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P2 News

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- Water Leak Detection Program Tips to get Started
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In the last five years, has your facility partnered with our P2 program on an assessment or an internship? If so, we need to talk with you! Be watching your Inbox for an email from a P2 staff member needing to schedule a follow-up assessment for your past project(s).

Follow-up assessments are an opportunity for P2S staff to collect and document updated information on the status of project recommendations and savings projections from past projects. For each project recommendation, we gather a narrative status update on each recommendation, and for those recommendations that have been implemented, we gather updated, actual numbers and savings information to ensure our implemented program metrics are current and accurate. The assessments are easy to complete and in the current COVID-19 climate, we can do all of this work virtually over the phone. Weren't onsite during the project and worried you may not have all the info needed? Don't worry! We encounter this situation frequently and we can still work with you to easily obtain the information we need.

Follow-up assessments are conducted annually for a period of 5 years after the conclusion of any project. We are required by EPA to conduct these assessments, and our project partnership agreements reflect this. If you've already completed a follow-up assessment with us this summer, thank you! If you haven't and you've had a project with our program in the last five years, please be watching for communication from us.

Thank you for helping us meet our documentation requirements and ensuring our program stays strong for years to come!

Water Leak Detection Program - Tips to get Started

Water is an essential utility that is used at some point within nearly every manufacturing process. It is perceived as cheap, but when the costs are broken down, water can become quite costly. Think of all the energy, chemicals, treatment, and time that goes into purifying the water that is used throughout your



manufacturing process; it all starts to add up. Knowing the true cost of water puts into perspective how precious every clean drop is.

Because water is so precious, facilities need to use water as efficiently as possible. Inefficiencies can come in many forms, but the largest comes from water leaks. Leaks can happen for a variety of reasons including: old/corroded pipes, poorly maintained valves, and mechanical damages (especially to pumps). Utilizing a water leak detection program, could be beneficial to helping your facility save water that is being lost due to leaks in the system.

Utilizing another preventative maintenance (PM) program, such as a steam trap audit, can help lay the ground work for the beginnings of a water leak detection program. Water leak detection programs should be completed once a year and can be done in conjunction with another PM program to save time. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind as you begin, continue, or revamp your water leak detection program:

- **Check equipment often.** Be sure to check the pipes leading into the equipment, and the equipment itself to see if there are any visible leaks coming from the system.
- Check water pressure and water use. If the water pressure at the end user is substantially less than expected, that could mean a leak is present farther up in the system. This means more water is being pushed to that area to keep up with demand.
- **Compare records.** If your facility tracks water usage, compare the same month of this year to the same month of last year. The amount of water used will vary due to process changes, demand, or weather, but they should be similar. If there is a significant spike, this could indicate a leak in the system.

Implementing a leak detection program can be beneficial in more ways than just money and water saved. Here are a few other benefits that result from a leak detection program:

- Operational efficiency increases
- Contamination potential will be reduced
- P&ID's get updated to reflect the current system
- Reduction in property damage due to leaks

For more information about how to start and maintain a water leak detection program, and other PM programs, contact the P2 technical staff at P2Services@dnr.iowa.gov.

Upcoming Events

August 27 What Happens After the Low-Hanging Fruit Has Been Picked when Implementing Your Energy Reduction Strategy? webinar

September 14-17 WasteExpo Together Online virtually presented

September 16 <u>Create the Pathway Towards Emission Reduction: How to Build a Carbon Inventory</u> webinar

COVID-19 Updates

IDNR: The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will continue to update their website with the latest COVID-19 information and resources:

- IDNR COVID-19 Response Page
- Regulated Business Resource Tab

EPA: EPA will continue to update their website regarding COVID-19:

• EPA COVID-19 Response Page

Learn more about our program at www.iowap2services.com.

Please send questions, comments, or suggestions regarding newsletter content to P2Services@dnr.iowa.gov.



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