



City of Otsego and Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative work together to save energy and money

The City of Otsego partnered with the Wright-Hennepin (WHE) to design assist one of the City's wastewater treatment sites, facilitating inclusion of energy-efficient equipment saving energy and money.

The West Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is one of two treatment sites in Otsego in operation since 2005. As Otsego's population increased and site capacity reached, facility expansion was needed to support future growth and system improvements for the next 20 years.

WHE's Key Account Executive Ryan O'Connor, with energy efficiency affiliates Frontier Energy, met with City representatives to discuss the project best opportunities for energy efficient technologies including variable frequency drives (VFDs), LED light fixtures, heating and cooling equipment.

"Every year WHE is required to meet an energy savings goal through the Minnesota Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act. Projects like the Otsego wastewater treatment facility enables WH to achieve these savings goals along with assisting in the costs involved for our WH members to become more energy efficient" said O'Connor.

The VFDs installed at the WWTF are anticipated to save over 1.6 million kWh annually. Minnesota households consume an average of 10,000 kWh annually, meaning the annual savings from the facility's VFD technology equate to the total annual consumption of 160 households. The magnitude of annual energy savings for this site alone shows the cooperative benefit for Otsego's and the WH's long-term energy profile.

Wright-Hennepin offers rebate incentives for a wide range of energy-efficient upgrades. With the energy efficiencies Otsego implemented, WHE was able to provide the City of Otsego a rebate check for \$25,000. On top of that, the VFDs are so efficient the city will save an estimated \$120,000 annually on electric bills.

"Long term, by taking the time to look at all the options when it comes to energy efficiency, the City of Otsego is helping residents that include our WHE residential and commercial members save a great amount of money," said O'Connor.