

Water for all... for ALWAYS



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This new education program, launched in May 2008, strives to answer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Town of Olds water and wastewater systems, water conservation, water use, water meters and billing, and other topics about water.

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Water Meter Replacement Program is on Track

Once the Meter Replacement Program is completed, starting in January 2009, Town of Olds Operations staff will be able to read meters remotely using radio technology, getting actual reads for all the town's meters every month. We are ahead of schedule, with approximately 60% of the program complete. Operations staff have worked tirelessly on this project - installing the new meters, mapping GPS coordinates, and de-bugging and fine-tuning the system. We are definitely on-track to beat the January target date! Once we are ready to replace your meter, our Operations staff will call you to schedule an appointment - we do need access to the meter inside your house, so someone will need to be home when we arrive. It takes around one hour for us to replace your water meter. There is no charge to replace the meter.

Why replace all these meters?

The Government of Alberta has mandated that municipalities MUST operate their utility systems on a full cost-recovery basis. Olds is currently experiencing above-normal water loss. We have budgeted to remedy this water loss in two ways: 1) increased maintenance of our water system, specifically to determine where leaks exist and then to repair them; and 2) a meter replacement program to measure water consumption more accurately. In addition, the Government of Alberta has stated that to access grants for water and sewer systems, municipalities MUST meter their water, initiate water conservation programs, and maintain their utility systems. Did you know that Olds has 180 km of water mains, wastewater mains, and storm drainage mains? That's a lot of infrastructure to maintain! We are also reviewing our new development levies that will pay for new infrastructure as part of a balanced utility model.

For more information visit the **Olds Sustainable Living** page at www.olds.ca

This information was also featured in the 5 August 2008 issue of the Olds Albertan