

Water/Wastewater Systems

Overview: Building on CEE's work in motor systems, the Municipal Water and Wastewater Facility Initiative is designed to increase demand for energy efficiency at the facility level and encourage suppliers to offer energy efficiency as standard business practice. The initiative focuses on publicly-held facilities, including those operated by municipalities, counties, water districts and townships.

Its strategy is twofold: to help members improve program effectiveness locally and engage the water and wastewater sector (and their suppliers) nationally.

About this Market: Water and wastewater facilities are energy intensive, accounting for up to 35 percent of municipal energy usage. Studies have estimated the savings potential at 15-30 percent, which translates into as much as 31 billion kWh. Since facilities operate 24 hours a day, the potential to reduce peak demand is also a significant factor.

There are a host of non-energy benefits as well, including a reduction in the accumulation of solid waste, a decrease in the use of chemicals, longer equipment life and better control. The water/wastewater industry is constantly faced with increasing costs that stem from aging infrastructure, new health regulations and population growth. It is estimated that investments of nearly \$1 trillion will be needed over the next 20 years in order to meet current environmental mandates.

Government funding is likely to be just half that much, leaving municipalities with a huge gap. The initiative is designed to convince decision-makers in this sector that energy efficiency is a viable solution to these challenges.

Initiative Background: The Municipal Water and Wastewater Facility Initiative was launched in December 2004 as an outgrowth of CEE's Motor Systems Initiative. Driven by member interest and the large potential for savings, the initiative differs from other CEE programs in that it takes a sector approach, rather than focusing solely on equipment.

More efficient water and wastewater facilities not only have lower energy costs, but have improved capacity, reducing the need for additional capital spending in the future.

CEE's Strategy: Working with its members and water/wastewater stakeholders, CEE will develop a template of nationally consistent tools and messages for administrators to adopt into their programs. Major goals of the initiative include:

- increasing customer support for efficiency by raising awareness levels among municipal managers and facility operators about the opportunity for energy-savings in the sector,
- providing a forum for members to share information on effective program approaches and key energy saving opportunities, and
- increasing market support for efficiency by developing cooperative relationships with the water and wastewater-related associations and industry stakeholders.

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