



THE INFORMER



In the fast-paced technological landscape of today, it is essential for companies to enhance their operations and boost efficiency. A key area ripe for improvement is the modernization of water metering systems. Traditional water meters are demonstrating vast inefficiencies, so change is necessary for a sustainable future.

Look at how two of our HGACBuy members, the Town of Hudson, MA and the City of Killeen, TX are transforming their communities' utility metering systems to enhance efficiency and revenue recovery.

TOWN OF HUDSON HAS STARTED ON A NEW PATH

Rajitha Purimetla, the Assistant DPW Director, is dedicated to modernizing Hudson, Massachusetts' outdated water meter system. Hudson's usage reports indicated that approximately 20% of the water was unaccounted for but leak detection tests showed that there were no leaks in the underground water mains.

One of the initial hurdles was the presence of five different types of meters installed over several decades, which led to a lack of standardization in the system. These meters varied in technical specifications and reading capabilities. Additionally, while some of the existing meters could be read using radio technology, their registers often malfunctioned due to age. Other meters required personnel to physically visit the site with a touchpad to scan the reading or manually note the dial with pen and paper. Purimetla stated, "Multiple factors led us to the conclusion that we needed a town-wide Meter Replacement Project by selecting a new, standardized meter model."



Purimetla recalls, "Once we began exploring Neptune 10, we discovered that the supplier, TiSales, already had an awarded cooperative contract with HGACBuy." Since the desired solution was readily available through this contract, the town opted for the cooperative approach instead of investing time and resources in a lengthy bidding process.

This project is expected to be a significant victory for both the water department and the town in terms of water conservation. It will help minimize unaccounted water usage, reduce labor costs, and alleviate the administrative burden of manual meter readings. The town estimates that the meter reading period, which previously took an entire month, will be shortened to just two days once all the meters are replaced with the new system.

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CITY OF KILLEEN OVERHAULS INFRASTRUCTURE

In the City of Killeen, Texas, Steve Kana, the Director of Water and Sewer, is spearheading initiatives for improved water efficiency. According to Steve, the city's current metering system largely comprises of older meters that have been experiencing a decline in both accuracy and efficiency. This inefficiency has led to a significant revenue loss, estimated at around \$2 million. These findings spawned the urgent need to upgrade the city's metering infrastructure to prevent further financial losses and meet industry standards.



Killeen's plan is to replace all the water meters in the city. The initial phase commenced with the acquisition of 5,000 Sensus Eye meters from Aqua-Metrics Sales Company. After sampling 500 of these meters, it was discovered that there was roughly a 7% decline in efficiency compared to the previous meters, which operated at decline in efficiency levels ranging from 50% to 93%.

Over the next decade, Killeen plans to replace the remaining 52,000 meters in the city. While much work remains for Killeen, there is enthusiasm about the advantages the new system will offer. One great benefit is the implementation of radio frequency technology, which will eliminate the need for manual readings. Instead, data will be transmitted to a Cloud server, that is integrated with the billing software. Additionally, there will be the capability to shut off valves from a centralized location.

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NEW METERS CAPABILITIES

The modernization of water metering systems is not just a necessary upgrade, but a strategic move towards increased efficiency and sustainability. By adopting advanced technologies cities like Killeen and Hudson are setting the stage for more accurate water management, conservation, and significant cost savings. These improvements ensure:

- **Higher Accuracy:** These meters are designed to provide more accurate readings, thereby reducing discrepancies and potential revenue losses.
- **Remote Reading Capabilities:** With these new meters, manual reads will become obsolete, saving time and reducing human error.
- **Remote Operation:** With the new system, valves can be controlled from a central location, enhancing operational efficiency and allowing for quicker response times in case of issues.
- **Improved Resource Management:** This capability also allows for better management of water distribution and reduces wastage.

GET STARTED NOW!

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