

POLLUTION CONTROL FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 REPORT

THE DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL is responsible for the collection, treatment, and discharge of wastewater. Activities include: wastewater treatment, sludge disposal, laboratory analysis, sewer line cleaning, inspection and repair, as well as treatment plant and pump station maintenance. This Division also assists the Parks & Recreation Department for the mechanical maintenance of the Veteran's Memorial Park swimming pool pump and filtration system.

During the past year, the Division treated 908.7 million gallons of wastewater at a treatment efficiency of 99% Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 99% Total Suspended Solids and discharging an average of 93 pounds of nitrogen per day. The Town is required to maintain a treatment efficiency of 85% and discharge no more than 106 pounds of nitrogen per day under the current discharge permit issued by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). In treating the wastewater, 808.13 dry tons of solids were removed and transported to the Hartford Metropolitan District Facility (MDC) for final processing in accordance with the Town's participation in a cooperative regional sludge management program. Wastewater service is provided to 8,493 residences and 353 industrial and commercial businesses in South Windsor and Manchester. Service is provided to out of town properties in accordance with the provisions of inter-town sewer agreements. Through such agreements communities are benefited by limiting the number of expensive pump stations which would otherwise have to be constructed and operated.

This year we began the selection process for a design engineering firm to assist with the upgrade of the Clark Street, Benedict Drive and Pleasant Valley Pump Stations. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2022. The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) is actively seeking DEEP Clean Water Fund loans to finance the project. The Clean Water Fund loan offers a favorable 2% interest rate over 20 years. In order to qualify for the loan a quality base selection process was required for the selection of the project engineer. This process was completed and the appropriate documentation has been submitted to DEEP for review and approval to move the projects forward.

With the help of the Streets Department our team was able to complete the reconstruction of the treatment plant's odor control biofilter system. The biofilter is an odor control process that utilizes moist organic materials to adsorb and then biologically degrade odorous compounds. The media used is a combination of woodchips and the Town's leaf compost with a life expectancy of 4-5 years. We anticipated the reconstruction of the media through a private contractor to take 5 days and cost \$60,000. With the coordinated efforts of both the WPC and Street Department staff the project was completed in little more than 3 days at a cost of \$12,000.



The spent media being removed from the biofilter.

Sanitary sewers are an essential part of the evolution of the Town. We continue to see growth in the commercial and industrial sectors as more and more businesses are attracted to the area. The I-291 Corridor on Ellington Road is an example of this. In order to accommodate the future wastewater discharge from this developable land Wright-Pierce was hired to design a sanitary sewer extension. Construction was completed in October 2020 and was entirely funded through a grant from the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). We are working closely

with the Department of Economic Community Development to ensure the grant funds are properly used.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY - The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) established in 1966 was originally known as the Sewer Commission. The Authority is made up of seven (7) members and two (2) alternates appointed by the Town Council for staggered terms of four (4) years. Its members are citizens of the Town who volunteer their time to oversee and implement policies created by the Authority to protect the operation of the sewerage system, the environment and ultimately public health. The Authority authorizes the annual budget, levies benefit assessments, establishes fair and reasonable sewer user charges, approves connections or expansions and applies for state and federal funds as authorized by the Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 103 and the Town of South Windsor Ordinances 103 and 150.

The Water Pollution Control Authority is responsible for the proper functioning and continuous operation of South Windsor's sanitary sewage system which is essential for public health and safety, economic development, environmental protection, and the quality of life for those living and working in our Town. The operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant and collection system is funded entirely through sewer user fees. Authority members establish fair and prudent fiscal policies to ensure adequate funding for proper maintenance, upgrade, repair and replacement of the system's components. Planning for future needs of this complex and widespread system entails a degree of unavoidable uncertainty, including, exposure to unforeseen natural events, accidents, revenue fluctuations, and unplanned facility repair, maintenance and improvement needs as the infrastructure ages.

The Water Pollution Control Authority set the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 operating budget at \$5.3 million dollars. The Authority in recent years has been focusing attention on proactive measures to rehabilitate the collection system infrastructure and meeting reserve funding goals to ensure the stabilization of sewer user fees. This past fiscal year \$935,000 was budgeted for capital improvement projects; as a part of this budget \$845,000 was earmarked for relining deteriorating sewer pipe. Relining pipe is a trenchless technology that does not require excavation making it a cost-effective rehabilitation method.

The WPCA, per the WPCA Rules and Regulations, maintains a Reserve Fund made up of restricted funds for specific purposes which include an Operating Reserve equal to a three-month reserve of the operation budget used to offset variations in revenue and expenditures and a Replacement Reserve equal to two percent of the Pollution Abatement Facility Asset Value. At the completion of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 the Operating Reserve funding goals were met, however, despite a significant budgetary contribution of \$390,000 to the Replacement Reserve the account remains underfunded by 56% of the budgetary goal.

In 2015 the WPCA approved the implementation of the sewer user charge discount program for qualified residents. A qualified resident is a residential sewer user who is eligible for property tax relief under the State of Connecticut Qualifying Income for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program. During fiscal year 2019-2020 191 residents participated in the program resulting in \$18,861.75 in discounted residential fees.

Residents are able to apply for the sewer charge discount program from February 1st through May 15th, the same time they apply for the Town's Property Tax Relief Program through the Human Services Department.

During the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, there were 44 new residential connections and the Water Pollution Control Authority approved 3 Commercial/Industrial connections.

The W.P.C.A. continues to work together with other Boards and Commissions in cooperative efforts to meet Town Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

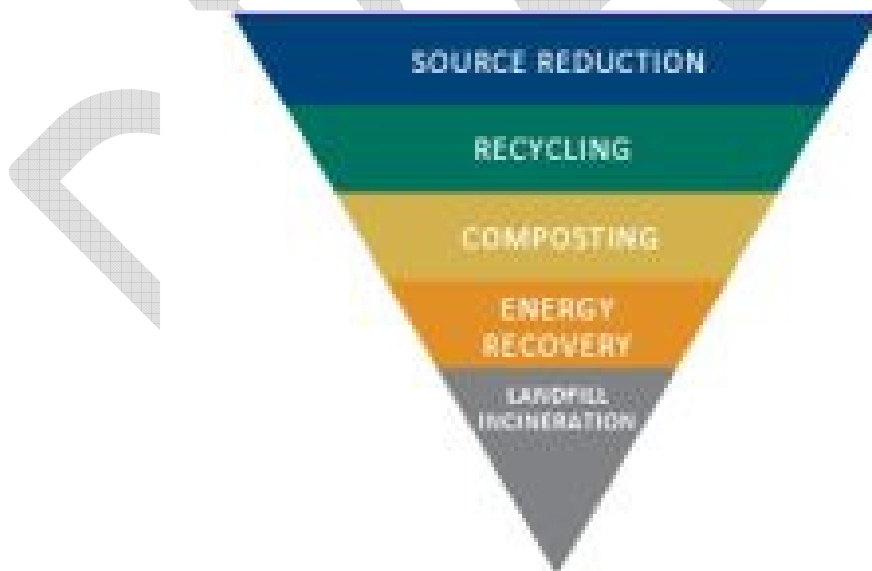
Thomas Ruby, *Chairperson*

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REFUSE/RECYCLING COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL – The Pollution Control Department manages the contracted services for the collection and disposal of refuse and recyclables.

The Town adopted a recycling ordinance in September 1990 and implemented a residential curbside recycling program the following month. The program has subsequently been expanded to include recycling of the following items: newspaper, corrugated cardboard, cereal boxes, glass and metal food containers, plastics, scrap metal, magazines, junk mail, textiles, electronics, household hazardous waste, aseptic packaging, leaves, and Christmas trees. The Town hosts 6 electronic recycling events at Town Hall and participates in the 6 annual Capital Region East Operating Council (CREOC) household hazardous waste collections. More information concerning the recycling and refuse programs may be on the Town's website (www.southwindsor.org).

In waste management, we will be challenged to improve municipal recycling programs, and reduce waste. In accordance with Section 22a-241a of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), the State has set as a solid waste management plan the goal of diverting through source reduction, reuse and recycling at least 60% of the solid waste generated after January 1, 2024. This waste management plan will also be consistent with the State's climate action priorities – greenhouse gas mitigation, and clean energy. Through State legislation [Section 22a-228\(b\)](#) Connecticut has formally adopted an integrated waste management hierarchy as a guiding framework for solid waste management efforts. Connecticut's system adheres to this hierarchy by emphasizing source reduction, recycling, composting, and energy recovery from solid waste, while relying on landfill disposal and incineration as a last resorts.



To help meet these goals the Town is offering, along with the electronics recycling events and household hazardous waste collections, curbside textile collection and textile collection containers at each school, the Recreation Department and Community Center. The clothing and material collected is either reused or repurposed to create a new product.

The frame work of a 10 year contract extension with All American Waste for the collection and disposal of refuse and recycling was negotiated and was prepared to be executed in July 2020. Refuse tipping fees continue to rise across the region and recycling markets continue to fluctuate due to tightened contamination standards. It was determined that a long term contract with a known local vendor was in the best interest of the Town. All American Waste has provided outstanding, uninterrupted service to the residents of South Windsor. They continue to be a reputable partner with the Town.

Through the recycling program, the Town has been able during the past year, to divert solid waste that otherwise would have had to have been disposed of at a landfill. The following table compares Town residential recycling efforts of this past year with prior years.

South Windsor Refuse and Recycling Report

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Description	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Refuse - Municipal Solid Waste (tons)	7,488.17	7,401.64	7,543.57
Single Stream Recycling Newspaper/cardboard, food and beverage containers (tons)	2,406.03	2,294.23	2,279.88
Household Hazardous Waste (Billing Units)	328	537	398
Batteries (units)	51	37	71
Leaves (cubic yards)	15,826	29,000	28,750
Scrap Metal (tons)	37.64	45.01	43.53
Waste Oil (gallons)	986	990	698
Electronics (tons)	58.53	75.98	38.83
Textiles (Tons)	18.19	35.89	57.60

Anthony E. Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control