



HALIFAX REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION

CASE STUDIES

HALIFAX'S LEADING EDGE PRACTICES SAVES MILLIONS

The Halifax Regional Water Commission uses a holistic approach to reduce its leakage within the water distribution system. This approach centers around leak detection, metering, speed and quality of repairs, and asset management. This holistic approach initially developed by the International Water Association can be found in various InfraGuide best practices. Implementing these InfraGuide methodologies has helped Halifax save millions of dollars to date.

The Challenge

Leakage is a serious problem across Canada where between 10% and 50% of potable water is lost due to leaking pipes in the distribution system. In older cities deteriorating municipal infrastructure causes potable water leakage to be as high as 30% to 50%. This is not only a waste of a precious resource but also valuable tax dollars.

The Solution

Halifax was the first municipality not only in Canada, but in North America to adopt an international best practice on water loss control in the distribution system and revolutionize their leakage prevention. InfraGuide was the first Canadian organization to create a concise document entitled *Water Use and Loss in the Distribution System*. Subsequent InfraGuide best practices on this topic include *Establishing a Metering Plan to Account for Water Use and Loss* and *Speed and Quality of Linear System Repairs*, which detail the technologies that can be used to reduce leakage effectively. The Halifax region has a fully metered system, something Halifax Regional Water Commission's General Manager Carl Yates believes every municipality should adopt. By using universal metering, there is 100% accountability and effective control of their water.

The Value

As a result of adopting this best practice and previous efforts, the Halifax Regional Water Commission has managed to reduce the leakage of potable water from its distribution system by 6 million gallons per day or almost 30 million liters per day. This adds up to savings of half a million dollars a year. *"This is a huge impact,"* says Carl Yates because reducing leakage means there is less wear and tear on the system and its life cycle is extended. Other direct benefits associated with reduced leakage include deferral of capital investment, less disruption of service to customers, and a drastically reduced liability due to reduced risk of streets and adjacent property being damaged from aggravated leakage. In this way the Water Commission is being a good steward and is receiving very positive customer feedback.

Testimonial

"District metering is key, knowing where your water is going and where the leakage is prominent is essential so that you can control it. What you don't know, you can't control."

"Once you are converted, you can't go back. We're sold on this methodology and are in it for the long run as a result. If Halifax can do it, others can do it too."



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