



Project Spotlight: “Green” Updates at Water Pollution Control Plant

What do you think happens to food waste, such as expired grocery store produce and excess lunchroom leftovers from schools and hospitals? In most places, that waste would end up in a landfill. At the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP), thanks to a forward-thinking, regional approach with the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA), local food waste now serves a purpose — powering about 50% of the WPCP’s energy needs — and their goal is to increase that number by the end of 2021.

Turning Waste into Power

In 2019, the plant decommissioned its incinerators, reducing emissions released through the sludge-burning process, and now exclusively runs a pair of anaerobic digesters. These digesters process wastewater sludge and separated food waste from the OHSWA, which is then processed into methane. This gas is then channeled through microturbines, which spin and produce electricity.

The powerful capabilities of food waste doesn’t end there. The spinning motion of the microturbines generates its own heat, which in turn is used to heat a water boiler that warms several buildings at the WPCP.

There are plans in development to expand the capacity of the microturbines from 600kW to 1,000kW by the end of 2021.



New Progress Report Available

Are you up to date on all the progress made by the Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD) Overflow Mitigation Project?

In the 2019-2020 report, you can find comprehensive information on:

- The state of the OCSD sewage collection system
- The status of updates at the WPCP, Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station (SCPS), and other facilities
- A summary of community education and outreach efforts
- The results of CMOM and PPI/I inspection programs

Our Mission

Normally, our sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But when we get heavy rains or sudden snow melts, stormwater overwhelms the system and causes overflows into the Mohawk River. That stormwater runoff enters the sanitary sewer system from multiple sources, including deteriorated and damaged public sanitary sewers and private property connections, such as roof leaders and sump pumps.



Anthony J. Picente Jr., County Executive
Steven P. Devan, P.E., Commissioner
Department of Water Quality Control and Water Pollution

Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Sewer District that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.

Contact info@paigroup.com to schedule a briefing.
For more news and reports, visit www.RippleEffectOCSD.org.
An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District