

# KRWA Program Providing Energy Efficiency Assessments for Water and Wastewater Utilities

**A** new program has been introduced by Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA). KRWA is conducting energy assessments that focus on electrical use, electrical components and electrical safety. These assessments or reviews are being conducted for both water and wastewater utilities. The energy efficiency assessment evaluates current and past energy use, classifies primary energy consuming components, and identifies methods to lower energy use and costs. The program is partially funded through USDA Rural Development under a contract administered by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA).

KRWA will conduct a minimum of 30 assessments annually. Of those 30 assessments, follow-up

implementation assistance may be provided to five (5) systems who previously received energy assessments. Two (2) on-site sustainable utility management training events will be held annually as part of the program.

The assessments are being provided at no cost to any system. There are no

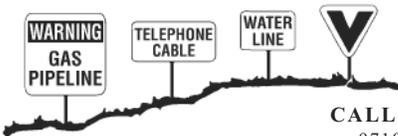
requirements that any system must implement any of the improvements or changes in operations that may be suggested. Some reports will include a schedule of how long it might take to pay off any of the suggested improvements. Utilities can use this information as they see fit. It will be up to the utilities whether or not they implement the recommendations presented. As part of the energy efficiency review program the total electric system will be inspected for loose connections, improper wiring, safety issues, and the pump curves will be used to find out how efficiently that the pumps are performing.

This work is not unfamiliar territory for KRWA. From 1989 to 1992, KRWA conducted 416 operations reviews which showed annual costs savings of \$788,052 and 6.387 million

**The energy efficiency assessment evaluates current and past energy use, classifies primary energy consuming components, and identifies methods to lower energy use and costs.**

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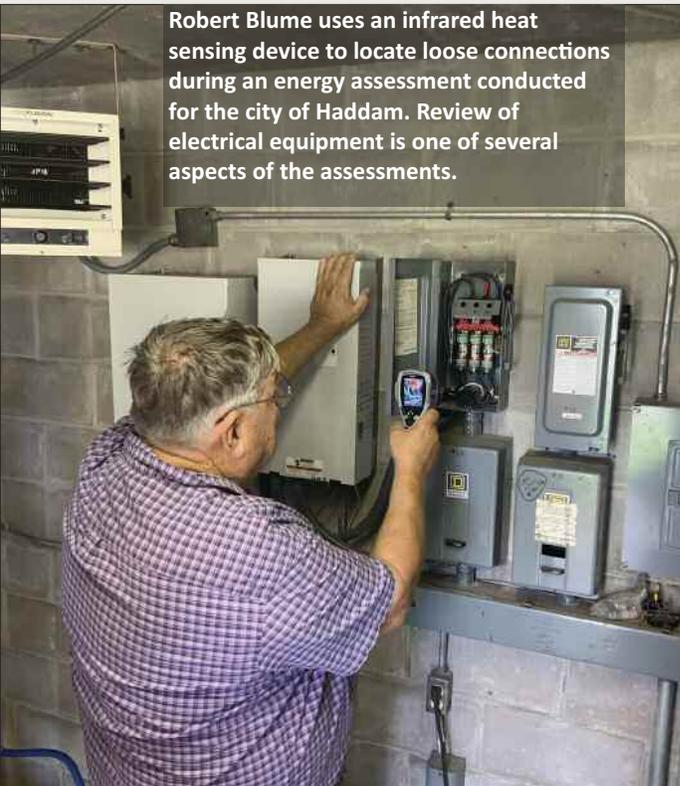


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Robert Blume uses an infrared heat sensing device to locate loose connections during an energy assessment conducted for the city of Haddam. Review of electrical equipment is one of several aspects of the assessments.



Water Office. The reviews located scores of electrical safety issues, equipment problems and even water and wastewater systems being charged on incorrect rate structures by the energy providers.

To perform the assessment, KRWA needs copies of twelve months of electric bills and the corresponding gallons pumped for each month. Having the original design specifications of the pumping units will be extremely helpful or the applicable pump curve for each of the pumps to be evaluated. Thus far, this seems to be a challenge for systems to provide. Too many systems have misplaced or just are not sure of anything about the design criteria of the pump(s) that they have in operation. A good place to start would be

the company that may have conducted maintenance on the system's pumps. Generally, reputable companies keep track of what was installed. Without the original design specs, it's not possible to compare the efficiency of

the present pumping rates to what was intended.

This program will be beneficial to many systems across the state. If you are interested in having an energy efficiency assessment performed contact the KRWA office or any staff member. I would highly recommend taking advantage of this free opportunity. It will be a great way to see how the electric system is performing and also, what improvements to components or safety should be considered.

KRWA completed assessments in the following communities in September: City of Haddam, City of Solomon, City of Arlington, City of Nickerson, City of Chetopa, City of Nickerson, and the City of Inman.

*Bret Beye joined the KRWA staff in March 2017. He previously worked for 30 years at the city of Herington where he was Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Foreman. A Class III water operator and certified as a backflow device technician, Bret also served on the USD 487 Board of Education from 2003 to April 2017 where he was board president and vice-president.*



KWH. That program was initially funded through a contract administered by the Kansas Corporation Commission and later under an aspect of the on-site technical assistance program to public water systems under a contract administered by the Kansas

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