



## Water Conservation Tips

### North & East Metro Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) project update

MnTAP research supported by the Metropolitan Council has determined that the largest industrial groundwater users in the GWMA are chemicals, food, paper, petroleum, and energy generation utilities. If your facility falls within any of these sectors, your water use—and water conservation potential—may be substantial. Emphasis on water stewardship continues to grow, and industrial sector water efficiency opportunities wait to be uncovered. MnTAP can help find those opportunities. Although the end of June signals the last remaining month in our current project support, there is still plenty of time for additional site assessments. MnTAP provides no-cost, confidential site assessment services including water conservation assessments anytime to improve your water resource efficiency.

Not in one of these sectors? Sign up anyway. Every industry has water conservation opportunities that are important to regional water conservation efforts. Be resource-smart, gain competitive advantage, and contribute to sustainable water use in Minnesota. Contact Mick Jost at [jostx003@umn.edu](mailto:jostx003@umn.edu) / 612-624-4694 to make arrangements for an assessment soon.



### Contact MnTAP for More Information



Let us know if you are interested in getting involved in this water conservation project, at no cost to your business. We welcome your questions and ideas for future newsletter topics, so please send them our way! For questions or further information, contact Mick Jost, MnTAP Program Coordinator and project lead, at [jostx003@umn.edu](mailto:jostx003@umn.edu) or 612.624.4694.

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program acknowledges and appreciates the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Water Supply Planning Group expertise and project management support of this Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment sponsored project.

MnTAP is a non-regulatory program in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota and is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



## Did You Know...

Even within the same industrial sector, like food production, water use savings vary appreciably between companies because of different products and process lines. Since each company uses water in specific ways, the best way to realize potential water savings is through a thorough analysis. Water use is often tied directly with heating and cooling costs, water process chemicals and metro SAC charges, so as a result the actual cost savings and benefits can be much higher than the actual water supply costs. The table below illustrates a few of the MnTAP intern projects in the food sector that focused on water efficiency. Recommended water savings ranged from 943,000 gallons to 30,593,000 gallons annually which equates to annual savings from \$7,000 to \$288,000.

Company	Annual Water Savings (gallons)	Annual Cost Savings (\$)
Food Sector		
Northern Star/Michael Foods	30,593,000	\$166,300
Malt-O-Meal	24,000,000	\$288,000
Gedney	3,146,600	\$155,230
CSM Bakery	1,802,000	\$7,800
Kerry Ingredients	943,500	\$7,000

At Northern Star/Michael Foods, water savings recommendations included lowering the water level in a washer, replacing a float in the basket washer, reducing water spray times, replacing a leaking solenoid, reusing RO reject water in another application, reusing scrubber water, installing auto fill valves on pump tanks, and optimizing surge bin water levels.

Malt-O-Meal water savings recommendations included reuse of non-contact cooling water and changing the boiler water treatment.

Gedney water savings suggestions included reuse of hot water overflow from one pasteurizer to another, reuse of fermentation tank brine, reduction of salt storage level, and fixing water leaks.

CSM Bakery water savings proposals include switching faucets and hose nozzles to low flow models and optimization of their Sanitation Standard Operating Procedure.

Procedure.

Kerry Ingredients water savings suggestions included fixing water leaks.

You can see from our experience in the food production sector that nearly all companies have water conservation opportunities, even when those companies make widely different products and use water in a variety of ways. More details of these projects are found at: <http://www.mntap.umn.edu/intern/pastproj.htm>.



### About MnTAP

A program of the University of Minnesota, MnTAP offers a variety of technical assistance services to help Minnesota businesses implement industry-tailored solutions that maximize resource efficiency, prevent pollution, increase energy efficiency, and reduce costs. Our information resources are available online at <[mntap.umn.edu](http://mntap.umn.edu)>. Please call MnTAP at 612.624.1300 or 800.247.0015 for personal assistance.

© 2014 MnTAP. Reprint only with permission from MnTAP. Available in alternative formats upon request. ♻️ Printed on recycled paper containing a minimum of 100% post-consumer waste.

MCES - GWMA-7 5/14/15