



**Stoughton Utilities**

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*Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886*

# News Release

## Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Stoughton Utilities Announces Lead Service Line Replacement Grant Award**

Stoughton Utilities has secured grant funding through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that will help cover homeowner costs related to lead water service line replacement in 2021.

Approximately 580 homes in the City of Stoughton are currently served by a full or partial lead water service line. Lead exposure, including from drinking water, can cause serious health effects, especially to children and pregnant women.

Stoughton Utilities has worked with the Stoughton Utilities Committee and the Stoughton City Council to enact a new ordinance that declares lead service lines as a public nuisance and mandates the replacement of all public and privately-owned lead service lines.

Stoughton Utilities plans to use grant funding awarded by the DNR to replace 100% of the lead service lines in the city in 2021. Grant funding is anticipated to cover all homeowner costs associated with lead service line replacement. Galvanized steel water services are also grant eligible where the galvanized services line was downstream of lead water services lines.

Utility technicians are currently going door-to-door in older neighborhoods with homes constructed prior to 1960 to gather an accurate inventory of homes currently served by lead service lines. Service line verification requires technicians to access the property's basement where the service line enters the home. Technicians will perform a visual inspection to determine the service line material.

Verifications are conducted daily between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and typically take under 10 minutes. Technicians place a door hanger on customer front doors at least one day prior to the first attempted visit. Customers will be notified of their service line material at the time of verification and, when necessary, will be given the notification of public nuisance and replacement authorization forms allowing Stoughton Utilities to replace the lead service line. Homeowners should ensure that there are no obstructions on the path to or near the water meter so that technicians are able to easily access it.

Homeowners that have received a door hanger from Stoughton Utilities requesting access to their water meter should contact Stoughton Utilities to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to ensure they are included in the 2021 project and will have their costs covered by the grant funding.

Only those customers living in historic neighborhoods where there are known lead service lines are being contacted for service line verification. Customers in homes built after lead service lines were prohibited, or homes that have already been confirmed to not be served by a lead service line, will not be contacted.

Stoughton Utilities would like to stress the importance of getting all service line verifications complete and getting all customer authorization forms returned as soon as possible. Timely completion of this process will ensure that all affected customers are able to schedule their lead service line replacements in 2021 using grant funding.

“The DNR grant funding is an amazing opportunity for Stoughton homeowners that have old lead water service lines,” says Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss. “We urge all homeowners that are contacted by Stoughton Utilities to respond quickly to our request to verify their service line material so we can locate all lead lines in Stoughton and provide these homes with new water service lines at no cost to the homeowner.”

Ms. Weiss continued, “A typical lead service line replacement can cost homeowners between \$3,000 and \$5,000 and this grant funding opportunity reduces that cost to \$0 for Stoughton homeowners, but we cannot guarantee grant funding will be available to all customers and funds are only available for 2021, so we ask customers for their prompt cooperation with our efforts.”

Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss will be hosting a Facebook Live event on Monday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m. to provide more information about the lead service line replacement project and to answer questions from the community.

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area; and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.