

# WATER WATCH

Connecticut

September/October 2020

## Meter Readers, Efficiency Leaders

As you can imagine, Aquarion's meter readers rack up a lot of miles – and burn gallons of gasoline – covering our service area as they record home and business water usage. But that's about to become history as Aquarion converts its meter-reading fleet to all-electric power.

Electric vehicle technology has made huge gains in recent years, with increased range and lower costs. With Aquarion's commitment to being Stewards of the Environment, it just made sense to make the move. Not only are electric vehicles exhaust-free, you can recharge them using solar power for completely carbon-free operation.

In fact, we're adding solar power to office buildings where their design makes it feasible. We're also converting our treatment plants to efficient, cleaner burning natural gas. These and other environmental practices have us fully in step with our parent company Eversource's goal to be carbon-neutral by 2030.



## Smarter, Efficient Irrigation

Automatic outdoor watering systems are getting smarter all the time to help you save enormous amounts of water. Upgrading to a smart irrigation controller that automatically uses local weather data to tailor watering to your lawn's needs will help you save thousands of gallons of water annually over standard clock timers. Just look for the WaterSense® label for weather-based



irrigation controllers independently certified for efficiency and performance. Learn more at [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

## Forest Bouncing Back From 2012 Storm Damage

In 2012, Super Storm Sandy devastated a huge swath of the Northeast, including over 100 acres of Centennial Watershed State Forest in Easton, Connecticut. Those woodlands are not only rich in wildlife habitat but also play a huge role in protecting water quality in our Saugatuck Reservoir.

To speed the return of healthy woodlands, Aquarion cleaned up the destruction and installed some limited fencing to evaluate its effectiveness in protecting natural, new growth from deer browsing.

We're happy to report that today the project area is packed with new and diverse growth. It includes not just new trees but also a variety of ferns, wildflowers, shrubs and other small plants. The low growth is also providing great new nesting opportunities for shrubland birds.

The Centennial project is just one more way we're continuing to work with local environmental groups such as The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Audubon Society, Fairfield Forestry Committee, and local and state agencies to ensure a healthy and vibrant watershed. This is helping to protect the quality of water that thousands of our customers need and use every day.



## Did You Know?

As much as 50 percent of the water we use outdoors is wasted. Try our free, interactive water calculator to learn how you can use water more efficiently. Visit [www.aquarionwater.com/calculator](http://www.aquarionwater.com/calculator)

