



Minnesota Water-Energy Nexus In-State Retreat

August 3, 2018

Wilder Center
451 Lexington Pkwy.
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Decreasing the demand for energy from water and wastewater treatment plants can deliver dual benefits of decreasing energy costs at water utilities and advancing Minnesota towards meeting its Green House Gas reduction goals.

This in-state retreat, supported by the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices, is for the state of Minnesota to convene stakeholders from the water and energy sectors to examine how to expand innovative energy practices that some larger water and wastewater plants have already adopted. Participants will gain a broader understanding of the interconnectivity between the policies, programs, funding options and financing strategies that water and wastewater utilities use to implement energy innovations and will explore opportunities for improving technical assistance and workforce development.

August 3, 2018

8:30am – 9:00am **Coffee & Check-In**

9:00am – 9:15am **Welcome & Introductions**

After a brief introduction from the National Governors Association, participants will introduce themselves and briefly explain what, if any, steps their organization has taken related to water or energy efficiency and innovation at Minnesota's water treatment and wastewater utilities.

Bevin Buchheister
Senior Policy Analyst
Environment, Energy and Transportation Division
Center for Best Practices
National Governors Association

9:15am – 9:30am **Background & Determining State Objectives**

This session will provide participants with a briefing on existing Minnesota programs that can achieve water-energy savings in the water sector. We will review the goals for this meeting and for the action plan that will focus on four core areas: policy, financing, technical assistance, and workforce development.

Shannon Lotthammer
Assistant Commissioner
Water Policy/Agriculture Liaison,
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

9:30am - 12:00pm **The Local Perspective and Opportunities for Progress**

The next sessions will provide background for retreat participants on the status in Minnesota of the four core areas we will explore today- policy, financing, technical assistance, and workforce development. Speakers and participants will explore the challenges involved in water infrastructure energy improvements.

9:30am - 10:00am **Policy**

Anna Henderson
Water Advisor
Office of Governor Mark Dayton

10:00am - 10:30am **Funding and Financing**

Jeff Freeman
Executive Director
Minnesota Public Facilities Authority

10:30am - 11:00am **Break**

11:00am - 11:30am **Technical Assistance**

Laura M. Babcock
Director
Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

11:30am - 12:00pm **Workforce Development**

Wade Klingsporn
President
Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association, and
Instructor
Vermilion Community College

12:00pm - 1:00pm **Lunch & Keynote**

Energy innovations at major wastewater treatment plants and strategies the state can pursue to expand innovation to small and mid-sized plants.

Tracy Hodel
Assistant Utilities Director
City of St. Cloud Minnesota

Patrick Shea
Public Services Director
City of St. Cloud, Minnesota

1:00pm – 2:30pm **Best Practices Presentations and Discussion**

1:00pm – 1:45pm **Part One: Technical Assistance and Policy**

Clifford Haefke will discuss the Mid-West Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Program (CHP TAP) and technical assistance offered in Illinois to encourage energy efficiency and innovation in the water sector. Megan Levy will discuss policies used in Wisconsin to advance energy efficiency and innovation.

Technical Assistance

Clifford P. Haefke
Director
Energy Resources Center
University of Illinois at Chicago

Policy

Megan Levy
Local Energy Programs Manager
Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

1:45pm - 2:30pm **Part Two: Funding and Workforce Development**

Alice Dasek will discuss Energy Savings Performance Contracting opportunities for State and Local Governments using case studies from around the country and will also discuss Department of Energy tools and resources. Dave Kusminski will discuss the Water Boot Camp, a program he developed for Hartford Connecticut high school students in anticipation of the retirement of 40% of treatment and distribution workers in the next five years.

Funding and Financing

Alice Dasek
Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

Workforce Development

Dave Kusminski
Coordinator
Water and People Program/Water Boot Camp
Hartford Connecticut

2:30pm - 2:45pm **Break**

2:45pm – 3:45pm

Roundtable Discussion

Meeting participants review what was covered concerning the four core areas of policy, financing, technical assistance, and workforce development and provide their input, key takeaways, ideas to advance, and concrete next steps.

Facilitator:
Bevin Buchheister
National Governors Association

3:45pm - 4:30pm

Develop Action Plan & Wrap-Up

Facilitator:
Patricio Portillo
Policy Analyst
Environment, Energy and Transportation Division
Center for Best Practices
National Governors Association