

To learn more about the free training workshops, view workshop locations and dates, and register for a workshop, go to either:

www.isawwa.org/WaterLoss

OR

www.ilrwa.org/WaterLoss.html

** This training qualifies for water operator certification renewal credits.

The Illinois Water Loss Accounting Program Steering Committee will work to promote water loss accounting to water utilities. Its membership includes:

Center for Neighborhood Technology

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Illinois Rural Water Association

Illinois Section,
American Water Works Association

Natural Resources Defense Council

Northwest Water Planning Alliance



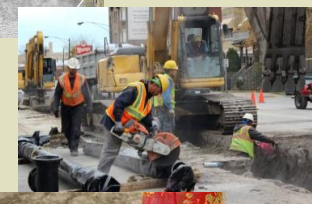
State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Lisa Bonnett, Director

WATER LOSS

- WHAT IT IS
- WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT
- FREE TRAINING ON AWWA WATER LOSS CONTROL SOFTWARE



The Value of Water

Providing safe, reliable and affordable water is critical not only to the health of our residents, but also to the health of our businesses, economy and environment.

And yet, water utilities face some challenges. The cost of reliably providing safe drinking water is increasing due to:

- aging infrastructure;
- growing demand;
- new treatment requirements;
- higher energy costs; and
- changes in precipitation patterns.

Over the next year, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its partners will roll out a statewide program to help water utilities address these challenges by reducing system inefficiencies that increase the cost of service for utilities and their customers. These inefficiencies also lead to unnecessary demand for potable water and can negatively impact the viability of our state's water resources.

This initiative will help Illinois and its water utilities better understand the extent of water lost from leaking pipes, meter inaccuracies and unauthorized consumption.

Why Water Loss Control?

A robust water loss control program can help water utilities reduce water waste and better prioritize infrastructure investments. This in turn helps utilities recover revenue, increase system resiliency, reduce weather-related risks and protect our state's water resources.

Although it requires some investment of human and financial resources, experience has shown that time invested in recovering the costs of water loss control activities is typically measured in days, weeks and months, rather than years.

A water loss control program helps to identify real (physical) and apparent (water that is used but not billed) losses of water from the water system:

- *Real losses* include costs to a utility from the additional energy and chemical usage required to treat lost water.
- *Apparent losses* represent lost revenue, as the water is used but not otherwise paid for or billed.

When a water system accurately identifies these real and apparent losses through a water loss audit program, it can begin to strategically implement controls to reduce them. For example, water loss programs can help utilities identify water losses that are economically recoverable and that are cost-effective to identify and eliminate.

Free Training Workshops Will Help Water Utilities Implement Water Loss Control

Illinois EPA is partnering with Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA) and the Illinois Section-American Water Works Association (ISAWWA) to offer water utilities free one-day training workshops on the basics of water loss control auditing. The training workshops will be held in more than 35 locations state-wide.

These training workshops will give utilities the information they need to conduct desktop audits using existing utility-specific records and AWWA's free online software to get an overall picture of water losses.

Most utilities have the data needed to get started, including the quantity of water entering the system, customer billing summaries, leak repair summaries, average system pressure, production and customer meter accuracy percentages, permitted fire hydrant and flushing usage and information that may be kept on water theft and unmetered uses.

Illinois EPA will work with interested small utilities and economically disadvantaged communities that have attended the training workshops to identify additional technical assistance needed to implement the findings from the desktop audits.