

New case studies highlight energy efficiency at Minnesota wastewater treatment plants



Wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) operate in approximately 600 communities in Minnesota. Energy can account for 25-40% of the operating budgets of wastewater utilities.¹ Effective water and wastewater infrastructure is critical for continued economic development and job growth in all regions of Minnesota. Optimizing the operations and energy use of wastewater facilities can help save money that can then be used to meet other critical community needs.

Through a U.S. Department of Energy grant, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program are working to capture energy efficiency opportunities in the wastewater sector by providing tools and technical assistance to small and mid-sized facilities across the state. Through the facility assessments completed over the course of this grant, a multitude of low-cost, no-cost energy efficiency opportunities were implemented that reduced WWTP energy use between 5-30% and saved each plant an average of \$13,000 in annual energy costs.

The project team has published new case studies that highlight these energy- and cost-saving opportunities at Minnesota wastewater facilities, including:

- [City of Saint Peter - \\$12,300 annual energy savings](#)
- [City of Altura - \\$14,000 annual energy savings](#)
- [Pelican Rapids – \\$11,600 annual energy savings](#)
- [Pine River Area Sanitary District - \\$4,100 annual energy savings](#)
- [Northfield Wastewater Treatment Plant - \\$93,300/year potential energy savings](#)
- [Kasson Wastewater Treatment Plant - \\$18,000/year potential energy savings](#)

For more information on wastewater treatment efficiency, please [visit our project website](#).

Reference

¹ Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Energy Baseline Study, Pacific Gas & Electric, 2003, <http://www.scribd.com/doc/62799540/Waste-Water-Treatment-Plant-Energy-Baseline-Study>.