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Client: Constellation Energy
Consumer blog post

How a Maryland Water Utility Saved \$1.6 Million in Energy Costs While Using Wind Power

A Maryland water utility saved \$1.6 million in energy costs *and* used wind power at the same time. How did they do it?

Water and sewer utilities – like the WSSC, or Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, which serves 1.8 million in suburban Maryland and Washington, D.C. – use huge amounts of electricity to run enormous pumps that deliver drinking water and other equipment that treat waste water. The WSSC is the eighth largest water and wastewater utility in the nation. Their energy costs can fluctuate dramatically, putting big pressure on budgets.

To combat this challenge, the WSSC partnered with its electric company to reexamine its energy plan and create price stability and savings with windy energy and demand-side management.

With a long-term power purchase agreement, which enabled price stability, the WSSC hired its electricity supplier, Constellation Energy, to build a wind plant in nearby Pennsylvania. In April 2008, the WSSC began receiving enough wind-powered energy to fulfill 30 percent of the utility's electricity needs.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently honored WSSC's energy manager, Robert Taylor, with a leadership award for his work in helping the WSSC make one of the nation's largest commitments to wind power by a local government entity.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dr-gridlock/wp/2014/02/26/wssc-energy-manager-receives-environmental-award/>

The WSSC saved \$1.6 million by taking advantage of a demand-side management assessment. Constellation identified and implemented energy conservation measures and technological improvements – like new pumps at a major pump station – that guaranteed these energy and operational cost savings.

The WSSC also took advantage of an additional demand-side measure, a peak load response program, which notifies them of peak load hours, when electricity is the most expensive. Most businesses spend more than 20 percent of their total annual energy cost on extra charges from “peak load” hours. With knowledge from the load response program, the WSSC can curtail energy use during those hours and save money.

<http://www.constellation.com/business-energy/demand-response/pages/peak-load-management.aspx#sthash.6Lag2P7I.dpuf>

Want to know how you can save while achieving your renewable energy goals? Constellation Energy provides integrated energy solutions that help customers strategically buy and manage their energy. Request a free quote from Constellation today.

<http://www.constellation.com/business-energy/pages/small-business-quote.aspx>

