

Water Meters Begin to Get Smarter: Utilities hope that the more consumers know, the less they'll consume

WSJ

- *“Getting consumers to conserve water isn't easy, but it's even tougher when they don't have a clear picture of how they use it.”*
- *The water utility can “...use the data to identify consumption patterns and pinpoint leaks, and can post data online to inform consumers about their water use.”*
- *The water utility can be alerted when a backflow incident occurs, which can help to ensure high water quality.*
- *Park City “...is on track to meet a statewide goal of reducing water use per person 25% from the 2000 level by 2025.”*

13 Things You Probably Don't Know About the U.S. Water System (But Should)



- *“Here are some statistics that sum up the condition of the U.S. water system, **which in a word are not good.**”*
- *“The U.S. water system has become so old that, on average, every mile of water pipe suffers a break every six years.*
- *“U.S. water pipes leak one full day’s water for every seven days. That is, U.S. water utilities lose one out of seven gallons of drinking water they supply before it arrives at a customer.”*
- *“The average water bill for a family of four in the U.S. is \$34 a month—\$1 a day.”*

Can We Take Our Water for Granted?



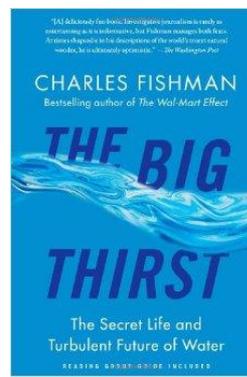
- *“...I have a favorite water main. This particular pipe sits under a busy and prestigious neighborhood at the center of Washington, D.C. The cast iron pipe was installed in 1860. It supplies clean drinking water, as it has for 154 years, and runs under K Street, home to the capital’s lobbying firms.”*
- *“When those folks serve meticulously brewed coffee to their clients, they are starting with water that arrived in a pipe laid down a year before Abraham Lincoln took office.”*
- *“There are many old water pipes buried in lots of cities. **I love this one because it captures the state of ignorance Americans live in with regard to water and the work that’s necessary to make sure it’s always on tap...**”*
- *“Our water rules – our management practices – are as out of date as that K Street water main.”*

Can We Take Our Water for Granted?



- *“How did a system that is the foundation of our economy get in this condition? It deteriorated slowly, and patching has frequently taken the place of big fixes.”*
- *“The U.S. water system is big but brittle. And our overconfidence in the system isn’t warranted, despite more than 100 years of near perfection.”*

The Big Thirst



- *“Almost every community in the United States has water problems. The good news is, water problems can be solved, and the sooner we start thinking about them, the less expensive those solutions are. **The bad news is, water problems can’t be solved quickly, and when there’s a water crisis, the quick solutions are expensive.** Water requires thinking about the future not in sunny, optimistic terms but in frankly realistic terms.”*