Eastsound Water Installing state-of-the-art meter reading technology.

Eastsound Water has concluded a successful pilot study where we installed 40 trial residential water meters that report daily water use to both the EWUA office AND to the customer.

The new water meters report water use electronically via a cellular signal similar to a text message. The water meter “calls home” once each day and sends a data packet of the current water use. The true innovation is in the web-based interface. Currently EWUA checks in with each meter via our in-the-field, quarterly water meter reading process. With this new system, the status of our +1,000 water meters can be checked on daily basis. The system highlights meters that are leaking, experience a backflow event, or have been tampered with. These reports are updated daily. The information on a property’s specific water user is also available to each member via a related website. Members can easily program this water meter management system to email, or text you in the event of a water leak.

During our 4 month pilot study we installed the new water meters in areas with the weakest cell signals. Much to our surprise, we had 100% success with meters being able to “call in” EVERY DAY.

EWUA has ordered the equipment for system-wide deployment of these new meters. The plan is to have everyone’s meter upgraded to this new system by the end of June. With this new system, EWUA staff will no longer be reading meters by walking, driving and biking around. Our billing system will be linked to the meters, and quarterly water use will simply be downloaded electronically. The cost of this system is approximately $200 per meter, with an “access fee” of $0.89 per month per meter. The access fee is less than the direct cost of our old manual meter reading method. The potential water savings of this new technology is both exciting and important given our island’s finite water resources.
**EYE ON WATER** is the name of the website and app that members will use to access their water use information. Below are some screen shots of what type of information will be available to you after your water meter has been upgraded.

- EyeOnWater gives EWUA members direct access to their own water usage data and provides tools to help manage their water usage. The app includes:
  - Graphs showing recent usage, with a comparison against average usage
  - Displays leak alerts
  - Charts display water usage over time, with options for hourly, daily or monthly displays.

- Gives you the tools to easily view and understand their water usage through EyeOnWater Online (desktop application), EyeOnWater App (smart phone/tablet), EyeOnWater eSummary (email notification) or EyeOnWater Summary (printed).
On a tablet or smartphone you can just “swipe” though these displays.

If you’re in the neighborhood, stop by our office for a demonstration! ….. 286 Enchanted Forest Road.

This metering upgrade will

- Save EWUA at least 1,000,000 gallons of water lost to members leaks.
- Reduce member’s high water use bills due to leaks,
- Allow landlords and seasonal residents to monitor their properties,
- Protect public health by monitoring for backflow events.
- Save EWUA $13,000/yr in meter reading costs.