



COULD AN ENERGY ASSESSMENT BENEFIT YOUR SYSTEM?

Jamie Herman | Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider

As many of you are aware, starting in July 2015, your NYRWA began conducting energy assessments for water and wastewater systems in an effort to help reduce energy consumption and reduce costs for you, our valued member systems. These assessments are provided free of charge thanks to funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development. The main goal of each assessment is to determine if there are operational and/or equipment changes that will result in less energy consumption, and therefore cost savings for the system.

Since this programs inception in July 2015, we have completed 22 system energy assessments, including both water and wastewater systems. As with all of our work, we have reached out to systems from across the state, geographically covering each and every region within NYS. The 22 systems completed have represented every facet of our industry, from very small systems up to medium sized systems based on population served. This service is limited to municipal systems that provide service to a population up to 10,000 persons. The 22 completed energy assessments identified a combined total energy consumption of 7,252,420 Kilowatt Hours (kWh). Our recommendations have provided a projected energy savings of 1,956,753 kWh, which represents a 26.9% reduction in energy consumption. Now, we realize this is not the number most of you are looking for. I always say, "if you've never seen a grown man cry, come by my house when my wife wants to spend money!" We all want to know, how much money can be saved? The 22 completed assessments have identified a projected savings of \$192,278.00, which represents an average savings of \$8,740.00 per system. Of course, the projected savings are far higher for some systems versus others, but this is just an average based on the overall savings.

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Well, our immediate answer is that we don't honestly know. However, every single assessment we have completed has yielded energy and cost savings. Many Operations Specialists say, "our system is relatively new, so it's at maximum efficiency." That is not necessarily true. We have identified significant savings in upgraded systems, as well as, older ones. Honestly, we never truly know what the assessment will identify until we get involved with the documentation and research. Our contention is that every

system can benefit to some extent from completing an energy assessment.

WHAT INFORMATION DO WE NEED TO SUPPLY?

To complete an energy assessment we require 1 year of electric bills including the energy consumption information generally found on page 2 of your electric bill. We also need your monthly flow data for the same 1 year period, whether it is water produced at a water system or treated flow from a wastewater system. Next, we will schedule an onsite assessment where we identify and document information on electric consuming components such as motors and lighting, and also review the operation of the system. One significant part of our assessment is to listen to the Operations Specialist to determine what they feel they need to better operate the system, and therefore save energy and cost. You, the Operations Specialists, generally have the most knowledge of your system, and also have considered ways to save by making equipment or operational changes at your facilities. We value your insight, and take the time required to understand and confirm your recommendations.

CAN I REGISTER MY SYSTEM FOR AN ASSESSMENT?

Yes, we are beginning to identify systems for our next contract year. We attempt to complete 30 energy assessments per year. As noted, both water and wastewater systems are eligible for this free service, but they must be USDA funding eligible, such as a municipality, and must provide service to a population of less than 10,000 people. If you are interested in conducting an energy assessment please contact Jamie Herman at Herman@nyruralwater.org or call 1-888-697-8725 ext 13.

We are excited to be able to provide this valuable service and look forward to many years of success with this program. By working together with you, our valued member systems, we can and will provide energy and cost savings, and assist you to continue to provide....**Quality On Tap!!!** 💧💧💧