



Imagine a Day Without Water
October 6–8, 2015

PHILADELPHIA
WATER
EST. 1801

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Philadelphia Water Joins *Imagine a Day Without Water*

National Effort to Raise Awareness and Educate Public about Challenges Facing Water Infrastructure and Water Resources, and Need for Investment

Philadelphia, October 6, 2015 – Philadelphia Water announced its participation in the national advocacy and educational event, *Imagine a Day Without Water*. Across the country, organizations, elected officials, corporations, environmental advocates, and more are joining together to educate people about how water is essential, the challenges facing water and wastewater systems, and the need for investment. Almost all of Philadelphia’s City Council members have signed a Resolution to be sent to Congress, and Water Commissioner Howard Neukrug and former Philadelphia Mayor and Building America’s Future Co-Chair Edward G. Rendell have penned an op-ed to bring the need for federal water infrastructure investment to the forefront.

Many people take water service for granted. Clean, safe, reliable, and affordable water comes out of the tap and flows down the drain without a second thought. But the massive infrastructure—much of it underground and out of sight—which brings water to homes and businesses, takes it away, and treats it, is aging.

“Our mission to provide clean, safe water to our customers is completely dependent upon the health of our infrastructure,” said Water Commissioner Howard Neukrug. “Philadelphia Water has recently doubled our budget for infrastructure replacement, but we cannot ask our rate payers to shoulder that cost alone. We need the help of Congress and our federal partners to bring much-needed funding to Philadelphia to protect and restore our critical water infrastructure.”

A water main breaks somewhere in the U.S. every two minutes, and over the last five years in Philadelphia, there has been an average of 823 water main breaks each year. Most pipes have an average life expectancy of 50 years, but in many major cities, including Philadelphia, some water pipes are more than 100 years old. Communities cannot afford to go a day without water if those systems reach their breaking points.

“We are thrilled that Philadelphia Water is joining *Imagine a Day Without Water*. The truth is, of course, we can’t go a day without water. For homes, that would mean no water to take a shower, make coffee, clean, do laundry, or flush the toilet. For businesses from restaurants to manufacturing

plants, water is essential to daily operations,” said Radhika Fox, director of the Value of Water Coalition. “During *Imagine a Day Without Water*, we’re speaking with one voice across the nation about how water is essential, invaluable, and needs investment.”

From October 6-8, 2015, groups are hosting events, elected officials are issuing proclamations and resolutions, water advocates are spreading the message over social media, and everyone from schools to aquariums are joining in the effort. Everyone participating in *Imagine a Day Without Water* is coming together to educate the nation that water is essential and that we must invest in it for future generations.

More information about Philadelphia Water can be found here: www.phila.gov/water.

More information about *Imagine a Day Without Water* can be found here: <http://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/>

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