The Agriculture and Food Wastewater Energy Program (WEP) helps agriculture, food processing, and beverage processing facilities implement energy efficiency and water conservation projects to achieve wastewater treatment energy savings. Increasing energy and water efficiency also benefits the environment by conserving our natural resources and reducing air emissions.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has contracted with BASE Energy, Inc., a third party energy efficiency implementation specialist, to implement the WEP program which helps PG&E customers identify and assess opportunities for retrofit or new construction and receive incentives for implementing the projects.

**Eligibility**

The program is open to agricultural, food processing, and beverage processing facilities with onsite wastewater treatment systems, or facilities planning to implement new wastewater treatment systems.

**Energy Efficiency Measures Covered**

Technologies considered under WEP include:
- Automating aeration equipment with dissolved oxygen sensors.
- Variable frequency drives on aerators.
- Variable frequency drives on blowers.
- Variable frequency drives on water/wastewater pumps.
- High efficiency pumps.
- High efficiency aerators.
- Water saving measures that result in energy savings
- Other advanced technologies for wastewater treatment
Support from Inception to Inspection

The program participation process is as follows:

1. The customer signs a site access agreement granting WEP staff access to the customer’s wastewater systems.
2. WEP’s technical experts visit the site and review design documentation to collect data and identify opportunities.
3. WEP develops an engineering and economic feasibility study of the potential energy and water efficiency projects.
4. Upon PG&E approval of the feasibility study, the customer chooses which projects to implement and signs a customer agreement. Upon receipt of the signed commitment, WEP reserves incentive funds.
5. Once projects are completed, WEP staff inspects the installed equipment, verifies energy savings and calculates the incentive amount based on the PG&E approved savings values from the installation report. We also offer an incentive rate for vendors and designers for initiating projects that result in project implementation.

Financial incentives are consistent with California statewide customized incentive rates up to 50 percent of the total project cost.

Sample Project

Bell Carter Foods took advantage of WEP’s expertise to upgrade their existing vertical turbine aerators with energy-efficient brush aerators and an automatic dissolved oxygen control system. The facility saved 5,985,641 kWh/yr and reduced its Peak demand by approximately 439 kW, which is equivalent to an annual electric cost savings of $718,000. The installed project earned Bell Carter Foods $181,799 in financial incentives.

Next Steps

To learn more how WEP can help your business, visit baseco.com/wep. Contact the WEP Program Manager, Sandra Chow at schow@baseco.com or 1-415-543-1600 ext. 28. You may also contact the PG&E Business Customer Service Center at 1-800-468-4743 or visit pge.com to learn about other PG&E energy efficiency programs.