebook.com/aquarionwater](https://www.facebook.com/aquarionwater), or send a letter requesting a nomination form to Aquarion Environmental Champion Award, Aquarion Water Company, 835 Main St., Bridgeport, CT 06604. Self-nominations and re-submission of nominations from last year's competition

are welcome.  
*U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, right, presents Aquarion's 2011 Environmental Champion Award to Corporate winner Steve Arena, left, and Tony Izzo of Northrop Grumman Systems Corp.*



## Aquarion Provides Assistance To Eligible Customers

With many people still experiencing financial constraints in the ongoing economic downturn, Aquarion Water Company reminds customers it has an assistance program that can help with water bills.

Each year, Aquarion provides funding through Goodwill Industries of Western Connecticut, so up to 1,000 eligible customers can receive a one-time voucher for \$50. To qualify, customers must receive bills quarterly and be either a homeowner or a renter who is responsible for the water bill through lease terms.

Eligible customers also must receive benefits through one of the following: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families; Supplemental Security Income; Social Security Disability Insurance; Helms Housing (paying the minimum); Section 8 housing program; Rental Assistance Program; State-Administered General Assistance; Medicaid; or the CT Energy Assistance Program.

If you believe you are eligible to apply, please go to [aquarionwater.com](http://aquarionwater.com), click on "Customer Care" at the top of the home page, and then click on "Customer Assistance Program." Download the application, complete it and mail it to the address on the form with proof of eligibility.

For more details, call Goodwill at 203-368-6511 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., email [Aquarion@goodwillwct.org](mailto:Aquarion@goodwillwct.org), or call Aquarion's Customer Service Department at 800-732-9678 (in the Bridgeport area, call 203-445-7310).

## Blue Barrels For Green Thinkers

Aquarion Water Company's popular rain barrel promotion is back this year!

Though the barrels normally cost \$120, you can purchase them online or by phone for only \$75.95 — a savings of nearly 40%!

The barrels, placed directly beneath a downspout, collect water from rooftop run-off during rain storms — a one-inch rainfall on the typical roof will fill one of these 55-gallon containers. This untreated "soft water" is ideal for flower beds, organic vegetable gardens, and other outdoor uses such as washing cars or cleaning exterior windows and deck surfaces.

Rain barrels not only help reduce your consumption of tap water, but also reduce stormwater runoff, which can carry pollutants like sediment, oil, grease and bacteria into ponds or rivers. Widespread use benefits towns and cities as well, because the reduced runoff will decrease the burden on water treatment facilities and municipal drainage systems during storms.



Durable and sturdy, the barrels measure 3 feet high and 2 feet across. They are manufactured in the United States from recycled material and come with a five-foot starter

hose and solid brass fittings. They also have several safety features to prevent children and pets from getting inside, and to keep insects and debris out. Their blue color prevents infrared light from cultivating algae in the water (you can repaint the barrels with acrylic spray paint without affecting this feature).

To order, go to [aquarionwater.com](http://aquarionwater.com) or call 1-877-977-3135 by June 1

and click on the rain barrel link at the left side of the home page. The barrels, which fit in the back seat of an average-sized car, will be available for pick-up Saturday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Trumbull Town Hall.

## Aquarion Receives Award For Business Growth

*Aquarion President and CEO Charles V. Firlotte, right, accepts the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce's Business Growth Award at a recent ceremony in Ansonia. In presenting the award, Patrick Charmel, left, President and CEO of Griffin Hospital and Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors, said Aquarion received the honor for demonstrating significant growth through acquisition and a solid record of accomplishment. One key component of Aquarion's successful 2011 was the purchase and integration of 40 Connecticut water systems into its portfolio.*



Fred Ortoli Photography, Oxford

## Water Is A Body's Best Friend

If your New Year's resolutions were related to your health, the simple act of drinking water will help you keep them.

Water can be a dieter's best friend, because it has no fat, calories, sugar or artificial sweeteners. It also works as an appetite suppressant, especially since dehydration can masquerade as hunger. Avoid dehydration, and you'll find you have more energy as well for exercise.

There are other benefits to drinking water: healthier skin, better digestion, and fewer toxins in your body. Medical studies link water to lower incidences of heart disease and certain types of cancer, fewer headaches, and less joint pain.

Though tradition advises that we drink eight 8-oz glasses of water each day, the American Water Works Association offers the following series of calculations to help you determine just how much water you should drink each day for good health:

What is your weight in pounds? \_\_\_\_\_

Divide by 2 to determine how many ounces you should be drinking per day. \_\_\_\_\_

Add 8 ounces if you are active. \_\_\_\_\_

Add another 8 ounces if you live in a dry climate. \_\_\_\_\_

Divide by 8 to determine how many cups you need to drink a day.

Check Out Our New  
**Aquarion**  
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OnLine Or  
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**For Customer Service calls during business hours or after-hours emergencies, please call 203-445-7310 in the Bridgeport area, or 1-800-732-9678.**

# Work Continues On Major Upgrade Project

Aquarion Water Company has made significant progress on its largest, ongoing capital project in Connecticut: renovations and improvements at the Putnam Filter Plant in Greenwich.

Aquarion is upgrading the plant as part of its ongoing effort to improve water quality and protect public health and safety throughout our service area. The upgrades will enable Aquarion to eliminate obsolete structures, enhance public safety, ensure Greenwich customers have the highest quality water, and increase the available water supply for firefighting.

When Aquarion acquired the plant in 2002 as part of its purchase of Connecticut American Water Co., it immediately began a comprehensive study to determine and address critical problems there. Between 2005



and 2010, the company completed various upgrades and improvement projects at the plant, including: filter rehabilitation, electrical service upgrade, a new standby generator, modification of sedimentation basins, and roof replacement.

In the past year, Aquarion rehabilitated the pump station to replace aged equipment and improve electrical efficiency; installed new equipment and infrastructure to eliminate discharge into the Putnam Reservoir; automated the treatment processes for more precise control and improved water quality; and constructed half of a new well for finished water storage that replaces a structure built in the 1920s. The old structure is gone, and the second half of the new well should be completed by the end of this year.

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## New Website Feature Uses Fun To Teach Conservation

Aquarion Water Company's penguin mascot, Thirsty, stars in the newest feature on our website, a section where children can learn about conservation through fun.

A link on Aquarion's home page invites visitors to "Meet Thirsty!" Clicking the link brings you to a greeting from Thirsty, along with links to other pages geared toward children so they can learn about conservation in a fun way.

The site has an experiment children can do at home or in school, along with a word-search puzzle and a coloring page.

It also has a page for

Thirsty's "vital statistics" and a photo album

with pictures of Thirsty with his fans at various events.

To view Thirsty's pages, go to [www.aquarionwater.com](http://www.aquarionwater.com) and click on Thirsty's link.



# Mark Your Calendars

## Upcoming events in 2012

### Webster Bank Arena

<i>Sound Tigers vs. Providence Bruins</i>	April 7
<i>USA Gymnastics</i>	April 13
<i>Sound Tigers vs. Wilkes Barre Scranton Penguins</i>	April 15
<i>WWE Raw</i>	June 11
<i>Cirque de Soleil</i>	June 14-17

*Visit [websterbankarena.com](http://websterbankarena.com) for more information.*

### Stamford Museum & Nature Center

#### *Centuries of Progress:*

<i>American World's Fairs, 1853 – 1982</i>	ongoing to March 18
<i>Maple Sugar Weekend</i>	March 3 - March 4
<i>Dancing by the Light of the Moon: The Art of Fred Marcellino</i>	April 7 - May 20
<i>Take a Hike Week</i>	April 17-19
<i>Model Ts to Mustangs: Antique &amp; Classic Car Show</i>	May 5
<i>Spring on the Farm Festival Weekend</i>	May 19-20
<i>15th Annual SM&amp;NC Wine-Tasting</i>	June 1
<i>Tarantulas: Alive and Up Close</i>	June 23-Sept. 9

*Visit [stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org) for more information.*

### Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo

<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	March 17
Children admitted free with paying adult; "Green Animal" scavenger hunt.	
<i>Evening Lecture Series</i>	March 21
Virtual trip to Yellowstone National Park, 7 p.m.; \$5 suggested donation.	
<i>Evening Lecture Series</i>	April 18
Dave LaMarche from Sacred Heart University will discuss the feeding behaviors of Vampire bats, 7 p.m.; \$5 suggested donation.	
<i>Party for the Planet</i>	April 21-22
Environmentally friendly vendors; entertainment; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	
<i>Evening Lecture Series: Carnivores of Africa</i>	May 2
Learn about lions, cheetahs and leopards, 7 p.m.; \$5 suggested donation.	
<i>Mother's Day</i>	May 13
Moms admitted free.	
<i>Evening Lecture Series</i>	May 16
Paleontology authority Nick McDonald will explore the Jurassic world of dinosaurs; \$5 suggested donation.	
<i>Wild Wine, Beer and Food Safari</i>	June 2
Adults-only fund-raiser with fare from local restaurants, and live entertainment	

*Visit [beardsleyzoo.com](http://beardsleyzoo.com) to see 90th Anniversary celebration information and other events.*

## FREE Tickets And Great Deals

### Trumbull Marriott... Buy One Breakfast Buffet, Get One FREE!

The next time you stay at the Trumbull Marriott (weekend rates from \$99), present this coupon when you buy one breakfast buffet, and you will receive another one free.

At the Trumbull Marriott, you will enjoy luxurious guest rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, and delicious cuisine at Porter's. Offer expires 9/1/12.



### See What's New At The Zoo

Aquarion customers can take a walk on the wild side at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo with this Buy One, Get One Free coupon.

Visit Andean condors, Amur (Siberian) tigers, ocelots, red & maned wolves, Andean (spectacled) bears, llamas, and golden lion tamarins.

Present this coupon to the gate attendant when buying an admission ticket and obtain a free ticket, for equal or lesser value, up to four admissions.

Valid for individual admissions only. This offer may not be combined with any other offers.

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo is open daily year-round, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Parking is free. For more information, visit [beardsleyzoo.org](http://beardsleyzoo.org)



### See Sound Tigers On Ice

The Bridgeport Sound Tigers — top affiliate of the NHL's New York Islanders — announces a special offer: One free ticket with any full-priced ticket purchased at the Arena at Harbor Yard Box Office during the 2011-12 regular season!

To obtain your free ticket, bring this Aquarion newsletter to the Arena at Harbor Yard Box Office prior to any Sound Tigers home game. This newsletter will serve as your coupon to receive one free ticket when you purchase a full-priced seat anywhere in the stadium (subject to availability).

This offer is available exclusively to Aquarion customers and cannot be combined with any other offers. A full list of the home game dates and times can be found online at [soundtigers.com](http://soundtigers.com).



### The Mystic Aquarium Experience

Whales, jellyfish, sea lions and more - meet creatures of the deep at Mystic Aquarium in



Mystic, CT! Aquarion

customers who show this coupon will receive one free admission with the

purchase of one full-priced adult admission. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer.

Visit Mystic Aquarium's website at [mysticaquarium.org](http://mysticaquarium.org) for hours and directions. Offer expires 9/1/12.



### Visit The Stamford Museum & Nature Center

When Aquarion customers visit the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, they can buy one ticket and get another free. See a working New England farm with heirloom breeds of animals, an otter pond, planetarium, 80 acres of hiking trails, including a universally accessible



Stamford Museum & Nature Center

Wheels in the Woods trail, and much more. Simply show this newsletter to the gate attendant to receive **special 2-for-1** admission. Aquarion Water Company customers also can enjoy these membership discounts: \$40 individual (from \$50); \$80 family (from \$100); and \$150 family plus (from \$175).

Offers do not apply on special event days. Visit the museum's calendar online at [stamfordmuseum.org](http://stamfordmuseum.org) for a complete listing of events, hours and directions.

### Catch This Bluefish Deal!

Aquarion Water Company has an exclusive offer for customers who love baseball: Any customer who brings this newsletter to the box office at HarborYard in Bridgeport will receive one free ticket with the purchase of a regular ticket for a Bridgeport Bluefish home game. Tickets are for any lower-level seat, all season long.



Another offer includes special family four-packs for Aquarion customers: four reserved seats for \$20, four loge seats for \$28, or four field box seats for \$40. These offers are for Aquarion customers only and cannot be combined with any other offers. A full list of the home game dates and times can be found online at [bridgeportbluefish.com](http://bridgeportbluefish.com).