

**CONTACTS:**

David Lyons  
Project Manager, City of Dubuque  
563-564-7232, [dlyons@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:dlyons@cityofdubuque.org)  
Eric Dregne, Community Foundation of Greater  
Dubuque  
563-588-2700, [eric@dbqfoundation.org](mailto:eric@dbqfoundation.org)

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Phase 2 of Smarter Water Pilot Study Begins Monday**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The second phase of Dubuque’s Smarter Water Pilot Study will begin on Monday, Nov. 8, when a second group of approximately 150 volunteer households will receive access to detailed information on their water usage.

Dubuque’s Smarter Water Pilot Study is a Smarter Sustainable Dubuque project being conducted in conjunction with the City’s community-wide water meter replacement project. Dubuque is enhancing its infrastructure with technology to help residents make more informed decisions about how they use water and the associated costs to their bank accounts and the environment.

Pilot study participants are able to securely access their household-specific information through a website/portal recently developed by IBM Research. Participants can view their near real-time water usage in gallons, dollars, or carbon emissions, and chat with other study participants about their experience. They can also see if a leak has been detected in their household and compare their water usage with that of other pilot study participants. A total of more than 300 Dubuque households are participating in this pilot study in two combined phases.

Dubuque 2.0, a local sustainability initiative, is partnering with Smarter Sustainable Dubuque to facilitate a water challenge aimed at engaging pilot households in increased conservation efforts. The Smarter Sustainable Dubuque / Dubuque 2.0 Water Challenge is designed to encourage participants to use the Smarter Water portal each day, chat with others in the pilot, and provide feedback. Participants win “Green Points” by utilizing the portal, reporting and fixing leaks, winning daily and weekly games, reducing use, and taking part in pilot chats and sustainable events. Weekly themes focus on areas of home water use such as outdoors, bathrooms, kitchen, and even involving children in the awareness efforts.

The data gathered in the study will also help the City of Dubuque make better decisions about water production and distribution, ultimately lowering costs. Participating households will be given priority access to free water audits, matching grants to fix water leaks, and participation in future projects for electricity, gas and solid waste management

The smarter meter system will monitor water consumption every 15 minutes and will securely collect and communicate to the IBM Research Cloud. Cloud computing is Internet-based computing, whereby shared resources, software, and information are provided to computers and other devices on demand. The data being collected will be anonymous and contain no confidential information. In the cloud the data will be analyzed with triggers to spot potential leaks and anomalies, and help volunteers understand their consumption in greater detail. Volunteers can only view their own consumption habits while city management can see the aggregate data.

The vision is for an integrated sustainability system where data from many different city systems and citizen activities can be used to inform sustainability efforts. A pilot study on electricity usage in nearly 1,000 Dubuque households is also underway and is funded by a grant from the Iowa Office of Energy Independence. Plans are also under development for pilot studies on natural gas usage and mobility/transit.

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