

The Energy for a Sustainable Water Future

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ABSTRACT

Tucson Water, the largest municipal water provider in southern Arizona, is engaged in a dialogue with the community regarding the long-term sustainability of its water supply. Water Plan: 2000-2050 was developed to inform the community and decision makers about the water-resource challenges that lie ahead. As presented at previous AHS venues, Water Plan: 2000-2050 and the associated public outreach provide a way for Tucson Water and the community to make a series of water-resource decisions in the coming years. These decisions will focus on how best to utilize renewable supplies.

All options provide for treatment, operational flexibility and supply reliability that will require strategic power management to achieve the Utility's mission of high quality water and excellent service in a cost efficient, safe and environmentally responsible manner. At present, energy costs account for approximately 20% of Tucson Water's Operating and Maintenance expenses. Strategic energy management will allow the Utility to plan for the future (monitor efficiencies, plan for supply or cost volatility) and correlate business and management practices.

This talk will provide a brief overview of Water Plan: 2000-2050, a brief overview of energy management (current, developing and planned) and then focus on the power-related impacts (and sustainability) of potential options.