

ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS BENCHMARKING

Project outcomes contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



For more information about the water industry's contribution to the UN SDGs see [Global Goals for Local Communities: Urban water advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Background

Improvements in energy management are an important factor for managing utility costs and risks in a resource constrained world. Efficient energy management practices can contribute to more affordable water services, improved reliability and quality of water services, compliant business operations and climate change mitigation.

The aim of the project was to:

- develop a standardised approach to Energy Management Systems (EnMS) benchmarking for the water sector,
- understand industry EnMS strengths and weaknesses and leverage this information to drive knowledge sharing between utilities and collaborative projects to address common EnMS gaps, and
- improve EnMS across the water utilities and realise associated energy cost savings and improved environmental outcomes.

Outcomes and Benefits

An effective Energy Management System (EnMS) is a valuable tool to identify strategies to improve energy and environmental performance and reduce costs. It provides for an ongoing process of identifying, planning and implementing improvements in the way an organisation uses energy.

The industry report highlights industry strengths, weaknesses, trends and opportunities for improvements. It also provides a list of recommendations for improvement.

Some of the findings of the benchmarking project included:

- The average utility allocates 1.2 Fulltime Equivalent (FTE) towards energy management irrespective of annual energy costs.
- On average, utilities allocate over \$10 million each year towards energy management.
- Utilities are strong in executive leadership, monitoring and reviewing.
- Opportunities for improvement lie in energy-related training, development and awareness.

Availability

This project was completed in September 2016. The following WSAA members contributed information and in-kind resources:

Barwon Water	Hunter Water	South Gippsland Water
Cairns Regional Council	Icon Water	Sydney Water
City West Water	Lower Murray Water	Toowoomba Regional Council
Coliban Water	Melbourne Water	Unitywater
East Gippsland Water	Mid Coast Water	Wannon Water
Gippsland Water	Queensland Urban Utilities	Water Corporation
Gladstone Area Water Board	SA Water	Western Water
Gosford City Council	Seqwater	Yarra Valley Water
Goulburn Valley Water		

It is available at no charge to all WSAA members. You can access by:

- requesting to join the Energy Management Systems project site in the WSAA members area of the website.
- or by contacting info@wsaa.asn.au.