

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Drinking Water Week – May 1-7, 2016 ***Understanding the Value of Water - [#ValueWater](#)***

HOLLISTON, MA – As Drinking Water Week begins, the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA), along with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) join water professionals across New England in urging consumers to evaluate how they value their water service and how to protect its infrastructure in the future.

To value water service, it's important to recognize the thousands of water utilities across North America that work diligently to provide safe water to millions of people. They are responsible for monitoring more than 100 contaminants on a regular basis and staying in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's standards for drinking water.

The infrastructure used to carry water from treatment plants to homes and businesses is also crucial. Water systems are critical to maintaining public health, economic vitality, fire protection, and quality of life.

In addition, local water systems are now working to further educate consumers about lead service lines and plumbing that may exist within homes. If consumers live in a home with a lead service line, they may be at risk of exposure. Consumers are encouraged to identify whether or not they have a lead service line by hiring a licensed plumber and, if a lead service line is discovered, talk to the plumber and the local water utility about options for replacing it quickly. More information on lead in water can be found at DrinkTap.org.

"To fully appreciate our water service, and ensure future generations continue to reap its benefits, it is vital that we support infrastructure improvements, and that our policy makers also realize this is a critical asset that cannot go unnoticed," said NEWWA Executive Director Stephen Ryan. More information about water infrastructure investment is available at thevalueofwater.org and awwa.org.

About Drinking Water Week

For more than 35 years, AWWA and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

The New England Water Works Association is a nonprofit, independent, member-driven organization dedicated to serving the region's water works professionals and the public interest. It is the oldest and most active regional water works association in the United States. For more than a century, NEWWA has worked to improve and sustain public water supplies, protect public health and safety, and advance the water supply profession. Visit us at newwa.org.

Established in 1881, the American Water Works Association is the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world's most important resource. With approximately 50,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy and enhance our quality of life.