



# UNCOVER HIDDEN SAVINGS THROUGH MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM LEAK REPAIR

## CASH INCENTIVES FOR LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIRS



### Benefits of assessing and repairing leaks

- Increase water pressure, deferring the need to improve pumping capacity
- Save water and energy
- Reduce water treatment costs
- Reduce risk of sinkholes, erosion, flooding or other damage
- Gain deeper knowledge of underground water system and maintenance needs

Delivering clean water at a reasonable cost is an important responsibility for any municipality. But many municipal water systems were installed decades ago. As infrastructure deteriorates with age and use, undetected underground leaks are taking a hidden toll: wasted water, wasted energy and reduced capacity to serve customers.

Pumping water is energy intensive because municipal water systems must maintain operations constantly, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That means even small leaks can drive up energy bills as electric pumps have to work harder to maintain pressure and reliably deliver water. As water pressure declines, so does customer satisfaction. Left untreated, leaks can increase the need for infrastructure investments to support additional pumping capacity to meet customer needs. Leaks can also trigger sudden line ruptures that lead to costly emergency repairs and potential damages such as sinkholes, erosion and flooding.

Municipalities can avoid these problems by proactively locating and repairing leaks. This saves water and reduces energy-related operating costs while also improving system operations.

### Earn cash incentives

Energy Trust of Oregon offers cash incentives for both leak detection and repairs to help make this work pencil out for municipalities. Industrial customers of Portland General Electric and Pacific Power with underground water supply systems that include electric pumping are eligible.



**Assessment:** Customers can apply once a year for a rebate up to \$1,000 toward the cost of an assessment to locate underground leaks. This assessment must be completed by a qualified vendor, of your choosing, who specializes in leak detection (contact Energy Trust’s Standard Industrial staff to request a list of leak assessment vendors). The leak assessment vendor will supply a report that shows the leak locations and estimates the leak flow, which can be helpful in prioritizing repairs. Using the leak assessment, Energy Trust staff develop an incentive offer to help cover a portion of the repair costs.

**Repairs:** To help lower the cost of qualifying leak repairs and increase system efficiency, Energy Trust offers cash incentives based on the projected energy savings from the leak repairs—\$0.32 per annual kilowatt-hour saved, up to 70% of project costs. Repairs, which can be completed by either a qualified contractor or the municipality, must receive pre-approval from Energy Trust to qualify for incentives.

### We make the process easy

To receive the assessment rebate:

- Complete a leak detection assessment with a qualified vendor.
- Within 90 days of the assessment, submit the assessment report, invoice and a completed rebate form (420MWLR) to Energy Trust.

To receive the repair incentive:

- Call Energy Trust’s Standard Industrial team for pre-approval of a repair incentive. We will develop an incentive offer for you based on the assessment.
- Once you sign and return the incentive offer to Energy Trust, you can repair your leaks and receive an incentive to help cover the costs.



Get more from your energy. For more information, visit

**[www.energytrust.org/wastewatertreatment](http://www.energytrust.org/wastewatertreatment)**, email **[production@energytrust.org](mailto:production@energytrust.org)** or call **503.928.3154**.

### PROJECT-AT-A-GLANCE

For a municipality that completed 3 leak repairs:

- \$3,700 project costs
- 4.7 million gallons of water savings
- 27,300 kWh savings
- \$2,000 energy cost savings
- \$2,600 Energy Trust cash incentives
- 6-month simple payback

For a municipality that completed 26 leak repairs:

- \$32,000 project costs
- 272.6 million gallons of water savings
- 198,100 kWh savings
- \$13,900 energy cost savings
- \$22,400 Energy Trust cash incentives
- 7-month simple payback

*Savings and cost based on annual estimates*