



Energy and Water and Wastewater Treatment

U.S. EPA | ENERGY OUTREACH AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



THE ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

efforts at EPA New England include working with businesses, federal, state, and local organizations and New England citizens to reduce energy use by providing tools, guidance and technical assistance for energy efficiency, cleaner fuels and renewable sources of energy. The goal of these efforts is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and impacts of climate change.

INTRO:

About 3 percent of the energy the United States consumes is used to provide drinking water and wastewater services. This is equivalent to 56 billion kilowatt hours of energy and 45 million tons of greenhouse gases emitted to the atmosphere each year. These facilities are often the largest energy users in municipalities. By reducing the energy use at these water systems, we can save energy and money, improve air quality and get the benefits of more reliable energy systems.

BENCHMARKING ENERGY USE AT UTILITIES TO DETERMINE ENERGY PERFORMANCE

The ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager tool allows communities and drinking water and wastewater plant operators to track and assess energy and water consumption rates and compare them to a national average. The tool can help a utility determine its energy performance, set priorities in energy investments, verify how well improvements work, and calculate its carbon footprint. About 100 facilities in New England have measured their energy performance using this tool. For more information or to use the tool, visit www.energystar.gov/benchmark.

GENERATING ENERGY AT TREATMENT PLANTS

Water and wastewater treatment facilities can generate as well as consume energy. Several utilities in New England are approaching Zero Net Energy status, which means that they generate in a year about as much energy as they consume. Facilities can generate energy by installing solar panels or wind turbines or by capturing bio-gas from their treatment plant biological processes and using it for energy.

STATE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

State Programs to help public water systems and wastewater treatment facilities to better manage their energy use include:

Maine – The Joint Environmental Training Coordination Committee is holding a series of energy management roundtables for water and wastewater facilities in Maine. To join the roundtables or for more information, contact Gina Snyder (snyder.gina@epa.gov).

Massachusetts – EPA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are introducing energy management techniques to all municipally-owned drinking water and wastewater facilities in the state. All facilities will be offered education and training and may request technical assistance. In addition, a group of Energy Leaders will work towards a Zero Net Energy status. For more information, contact Jason Turgeon (turgeon.jason@epa.gov).

Rhode Island – All 19 wastewater facilities in the state are working to increase their energy efficiency and use of renewable energy under an EPA State Innovations Grant to the Narragansett Bay Commission. For more information, contact Gina Snyder (snyder.gina@epa.gov).

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