

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: William Stowe
CEO and General Manager
Des Moines Water Works
(515) 283-8721

Des Moines Water Works Becomes First U.S. Water Treatment Facility Certified for ISO 50001 and Superior Energy Performance Program

DES MOINES, Iowa (January 16, 2018) – Des Moines Water Works recently became the first U.S. water treatment utility to certify a plant to the ISO 50001 standard and [Superior Energy Performance](#)® (SEP) program. The SEP program has long helped industrial and commercial organizations establish energy management systems that meet the widely respected ISO 50001 standard and achieve verified energy and cost savings. As the first certified facility in the water sector, Des Moines Water Works' Fleur Drive Water Treatment Plant has paved the way for similar facilities nationwide to increase efficiency, cut costs, and demonstrate responsible management of resources.

Water treatment facilities across America increasingly face aging infrastructures and rising costs. According to the Electric Power Research Institute, U.S. water and wastewater treatment and distribution systems purchase nearly 70 billion kWh annually (about 1.8 percent of U.S. electricity consumption). Low-cost operational changes enabled by an energy management system can sustainably reduce operating costs to enable reinvestment in infrastructure or control rates.

Des Moines Water Works has taken a pro-active step in good stewardship of energy and ratepayer dollars by implementing a comprehensive energy conservation and management program. Energy costs are a significant portion of the utility's operational budget, so focusing on developing and implementing an energy management system is a crucial step in this stewardship.

Des Moines Water Works worked closely with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to implement ISO 50001 and SEP. The utility has pursued energy-saving strategies for decades, but in 2014, the utility raised the bar by joining the SEP pilot for the water/wastewater sector. In 2016, Des Moines Water Works joined DOE's [Better Plants](#) program and set a goal to increase energy efficiency 25% utility-wide by 2026. In the following year (2017), the utility joined the Better Plants Challenge, which involves a commitment to share their solutions.

ISO 50001 and SEP helped the utility establish a formal structure to embed energy management processes and reporting into normal business procedures, ensuring the retention and growth of energy savings over time. By implementing a rigorous energy management system certified to ISO 50001 and Superior Energy Performance, Des Moines Water Works' Fleur Drive Water Treatment Plant increased its energy performance 2.7% in a single year and is now well-equipped to continuously build on those savings in the years ahead.

ISO 50001 has empowered employees at Des Moines Water Works to incorporate energy-saving actions in day-to-day operations, for example: taking into consideration how and where energy is used, the cost of energy, and its impact on water rates.

"This new culture of managing energy performance will help the Des Moines Water Works expand its energy and cost savings to benefit the environment and our water customers," said Bill Stowe, Des Moines Water Works CEO and General Manager. "The certification is a clear indication to Des Moines Water Works customers and employees that we will lead in providing about good stewardship of natural resources, improving energy performance, and reducing carbon emissions."

###

About Des Moines Water Works

Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) is a municipal water utility serving the citizens of Des Moines and surrounding communities (approximately 500,000 people). DMWW is an independently operated public utility with a commitment to leading, advocating and investing today and in the future to deliver water you can trust for life.