

News and Updates from
Des Moines Water Works

**NOVEMBER
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DMWW receives national, international acclaim for energy management

Des Moines Water Works recently became the only water utility in the nation to be certified for nationally and internationally recognized energy management standards for all of its treatment plants.

The utility's three treatment plants: Fleur Drive, Saylorville and L.D. McMullen are all certified to ISO 50001 and SEP 50001 Gold, per a review and audit that included review by the U.S. Department of Energy's Superior Energy

Performance (SEP) group. Previously, only the Fleur Drive plant was ISO 50001 certified in 2017.

The ISO 50001 recognition is an international standard created by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Its standards are reviewed by international experts in their subject matter and specify requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an energy management system to continually improve energy performance in the areas of efficiency, security, use and consumption.

SEP 50001 has three levels: silver, gold and platinum. Once an organization receives ISO 50001 certification, it can receive SEP 50001 certification and then submit a scorecard to rank higher based on measurement and verification of its energy performance.

A few of the efforts DMWW has taken include:

- Installation of variable speed drives on energy intensive high service pumps, backwash pumps and nitrate pumps
- Installation of occupancy sensors, automatic overhead doors and other



Above: Tom Cater, a utility mechanic, changes a bulb using LED lighting; below left: Leah Heim, a control systems specialist, checks a reading to ensure the system is operating efficiently.



- automated energy-saving equipment
- Conversion of all indoor and outdoor lighting to LED lights at all of our facilities
- Replacement of end-of-life equipment with high-efficiency equipment
- Improving insulation on hot water and steam pipes, and exterior doors and in buildings
- Development of idling guidelines for utility vehicles

"This project aligns perfectly with our mission and our values related to

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Des Moines
Water Works
Water You Can Trust for **Life**

Your 2022 water rates at work

The Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees has approved 2022 water rates to take effect April 1.

In 2022, Des Moines Water Works customers' rates and fees will pay for expenses tied to chemicals to treat source water and make it safe for drinking; removal of residuals left behind from the water treatment process; expansion of water treatment facilities; and exploration of new sources for water because of contaminated water sources.

For the average four-person household in Des Moines that uses 7,500 gallons of water a month, this will be an additional \$1.20 per month for water charges on their bill.

The capital improvement fee will continue at 25 cents per 1,000 gallons for Des Moines customers with no increase for 2022. This fee is less for commercial and industrial customers – 17 cents and 13 cents, respectively, that use more than 150,000 gallons per month. A four-person household pays about \$1.88 per month for the capital improvement fee, which is used, in part, to replace aging water mains. Monthly water

availabilities remain unchanged.

The Board of Trustees will vote on the 2022 budget at its November meeting. For approval is a \$79.4 million operating revenue budget for the utility. Proposed expenses are budgeted at \$52.8 million, an increase of 4.2 percent from 2021.

Two of the chemicals most used in the treatment process – lime and carbon – are expected to increase 8 percent from last year's budget. Driver shortages across the industry are contributing to the volatility in chemical prices. Residual lime removal expenses are up almost \$1.3 million. In 2022, 121,000 tons will need to be removed and taken to a final disposal site.

The 2022 proposed capital budget is \$45.9 million and includes money to pay for \$10.9 million in water main replacements in Des Moines, Windsor Heights and the unincorporated Polk County service area. Money is also budgeted to design an expansion at the Saylorville Treatment Plant, a new ASR (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) well, and wells for water collection.



Low-income water assistance program now available

The Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is available for eligible households. IMPACT Community Action Partnership is administering the program for Polk County residents.

What help is available?

Assistance is for charges, fees and taxes for drinking and waste water services. Benefit payments for qualifying households are made directly to Des Moines Water Works.

How do I know if my household is eligible?

To qualify you must be disconnected, have a disconnect notice, or be at risk of defaulting on a pay arrangement. Assistance level depends on income level, family size and other factors. If you have been approved for heat assistance through LIHEAP, you are already qualified for water assistance. Just schedule an appointment to complete the application.

When can I apply?

The application period is open year-around. LIHWAP will run through Sept. 30, 2023, or until funds are exhausted.

How can I apply?

Contact IMPACT Community Action Partnership at (515) 518-4770 to schedule a phone appointment for water bill assistance.

What documentation is needed?

1. Valid form of identification (Iowa Drivers' License, Social Security Card, etc.)
2. A copy of electric/gas bill
3. Proof of any income within the last 30 days
4. A disconnect notice for household water bill

More information can be found at:
www.impactcap.org/utility-assistance

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leadership, stewardship and employee experience,” CEO and General Manager Ted Corrigan said. “This is an accomplishment every DMWW employee can be proud of because so many of them are involved in the day- to-day implementation of the practices.”

Based on Department of Energy calculations, DMWW has reduced its total CO₂ emissions by almost 26,000 metric tons in the four years that ended December 2020. During that same time period, DMWW has reduced its overall energy intensity by more than 10 percent, saving the utility \$830,400 on electricity, natural gas, LP, gasoline and diesel fuel.

“Managing our energy use is one of the many responsibilities we have to our customers,” Corrigan said. “ISO 50001 certification shows we are doing it at the highest level.”