

# What you need to know about SMART METERS

The City of Madison Water Utility has begun installation of a wireless **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), a.k.a. "Smart Meters,"** in residences to monitor water usage. They claim that it will cut costs and increase water conservation, though **no evidence exists that smart meters do either.**

This infrastructure was approved and is being implemented **without a concerted public information campaign,** as well as **without proper risk assessment.**

Smart Meters have a history of problems, about which the taxpayers who will be paying for them have not always been told. Citizens and cities around the country are fighting against and banning this expensive and potentially harmful infrastructure that is being forced on the public.

## What is the problem with Smart Meters?

### **Cost:**

- The Smart Meter infrastructure will cost taxpayers **\$14 million** for a system we do not need.
- In addition to new digital meters, **a whole new infrastructure** of repeaters and collectors needs to be erected throughout the city.
- Our current **analog water meters** are still **fully functional and very long-lasting.**
- Smart Meters have a life span of only 10-20 years (sometimes far less, even); we will soon **need to spend even more money on maintenance and replacement.**
- **Jobs of meter-readers** will be rendered redundant.
- **Utility bills have increased,** 8-fold in some places, where smart meters have been installed, often to cover the costs of the infrastructure.
- **In these troubled economic times, can we really afford a new system that we do not need?**

### **Privacy:**

- Consumer water **usage habits can be monitored continuously and maintained for sale to third parties/marketers** and to others who could use the information to their benefit.

### **Security:**

- Top security experts confirm that **wireless networks are prone to hacking and potential threats of terrorism.**

### **Health Risk:**

- Microwave-level radio-frequency (RF) radiation emitted by Smart Meters is labeled a **Group 2B carcinogen by the World Health Organization (WHO).**
- Individual, cumulative, and synergistic toxic effects of RF on body cells have been demonstrated in a multitude of studies.
- **Why risk exposing our families (especially our children) to more RF pollution when we can use no-risk analog technology instead?**

Please consider opting out of a smart meter in your home and asking the water utility to halt the smart meter program! Call them at: 608-266-4641 or 608-264-5323. Also, please contact your alder, mayor, and state legislators. The Public Service Commission should determine the final opt-out policy/fees by the end of October. If they adopt the proposal from the Madison Common Council, we will have **Option 1:** Outside mount of a wireless meter – one time fee of \$50.69 or **Option 2:** Keep non-wireless meter – fee of \$7.78/month for quarterly meter reading. Check website for updates.

## **STOP SMART METERS MADISON**

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For more information go to <http://stopsmartmeterswisconsin.wordpress.com>