ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITIES

EPA Region 9 Sustainable Infrastructure and Climate Change Initiative

Do you want to save your community money while saving energy and the environment?

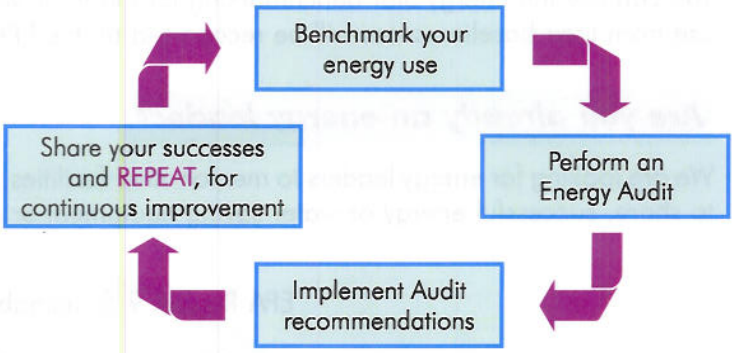
U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division recently reorganized to establish the Infrastructure Office to focus on increasing the sustainability of our wastewater and drinking water facilities by helping them become more energy and water efficient. We offer technical and financial assistance to save energy and reduce water use, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and costs while improving wastewater effluent quality. We have developed a program to help keep wastewater and drinking water utility staff and management aware of all the resources available to make their facilities more energy and water efficient.

The good news is that now you can find out how energy efficient your facility is in a few minutes and, in most cases, get a FREE energy evaluation by a trained professional from your local power company. Money-saving opportunities are included in the energy recommendations. You can:

- Get help financing actions with utility energy rebates, matching funds, and/or low interest loans through the State Revolving Fund.
- Track your progress online in minutes.
- Get your facility recognized by U.S. EPA and share your success with your management, elected officials, and rate payers.

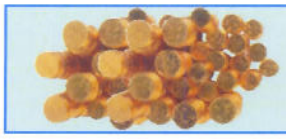
HOW do I do it?

Follow the four steps in our resources toolkit:



How do I get started?

- Contact EPA Region 9: mcgovern.cheryl@epa.gov to register for a two-hour hands on Energy Star Benchmarking class, schedule an audit, and find out how well your facility scores on energy efficiency.
- Review funding and training opportunities with your local power company and online at: www.epa.gov/region09/waterinfrastructure. U.S. EPA Region 9 will update our website as new resources and training opportunities become available.
- Review the recently published manual, "Ensuring a Sustainable Future: An Energy Management Guidebook for Wastewater and Water Utilities, 1/2008" online at: http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/pdfs/guidebook_si_energymanagement.pdf.
- The Guidebook as well as examples of energy efficient equipment, technology, and operating strategies also can be found at http://epa.gov/region09/waterinfrastructure/technology.html.



Why should I do it?

ECONOMIC BENEFITS = ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

How much money can I save?

Savings will vary depending on the size, age, previous upgrades, etc. Large facilities have saved over $2 million a year in operating costs, but even small facilities can realize substantial savings.

Why is EPA doing this and will any information I provide be used against our facility?

Up to one-third of a city's energy is spent treating and transporting water. Maximizing energy efficiency in these processes helps to reduce GHG emissions and the impacts of climate change. New and energy efficient equipment and/or facilities substantially reduce GHG emissions and improve the management of our limited resources. This program is 100% voluntary and is not associated with U.S. EPA's regulatory programs.

How long will it take to implement the program?

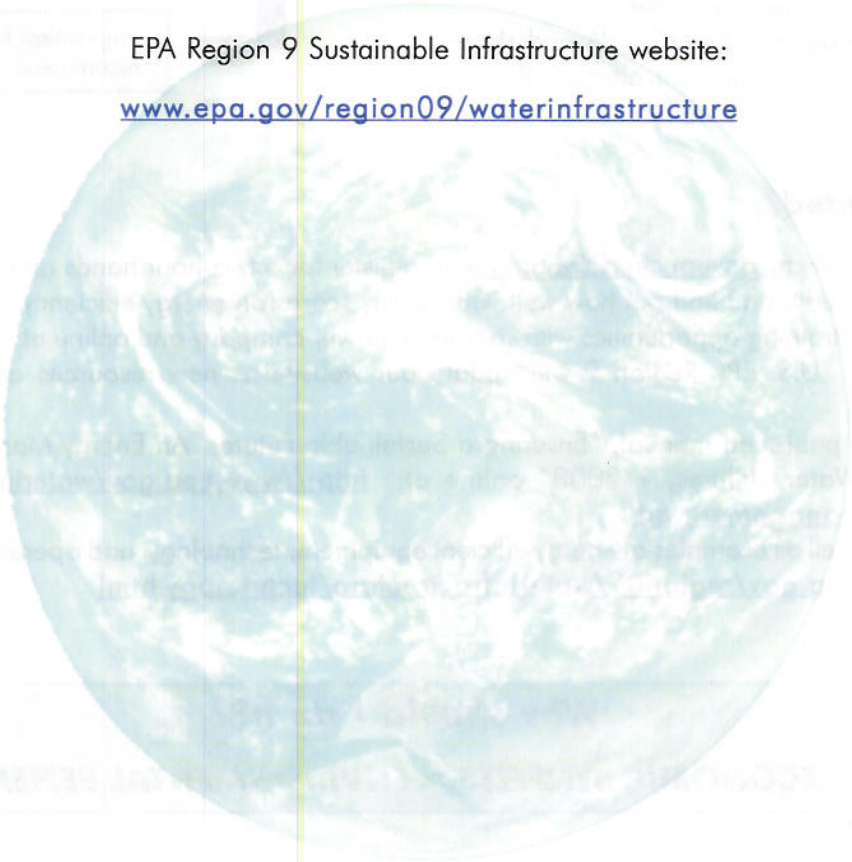
Benchmarking your facility will take a couple of hours, the energy audit will take a day, and implementing the opportunities to save energy could take a few months or years depending on the magnitude of the recommendations. We are available to guide you every step of the way.

How will our facility be recognized?

You can use the Energy Star benchmarking tool to track your energy use over time. Facilities that reduce their energy use from their baseline score will be recognized on the EPA Region 9 website.

Are you already an energy leader?

We are looking for energy leaders to mentor other facilities. Please let us know if you have implemented, and are willing to share, successful energy or water saving equipment or processes.

EPA Region 9 Sustainable Infrastructure website:

www.epa.gov/region09/waterinfrastructure