

# CSI/AMI Implementation A Case Study - Cedar Hill, Texas

Intelligent Water Network Summit February 13, 2018



#### Cedar Hill, Texas

Land Area: 35.5 mi<sup>2</sup> Incorporated: 1938

Population(2015): ≈49,650

Water/Sewer services only

Water Connections: ≈16,250

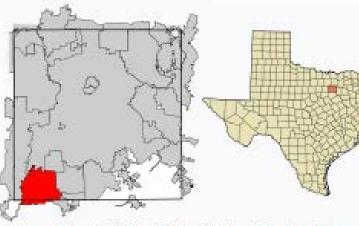
Initiatives in:

- Sustainability

Conservation

Green facilities





Location of Cedar Hill in Dallas County, Texas



#### Local Environment (2012)

#### Customer Service

- Service consistency issues
- City centric, reactive operations

#### Outdated infrastructure

- Most meters 15 to 20 years old
- Reliability and accuracy issues
- Needed recapitalization

#### Lost Revenue

 Billed water at approximately 60% of purchased water



### Desired Project Outcomes

- Enhance Customer Service
- Recover Lost Revenue
- Reduce or Repurpose Expenditures
- Be Fiscally Prudent
- Facilitate Conservation and Green Initiatives



#### Single Contact Contractor

METERS & MEASUREMENT

AMR / AMI & SENSORS

DATA HOSTING & DATA MANAGEMENT

**A**NALYTICS

BILLING

CUSTOMER SERVICE TELEPHONY,
IVR &
REMITTANCE
MANAGEMENT
E-BILL, TEXT
BILL & 6
WAYS TO PAY

CUSTOMER
WEB TOOLS
&
MOBILE
APPLICATIONS

#### **FATHOM**<sup>TM</sup>

#### **FATHOM MDM**

- FATHOM Prime (including FATHOM Store)
- FATHOM Meter Accuracy & Warranty Management
- FATHOM Water Balancing & Reporting
- FATHOM Meter Verification & Data Collection Tool
- FATHOM Revenue Assurance

#### **FATHOM CIS**

- FATHOM Traditional CIS
- FATHOM Smart Grid CIS
- FATHOM Revenue Management (Managed Service)
- FATHOM Customer Care (Managed Service)

#### **FATHOM U<sub>2</sub>You Customer Portal**

- FATHOM U<sub>2</sub>You—Consumption Presentment
- FATHOM U<sub>2</sub>You—Financial Presentment



#### **Project Components**

- Agreement signed November, 2013
- Billing and Service Component
  - Billing transferred to Fathom
    - CCH retained a walk-up service counter
  - Portal and phone app added
  - Went live October 2014
- AMI Component
  - 16,200 meters replaced; started Dec 2014
  - Radio transmitters & data collectors added
  - Full MDM
  - Accepted August, 2016



#### Meter Infrastructure



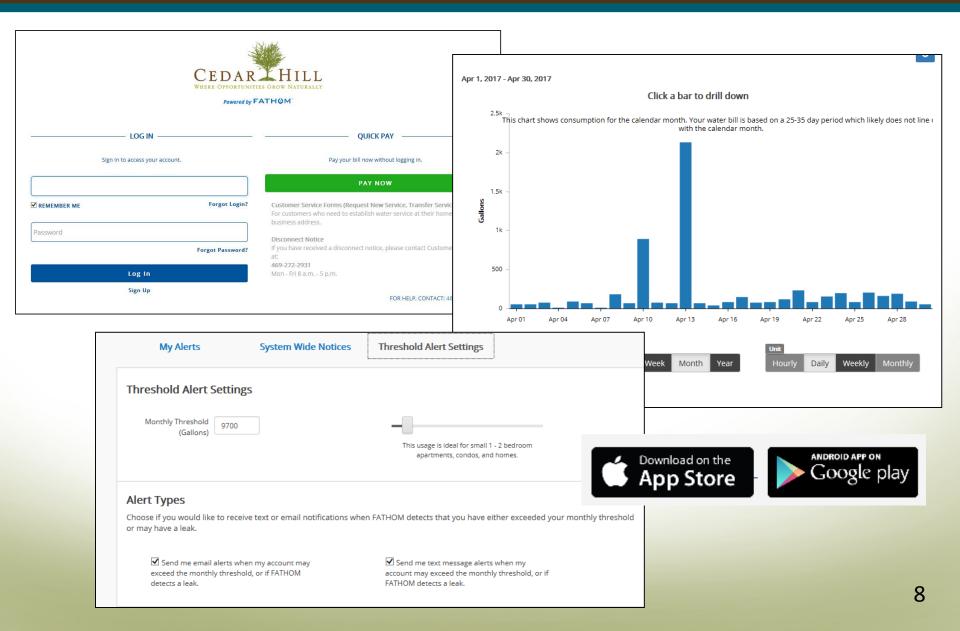
- MasterMeter 1" meters
- Acculinx Encoder/Register paired with Aclara radio transmitter
- Residential and light commercial
- Approximately 15,500 in use

- Neptune T-10 2" meters
- Neptune eCoder/Register paired with Aclara radio transmitter
- Commercial use
- Approximately 610 in use





### CEDAR THILL Enhanced Customer Service



#### CEDAR THILL Enhanced Customer Service



- Monthly and daily detailed consumption data
- Analyses provided to customers with billing questions

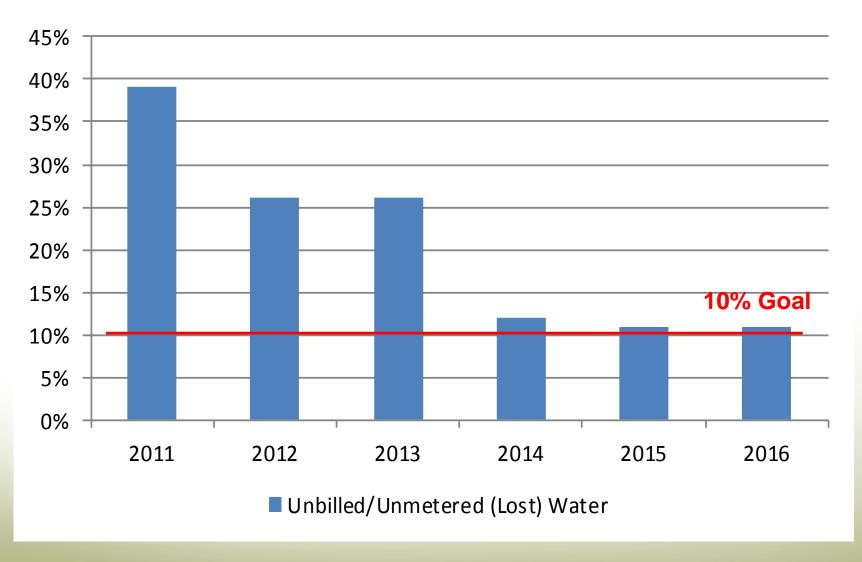


#### Recover Lost Revenue

- First step: data audit and field audit (2013/2014)
  - 16,409 accounts reviewed for services and billings
  - 16,339 field locations analyzed
- 2,800 "problem accounts" identified
- Sample of 32 meter locations over a six month period before & after AMI installation
  - Average 48% increase in consumption
  - 4 addresses demonstrated consumption increases from 169% to 284%



#### Recover Lost Revenue



Note: 2016 is year-to-date data



### Reduce Expenditures

- Reduced staff (\$303K savings/yr)
  - Eliminated 6 FT & PT positions
- Saved billing and printing costs by contracting out billing functions (\$202K savings/yr)
- Eliminated meter reading as a primary task (\$13K savings/yr)
- Deferred meter purchases for 10 to 15 years \$280K savings/yr)
- Lost revenue recovered (\$425K, year 1)



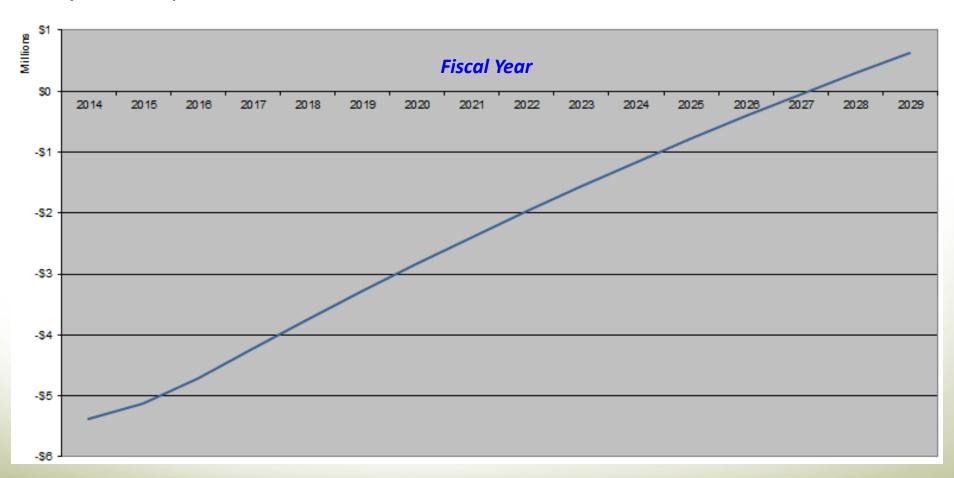
### Be Fiscally Prudent

- Cost of service improvement
  - -In-house Cost: \$6.51/meter/month
  - -Fathom Cost: \$4.49/meter/month
  - Net Savings: \$2.02/meter/month
- \$2.02/meter/month: \$393,756/year
  - Paying down the investment in AMI infrastructure



### Be Fiscally Prudent

#### **Projected Payback Schedule**





## Facilitate Conservation & Green Initiatives

- Eliminated meter reading routes covering 210 miles monthly
  - Reduced emissions; saved fuel costs
- Provide 6 ways to pay without leaving home
  - Pay by mail
  - Pay by phone (IVR and App)
  - Pay via web through customer portal
  - Automatic monthly charge to credit card
  - Automatic deduction from bank account



### **Current Challenges**

- Large amounts of new data available
- Change management
  - Internal and external resistance to change
  - Public outreach and education workload
- Repurposed workforce & modified duties
  - Before: Routine, simple, repetitive, reactive tasks
  - After: Diagnostic, investigative, complex and proactive tasks
- New maintenance priorities
  - Benefits depend on fully operational system;
     rapid maintenance responses are critical

### Thank You!



