



Dianne Saxe, J.D., Ph.D. in Law
Commissioner

Dianne Saxe, J.D., Ph.D. en droit
Commissaire

June 19, 2017

RE: Reducing the Energy Use of Municipal Water and Wastewater Systems

Building, maintaining and operating your water/wastewater systems in a financially and environmentally sustainable fashion is likely one of the key challenges your municipality faces.

Our office recently released a report, *Every Drop Counts: Reducing the Energy and Climate Footprint of Ontario's Water Use*, that looks at how to reduce the energy, climate, environmental, and financial consequences of water use from Ontario's municipal systems. I have enclosed a copy of the full report, as well as several executive summaries that can be shared with municipal councillors and other interested parties. The report is based in part on a survey of Ontario municipalities we conducted earlier in 2017.

Some topics covered in the report include:

- asset management of municipal water and wastewater systems (chapter 4);
- improving municipal energy reporting (chapter 3);
- utilizing the energy potential in wastewater (chapter 8); and
- water conservation programs (chapter 5).

Our main findings were that, as a society we are using too much energy to pump and treat water and wastewater, and that there are now unique opportunities for improvement, which will help both save energy and reduce Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions. We are hopeful that this report draws attention to this issue at both the provincial and municipal levels, and encourages follow-up action.

I hope this report is of interest and relevance to you and your municipality. I encourage you to contact Mike Parkes, Senior Manager, Energy, at mike.parkes@eco.on.ca should you wish to discuss any of the issues in the report.

Yours sincerely,

Dianne Saxe
Environmental Commissioner

