

Mountain Water Company

February 2009

The Word in Water

Missoula, Montana

“Hit the Tap” with the Missoula Coyote Choir



MOUNTAIN WATER COMPANY

Contact Us

Phone:	406-721-5570 or 800-721-5570
Phone Hours:	8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F
Location:	1345 West Broadway Missoula, MT 59802
Walk-In Office Hours:	7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. M-F
Closed:	Weekends & Holidays
24-Hour Emergency:	(406)721-5570
Dispatch:	(406)523-5061
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 4826 Missoula, MT 59806
Website:	www.mtnwater.com

Why Kick the Bottle?

- * A stainless steel bottle lasts for years; most plastic water bottles are used once and discarded.
- * 90% of plastic bottles end up in landfills, where they take over 1,000 years to decompose.
- * Making and shipping plastic bottles uses millions of barrels of oil.
- * Mountain Water tests tap water from our local aquifer to the same if not higher standards than most bottled water.



*Source: “H₂No.” Nutrition Action Newsletter, published by the Center for Public in the Science Interest, June 2007.

Every kid in the YMCA’s Missoula Coyote Choir loves to sing. But they want to do more than make music — they want to make the world a little greener, too. That’s why they’ve joined forces with Mountain Water Company to help Missoulians find alternatives to plastic water bottles. The 25 members of the Coyote Choir have set a goal of selling 500 stainless steel water bottles as part of Mountain Water’s “Kick the Bottle — Hit the Tap” campaign.

“We need to take care of the planet and stop polluting it,” says 5th-grader Katie Kendall-Rasmussen. Others Coyotes agree. “Kids can make a difference,” says Riley Slayden. “Our voices matter.”

The Coyotes have put those ideals into practice from the get-go. In their 1st year together, they made an album, *Ask the Planet*, which teaches environmental principles and benefits the Biomimicry Institute, a locally-based, internationally-active non-profit organization. With that project complete, the group needed a new mission. “I asked the Coyotes to decide together on a new service project for the year, and plastic water bottles came up right away,” says director Amy Martin. “When we found out that Mountain Water Company was already at work on this issue, it seemed like a natural fit.”

Thirty years ago, Americans drank virtually no bottled water at all. In 2006, bottled water sales accounted for 29 percent of the beverages we bought.* What do we get for all the energy and money spent making bottles, filling them with water, and shipping them around the country? An enormous amount of waste, and water that’s no better than the tap water we have right here at home. “Drinking tap water in reusable containers supports the idea that clean water is a community resource that should be available to all of us,” says Mountain Water’s Michelle Halley. “Purchasing bottled water shipped from afar in disposable containers just doesn’t make sense, economically or environmentally.”

The Missoula Coyote Choir is excited to help spread this message. Each of the Coyotes (including their director) aims to sell 20 stainless steel “Hit the Tap” bottles by the end of the school year. Mountain Water Company is supplying the 24 oz. bottles to the Coyotes at cost for \$9 each. The choir will then sell them for \$12 and donate all of the proceeds to **Water for People**, an organization which helps communities in developing countries create locally sustainable drinking water resources.

If you want to support clean, “locally-grown” drinking water and purchase a stainless steel water bottle, you can look for a Coyote Choir member in your neighborhood, stop by Mountain Water Company, or visit the Missoula Family YMCA, the home of the Missoula Coyote Choir. Thanks for helping to kick the bottle!



ACCOUNT REMINDER

Please remember to notify our Customer Service Department as soon as you move out of your home or apartment. Customers are responsible for accumulated charges on their account until we are notified.

We're on the Web!
www.mtnwater.com

WINTER PRECAUTIONS

We're in the depths of winter—every year MWC assists with water leaks due to frozen pipes. Leaky pipes can be a real emergency. Now is a good time to make sure all your exposed pipes are well insulated and that every room has some source of heat. Every home has a couple of methods to turn the main source of water off for the residence. One method is an inside shut off valve and the other method is called the “curb box.” Unfortunately, many homeowners or tenants don't think of how to shut their water off until they are faced with a basement filling up with water or have broken pipes from freezing and the pipes are spraying water everywhere.

One of the quickest and easiest ways to shut water off in an emergency is the inside shut off valve. Every homeowner and tenant should know where this valve is and should make sure it is in good working order. This valve could be in the basement, in the garage, or sometimes even in a crawl space. If this valve is broken or inoperable, the next option is to shut the water off outside. While MWC is always available to assist in an emergency, now is a good time to locate your inside valve and make sure it works. It is often difficult to find the outside shut off if it is buried under snow and ice, and a good inside valve may help avoid a water emergency.

Pay Online with MWC My Account

We are pleased to announce that you can now view and pay your bill online at www.mtnwater.com! Log on to our website and click on the “Pay My Bill” link. To register for My Account, click on the “First Time Users” button, and follow the directions on the screen. You will need a copy of your bill or your account and customer numbers. Once registered, you will have full access to view your usage and payment history, pay your bill **, or request services.

** We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover or electronic check. Your payment will be processed through a third party vendor, and a convenience fee will be assessed by that vendor. **

Bill Pay Options

Cash, Checks or Money Orders

Mail in your payment to P.O. Box 4826, Missoula, 59806 or deliver your payment to 1345 W. Broadway.

Credit Cards / e-Check*

We now accept Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express and electronic checks via telephone or by accessing your account at www.mtnwater.com (*convenience fee is assessed by third party processor).

Direct Debit:

Call to request the Direct Debit Authorization Form or print it out at www.mtnwater.com/debitpayment/htm. Send in the completed form, and Mountain Water will directly deduct the amount due each month from your bank account.

Low Income Discount

You may be eligible for a reduction on your monthly water bill. To be eligible, you must qualify annually for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). The Human Resource Council will then provide Mountain Water with satisfactory evidence of qualification. Please contact the HRC at 728-3710 for more information.