

TAKE **5** FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION!



The City of Wasco

PG&E Audit Brings Big Savings to the City of Wasco

Paul Paris knew from his first day as Public Works Director for the City of Wasco that he would be involved in numerous ongoing tasks. Just like citizens everywhere, the people of Wasco expect water to be available, street lights to be in working order, as well as clean streets, with little understanding of the processes that make all this happen. Paris had to find a way to provide for the City of Wasco without spending an unnecessary amount of money.

Paris attended two Kern Energy Watch meetings where he was introduced to On-Site Energy Audits for industrial users; the goal of these audits was to help users maximize their energy dollars. As the needs of a community increase, so does the need for energy. Paris explained, "In the summer when youngsters are out of school, the water usage goes up simply because kids play in sprinklers, on Slip and Slides, with hoses—anything to keep cool. This increases our need for more electricity as water pumps must work harder to provide for aquatic play time, not to mention watering lawns." Paris decided to contact his PG&E account representative, Christine Forster, to discuss an On-Site-Audit. Forster agreed that it was time to have a closer look at Wasco's energy usage.

There were 17 meters in Wasco that were included in the audit. The meter locations included: the Animal Control Shelter, the Sheriff's Station, the Equipment Yard and the city's water wells. Paris was surprised to learn that Water Well 8 was costing the city over \$85,000 a year to



Wasco Water Well 8

operate. Wasco desperately needed to trim energy costs. With Paris' permission, Forster conducted research to determine Wasco's energy use. Forster gathered a year's worth of billing for each meter from December 21, 2011 to December 21, 2012.

PG&E offers a variety of rate plans for industrial users, and applies the best rate for individual meters. Forster looked at the previous year of usage for each meter and surveyed the results. This included time of day and peak/low usage periods. From there, Forster calculated the best rate plan for each individual meter in the city. Because many city services are needed 24/7, Wasco was unable to utilize the off-peak rate plan, which allows businesses to cut back energy use during peak periods to reduce their energy bill. On-demand operations serving the public daily require more energy.

It was determined that Wasco spent \$353,950 on electricity in 2012. The water wells consumed the most energy, followed by the Sheriff's Station. By changing the rate plan, the savings for Water Well 8 was estimated to be \$38,073. The actual savings for 2013 was \$36,557



*This program is funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E, Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Program services and benefits are offered on a first-come, first-served basis until December 15, 2014 or until program funds are spent, whichever comes first.

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which was still a 10.3% reduction in the city's energy bill. Though some meters only saved a few dollars, Paris was happy to save money where he could.

Looking to the future Paris stated, "One goal is to employ more variable frequency drive pumps at our well sites. After looking over the audit, we are sure we can save more dollars." Wasco already has a computerized system which monitors and controls water and wastewater systems. The Public Works Department has been motivated to dig deeper and implement efficient methods of operation. Paris related, "We are looking at alternative energy, particularly solar. Too bad most of our wells were placed long before solar technology and are positioned in confined areas which do not capture sun." But who knows, if the numbers work out, there could be plans for a solar field that would process wastewater via green energy for the city. The City of Wasco discovered the power of saving money through energy efficiency.



Wasco Project by the Numbers

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Yearly Energy Costs for Wasco: | \$353,950 |
| 2012 | |
| Costs to Run Water Well 8: | \$87,252 |
| Estimated 2013 Savings: | \$38,073 |
| 2013 | |
| Costs to Run Water Well 8: | \$50,695 |
| Actual Savings: | \$36,557 |
| Reduction in Electricity Costs | 10.3% |

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Wasco is the home of 55% of the roses sold in the U.S.



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