

To: Tony Arnett, and members of the Public Works Commission
2026

Date: June 15,

From: Peter Hartz, Water Systems Manager

Re: Focus on Energy Water Treatment Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Cooperative Enrollment

Water Systems: Water Utility

Review and take possible action: Authorize participation in the 2026 Focus on Energy Water Treatment Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Cooperative Program.

Background:

Focus on Energy has invited Wisconsin water treatment facilities to participate in the 2026 Water Treatment Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Cooperative. The program is designed to help water utilities reduce energy consumption through a structured energy management process that includes energy-use analysis, technical assistance, peer collaboration, educational workshops, and identification of operational efficiency opportunities.

Participation includes development of an energy performance model using facility energy and production data, attendance at five virtual workshops, monthly progress meetings, and an on-site energy assessment conducted by Focus on Energy technical experts. The program emphasizes low- and no-cost operational improvements while also identifying potential capital projects that may reduce energy consumption.

Participating utilities are eligible to receive incentives of \$0.02 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) and \$0.20 per therm saved through verified energy improvements, with incentives capped at \$50,000 over a 12-month period.

Staff believes participation will provide valuable insight into utility energy use, identify cost-saving opportunities, and support ongoing efforts to improve operational efficiency while reducing operating costs.

Budget Goal:

Support efficient operation of the Water Utility by reducing energy consumption and operating costs while pursuing available external funding and incentive opportunities.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct participation fee identified for the program. Staff time will be required to provide historical energy data, attend workshops and meetings, and implement identified energy-saving measures. Participation may generate incentive payments of up to \$50,000 based on verified energy savings achieved through the program.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval to enroll the Water Utility in the 2026 Focus on Energy Water Treatment Strategic Energy Management Cooperative and authorize staff to complete the enrollment process and participate in the program.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Hartz

Water Systems Manager

Attachments:

1. Focus on Energy Water Treatment Strategic Energy Management Cooperative Program Overview
2. Focus on Energy SEM Enrollment Application
3. Focus on Energy Program Terms and Conditions