What’s Going on in Water? 2019 Highlights

Policy & Advocacy Highlights: NDWA a leader in elevating the issues

- 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
  - A huge “THANK YOU” to all of you who’ve engaged in this advocacy effort
  - 69 US House of Representatives members sent a letter to the secretaries of USDA and HHS requesting the addition of a water icon to the MyPlate nutritional graphic in the upcoming 2020-2025 DGAs
    - 32 Rs and 37 Ds signed the letter, co-led by Reps Marshall (R), Pingree (D) with Walorski (R), McGovern (D), Bera (D) and Roe (R)
    - Supported by 24 experts and 14 organizations who signed a letter led by IBWA, used to show Representatives the science and popularity of the MyPlate request
  - In January NPI submitted a comment signed by 62 individuals and 13 organizations (attached)
  - Find model comment language and tips for comment-writing on the NDWA DGAs 2020 Take Action page – about 80 comments for water have been submitted to date – keep ‘em coming!
  - NDWA created new “Put Water on MyPlate” sticker templates and sticky pads; 1000’s of these pads have been distributed to educators, advocates and others for teaching and raising awareness
    - Download and print “Put Water on MyPlate” stickers here
    - Email dwalliance@ucanr.edu if you’d like sticky pads to distribute

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - Released a proposed new Lead and Copper Rule while, though not perfect, does pay attention to school and childcare tap water safety
  - Released (on 2/19/2020) a Request for Applications that includes up to $22.8M for awards to reduce lead exposure in school and childcare drinking water

- Child Nutrition Act
  - Childhood Obesity Conference 2019 pre-conference session on Child Nutrition Reauthorization ratified Child Nutrition Reauthorization water recommendations for NSLP, CACFP and WIC
  - Recommendations were provided to Congressional offices, shared with ally organizations, and are part of NANA model comment; contact Christina (NPI) or Colin (CSPI) for more information

- InnerCity Struggle, based in Los Angeles, engaged high school students in drinking water advocacy through a Voices for Healthy Kids grant; as part of the work students assessed the effectiveness of school drinking water access using the Photo-Evidence Tool developed by allies with a Healthy Eating Research grant

- NDWA working group formed to explore idea of a Congressional Drinking Water Caucus
  - We discovered some interest, but further planning was overshadowed by other activity in Washington! We’ll re-visit the idea if/when it seems appropriate

- We were close to holding a Congressional Briefing (sponsored by Senator Cory Booker and co-hosted by Environmental Defense Fund) on finding and reducing lead in childcare drinking water, when impeachment hearings scotched the plan
New Resources in 2019

- **Research**
  - NDWA maintains a bibliography of drinking water research
    - Make sure we know about your new research – email dwalliance@ucanr.edu
    - Submit a short news post about your recent peer-reviewed publication for posting on the website

- **Promotional campaigns**
  - Using graphics provided by Philadelphia Department of Public Health, NDWA created multi-lingual “water” decals; 1000’s of these are now in circulation across the country
    - Contact us at dwalliance@ucanr.edu if you’d like more decals
  - Play Every Day Campaign, targeted at 0-5 year olds and their caregivers by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services includes lots for water

- **Educational resources**
  - Water Safety
    - Child Care Drinking Water Safety factsheet
  - “Healthy Hydration”
    - Quick-read versions in English and Spanish
  - School
    - Youth-led high school water messaging campaign from California 4-H
  - Early Years
    - “Healthy Drinks, Healthy Kids” expert consensus report from Healthy Eating Research, released September 2019
    - More great videos from 1,000 Days in English and Spanish

- **Factsheets for advocacy**
  - “Fast Facts for Water Access in Schools” from Voices for Healthy Kids
  - "Infant and Toddler Beverage Recommendations for the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans” from Nutrition Policy Institute
  - “Are Sugar-Sweetened Beverages a Problem?” from Nutrition Policy Institute

- **National Drinking Water Alliance website - DrinkingWaterAlliance.org**
  - Since inception (June 2016): 27,630 users; 37,280 sessions; 76,336 page views
  - Most visited pages since inception:
    - Home page
    - Map of media reports of tap water contamination
    - Facts (factsheet library)
    - News page
  - Send new or updated resources to dwalliance@ucanr.edu to be added to the NDWA website
  - Use the drinking water listserv to connect and share information, and the website news page to share your work

*Please let us know what we’re missing!*