



2017 Annual Summary

Fond du Lac Regional Wastewater Treatment & Resource Recovery Facility

The Fond du Lac Regional Wastewater Treatment & Resource Recovery Facility (WTRRF) successfully continued its mission to protect public health and the environment by monitoring, maintaining, and operating the complex system of pipes and equipment that convey, treat, and return wastewater to the environment. From resource recovery to research projects, our work throughout the year demonstrated our commitment to innovation and operational effectiveness.

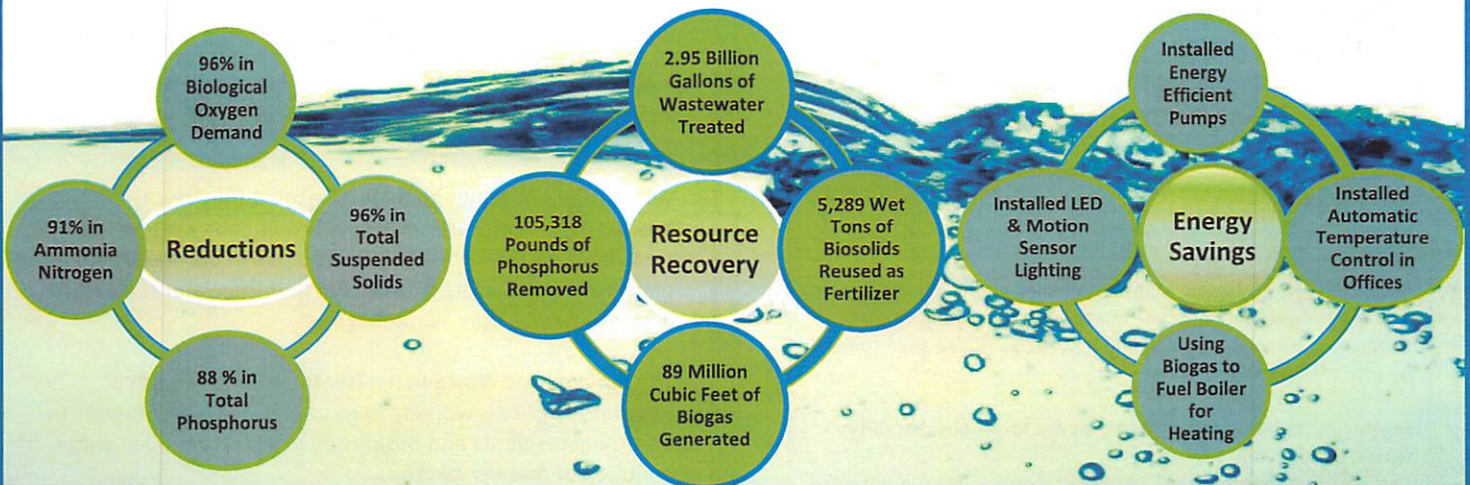
In 2017 WTRRF made several process changes and introduced new technologies to manage the many challenges and opportunities developing in wastewater treatment, such as collection system improvements, Struvite and Vivianite reduction, biosolids management, nutrient recovery, expanding use of biogas energy, the reduction of inflow and infiltration, and wet weather flow management.

Energy use, one of the biggest expenses in any wastewater treatment plant, continued to remain a focus for improvement. Measures taken to reduce our energy consumption and demonstrate our real commitment to energy improvements included the installation of more energy efficient equipment and lighting, more efficient pumping systems and controls, and sensors to improve system automation, as well as the adoption of improved processes to help create more biogas for electricity production.

The biggest challenge we continue to face is the new phosphorus regulations. Our new Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit includes a compliance schedule to meet the new effluent phosphorus level of 0.1 mg/l. We are working with consultants to evaluate our options for meeting this significantly lower phosphorus level and creating productive partnerships to improve the watershed and environment. It's with thoughtful consideration and knowledge that we are making decisions now that will have a significant impact on what our users will pay for sanitary sewer services in the future.

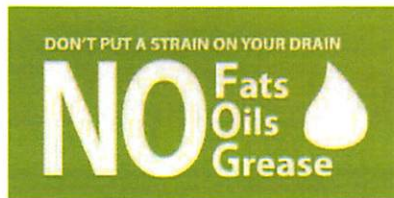
We hope you'll invest a moment to learn more about us by visiting our web page at www.fdl.wi.gov. As we move forward our success will be a result of the collaboration of our employees, customers, and partners who are all dedicated to protecting public health and enriching life through clean water.

As always, we welcome your comments and feedback.



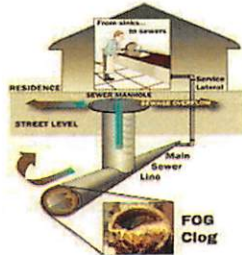
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Take A Virtual Drone Tour of Our Facility
www.fdl.wi.gov Departments > Wastewater Treatment



Sanitary sewers are designed and installed with sufficient diameter to carry the normal waste discharges from a residence or business. Most household plumbing lines are small, and connect directly to pipes that are only slightly larger. When cooking by-products - fats, oils, and/or grease are present in these small pipes, and discharged to the sewer, the **FOG** can cool and accumulate on the interior of the sewer pipes.

Over time, this accumulation of **FOG** restricts the flow and causes blockages in the sewer, which can result in overflowing manholes or basement backups. Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO's) can discharge to storm drains and creeks, which will ultimately flow to Lake Winnebago.



Some examples of **FOG** include: greasy food scraps, pan drippings, cooking oil, shortening, fats from meat, dairy products, oily sauces and salad dressings. The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system. It's easy to minimize **FOG** sources right in your own home. Here's what you can do to protect our natural environment and keep our water free from fats, oil and grease:



Pour liquid oils and grease into heat resistant containers such as tin cans, or glass jars. Once the container is full, seal it and throw it away with your regular trash.



Scrape fats, grease and food from plates and cooking utensils into the trash can before washing them or placing them in your dishwasher.



Wipe greasy plates/cookware with paper toweling and dispose of in your garbage can.



Leftover fats and grease can also be used to make suet (i.e. hard raw fat) to feed birds.

FOG Myths

Myth: Pour hot water and detergent or degreasers into the drain to dissolve oil or grease.

Fact: That just pushes oil or grease deeper into the building sewer pipe where it cools and coats the inside of the pipe. Eventually, the pipe will clog and may cause raw sewage to back up into the building.

Myth: Storm drains and catch basins are for disposal of dirty water, debris, etc.

Fact: Outside drains are built to direct storm water runoff to the nearest creek or wetland. Using them for any other purpose is a violation of the federal Clean Water Act.

Help us to promote the value of our local waterways, including Lake Winnebago, and remember:

"Don't Put a Strain on Your Drain"



The Fond du Lac Regional Wastewater Treatment & Resource Recovery Facility is raising awareness about the problems that are caused in our wastewater collection system and treatment plant when sanitary products and other items are flushed down the toilet. We'd like you to take a moment and **"Think Before You Flush"**

We all use the toilet every day, and not just for human waste. We know, it's tempting to flush nearly anything down the toilet. It's like a black hole; just dump, flush, and it's gone – out of sight, out of mind.

Whether used for household cleaning or hygiene, wipes, even those labeled as "flushable" should **NEVER** be flushed. Unlike toilet paper, which is designed to easily break apart and dissolve after being flushed, wipes don't. Wipes bind together, which can clog pipes and lead to backups in your home and in the sanitary sewer system. Flushing wipes could mean costly repairs to your home plumbing and our wastewater treatment plant.

Many times these items don't make it past the lateral connection from your home to the sewer main. They can build up and form a clog. If they do enter the sewer system they can plug up and damage the pipes and pumps that convey sewage to our wastewater treatment plant, having the potential to cause overflows and basement backups that can be costly to repair for the homeowner and the wastewater utility.

Here are some of the items that should **NEVER** be flushed down the toilet: baby or personal wipes, feminine hygiene products, paper toweling/napkins, dental floss, cotton swabs, disposable diapers, prescription drugs, condoms, bandages, any hazardous waste, cooking grease or food. And of course, no pet goldfish or turtles.

Only Flush the Three P's: Pee, Poo and Paper

When the right things go down the toilet they're flushed away and start a journey through our wastewater treatment network traveling along pipes to our treatment plant where the waste is taken out and the water is treated and returned to Lake Winnebago.

The Fond du Lac Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery Facility is working hard to improve water quality by informing residents and businesses of ways to reduce water pollution and sewer backups.

You can help educate others about what not to flush by sharing this information with friends and neighbors. The easiest fix is to throw away or recycle anything you would have put in the toilet. Help us to protect our environment, and always **"Think Before You Flush"**