




## 2020 Annual Summary Fond du Lac Regional Wastewater Treatment & Resource Recovery Facility

The year 2020 was an unprecedented year for everyone in the world and it was an interesting year at our plant as well. Despite the added challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and given the essential role that wastewater treatment plays to help keep our community safe, our Wastewater staff was fully committed to continuing the day-to-day operations of the collections system and the wastewater treatment facilities.


Our staff successfully adjusted to an alternate work schedule designed to keep our employees and customers safe. Throughout this period, we were able to safely transport and treat wastewater from our customers' homes and businesses.

In 2020 our plant was honored to be the recipient of the Operations Award from Central States Water Environment Association in recognition of outstanding performance of a wastewater treatment plant and demonstration of professionalism in the performance of our duties.


As a resource recovery facility, WTRRF would like to share our successes in nutrient recovery, energy production and water reuse in turning waste into energy, biosolids used as fertilizer, and water that is reused. We do this all while protecting the health of our community and reducing environmental impacts. We harness the value of materials we dispose of and return them to productive use.



Incoming  
Wastewater



Resource  
Recovery



Water, Energy,  
Nutrients

### **Biosolids**

- Produced 10,600 wet tons.
- 70% of our biosolids were of beneficial reuse for farmers to augment their fertilizer expense and reduce our disposal costs.

### **Water Reuse**

- We reused over 77 million gallons of disinfected effluent water in various processes throughout the plant.

### **Phosphorus Removal**

- We are removing phosphorus biologically on a more consistent basis, which has resulted in a 60% reduction in chemical use.
- We reduced our phosphorus discharge by 12% from the previous year.

### **Energy Production**

- Produced 48% of our power from using biogas to fuel our combined heat and power generator.
- Our biogas engine generator produced 6.88 million kWh of clean renewable energy, that's enough electricity to power nearly 646 average American homes for an entire year.
- Utilized additional biogas to fuel a boiler for process and building heat.

Take A Virtual Drone Tour of Our  
Facility  
[www.fdl.wi.gov/wastewater](http://www.fdl.wi.gov/wastewater)



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### **Adopt-A-Storm Drain**

The Department of Public Works is asking the community to assist in keeping storm inlets clear of debris & obstructions.  
For more information on how to Adopt-A-Storm Drain visit <https://www.fdl.wi.gov/engineering/storm-water-management/>



# Make the Right Connection

## Sewer Systems

The City has two separate sewer systems, sanitary sewer and storm sewer. The sanitary sewer is a system of underground pipes that carries sewage, or wastewater from bathrooms, sinks, and kitchens to the wastewater treatment plant for treatment prior to returning it to Lake Winnebago. The storm sewer is a system designed to carry stormwater (rainfall and melted snow), from storm inlets, ditches and roads, untreated, into local streams, rivers, and lakes.

## The Problem

Sanitary sewer systems are designed to carry a daily volume of wastewater flow. Sump pumps, roof drains, downspouts, yard and driveway drains that are connected to the sanitary sewer are all contributors to increased inflow. Did you know that an 8" sanitary sewer can convey wastewater from up to 200 homes but it only takes 8 homes with a sump pump operating at capacity or 6 homes with downspouts connected to the sanitary sewer to overload that same 8" pipe?

1 sump pump at capacity = 7,000 gallons per day, which equals the average daily flow from 26 homes.

## What Can You Do To Help?

In order to work to eliminate the sudden change in the volume of flow in the sanitary sewer system **YOU CAN:**

- Disconnect any sump pumps that are directly connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Discharge to grade or underground to a garden or ditch. Make sure that your discharge pipe is far enough away from your foundation and that the discharge location conforms to Fond du Lac's Plumbing Code and Sewer Use Ordinance.
- Disconnect yard drains from the sanitary sewer. Discharge drains to ditches or re-grade your yard to improve drainage.
- Do you have a pipe that extends above ground in your yard that doesn't have a cap/cover on it? If so, by covering that you prevent rainwater from entering the sanitary system.

A properly functioning sanitary sewer system is essential to every Fond du Lac resident. Each household or business that properly redirects storm water or roof runoff away from the sanitary sewer system helps to prevent sewage backups into basement, streets, and waterways. And that makes for a better Fond du Lac.

**If you're unsure or know you have a sump pump or foundation drain connection, or have discharge hoses that freeze, consider calling City Engineering at 920-322-3470 to find out how you can directly connect your sump pump and roof drains to a storm sewer.**

