

What Are Missouri Water Utilities Doing to Approach Sustainability?

by Tom O'Connor, PE, MO AWWA Sustainability Initiatives Coordinating Committee Chair

Public water supplies are starting to consider and act upon sustainability issues. There are many financial, social, and environmental reasons to incorporate sustainability into utility planning, but mostly it's common sense.

The City of St. Louis Water Division, Kansas City Water Services Department, City Utilities of Springfield, and the City of Branson are the first EPA WaterSense Partner Utilities in the State of Missouri.

At the City of Columbia's water treatment plant, Chief Operator Ed Fisher demonstrates initiatives large and small: from massive VFDs to petite recycling bins. The recently-installed variable frequency drives on several high service pumps save energy while also providing additional operational flexibility. And, of course, recycling bins should be a part of every office, for those times when both reduction and reuse are no longer options.



Communities like Osceola (pop. 947) show that you don't have to be a large community in order to take the lead on sustainability issues. Although their initiative to install photovoltaic solar panels on their well houses was derailed by the disappearance of KCP&L's PV rebate program, they continue to be forward-thinking and seek to pursue other avenues toward sustainability, such as rain barrel programs.

At our annual conference this spring, Missouri AWWA Sustainability Chair Tom O'Connor will report on these and more initiatives that Missouri water utilities are undertaking in order to ensure safe, affordable drinking water into the foreseeable future and beyond.

If your utility is doing something new and interesting regarding energy, efficiencies, planning, or policies, please let us know by emailing Tom (tom@h2oc.com) and by responding to MO AWWA's ten-question Sustainability Survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6DNDTTG>

We're just getting started, and we have a long, exciting way to go. See you in the future.