

Southwest SEM Collaborative

The Southwest Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Collaborative is a new voluntary initiative to help utility DSM program managers in the Southwest accelerate the adoption of SEM in the industrial and commercial sectors. Through working together, we believe all programs will be able to achieve more than by working alone.

Goals of the Collaborative

1. Share SEM program experiences and knowledge with peers
2. Discuss key issues such as:
 - a. The value proposition of SEM programs for utilities
 - b. Making SEM programs cost-effective
 - c. Overcoming regulatory challenges
3. Explore new SEM approaches

What is Strategic Energy Management (SEM)?

- A holistic, management systems-based approach to energy management that integrates energy into a company's business practices and organizational culture (modeled after continuous improvement management systems applied to quality, safety, or environmental management)
- The goal of SEM is to significantly improve the company's energy performance and reduce energy costs.
- The SEM framework encourages participating facilities to:
 - *Set long-term energy reduction goals*
 - *Develop an energy management plan and regularly update it*
 - *Dedicate staff to oversee energy management planning and implementation*
 - *Implement an energy use tracking system*
 - *Quantify energy savings from energy-efficient equipment upgrades*
 - *Quantify energy savings from Operations & Maintenance (O&M) improvements*

What are the benefits of SEM for Customers?

- Significant and persistent energy cost savings
- Reduced down-time and increased productivity through improved maintenance practices
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from reduced fuel and electricity consumption
- Increased profitability and improved competitiveness

What are the benefits of SEM programs for utilities?

- Increased energy savings from SEM customers, from both O&M and capital improvements
- Increased utility customer satisfaction from SEM program participants