

# Pipelines

SUMMER 2022



## Greene Forward Continues to Advance

As summer 2022 approaches, GCSED is pleased to announce that our reinvestment campaign, Greene Forward: [greeneforward.com](http://greeneforward.com), continues to advance. Like many areas, Greene County has aging infrastructure, hard water, and growing demand. Greene Forward will upgrade and add new facilities to keep delivering clean water and sewer services for the next generation, while preserving our rivers and streams.

Greene Forward is designed to enhance service by creating growth and system resiliency—all while minimizing financial impacts to our customers. It includes widespread improvements in water and sewer assets across the next 5-7 years. These improvements are being implemented as existing debt is retiring, allowing us to minimize rate impacts.

### Updates from our Greene Forward campaign:

- Our **Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project** is well underway with around

30% of our 22,000 meters already being replaced. Look for more info as we roll out the customer interface where you can access your meter to look at usage trends, set up high usage alerts, and much more. Estimated completion by end of this calendar year.

- Our **Hilltop Wellfield Project** is picking up steam with site exploration and final design coming along nicely. This project will bring an additional 3-5 million gallons per day of new water to our system, adding capacity and increasing resiliency. Estimated to be in the detailed-design phase later this year.

- Our **Booster Station and Transmission Line improvements** continue to make progress with the recent awarding of construction contracts for many of these projects. These improvements will allow GCSED to eventually serve areas currently serviced by Dayton and Montgomery County with GCSED softened water.

- The **Northwest Regional Water Treatment Plant capacity and softening upgrades** took a huge step forward in May with the awarding of contracts to Shook

Construction/AECOM (for construction) and Arcadis (for construction oversight). These improvements will increase plant capacity from 9.5 MGD to 12 MGD with a footprint extending to 16 MGD at a later date. It will add softening technology to deliver a higher-quality softened water to our customers' taps by the summer of 2024.

- Lastly, GCSED made adjustments to our **water and sewer rates** going into effect on 1/1/23. As promised, we'll perform rate balancing by increasing water rates by 3% and decreasing sewer rates by 2.25%. This will have zero-impact to water and sewer customers who average 6,000 gallons of monthly usage. All GCSED water customers who choose to keep their water softeners will see a dramatic reduction in salt usage due to the reduced hardness in our treated water (from ~27 grains per gallon to ~9).

Look for our quarterly Greene Forward Public Meeting series, beginning in July of 2022, for regular status updates of our initiatives and projects. If you have any questions, please call (937) 562-7450. Thank you!

## Keeping You Flowing and Going

Who do you call when you see water running down the road? Or when your water looks discolored? Our Utility Maintenance department investigates and repairs these issues daily. Day or night, every day of the week, and even during holidays, we are dedicated to maintaining the water and sewer lines.

One responsibility of the department is cleaning our sewer main to prevent blockages, which occur when a buildup closes off the

flow of the pipe. Flushing anything but the 3 Ps (pee, poo, and toilet paper) are the quickest ways to clog the sewer main and your lateral (the sewer pipe connecting your home to the sewer main).

While we map and schedule areas that need our attention every year, residents who experience frequent backups should call 937-562-7108. Even if no blockage is found, we'll perform a courtesy cleaning of the main sewer span outside the residence and



notify you if we see anything that requires a plumber. It's a dirty job that often goes unnoticed, but it's important to the welfare of our system.

# Environmental Services Becomes Sustainable Recycling Service for Record Destruction

**G**reene County hired a vendor to shred all the county's records. In 2020, the vendor changed their business model and offered their equipment for purchase. After doing our due diligence and projecting



the cost vs savings, we purchased their 75 horsepower shredder with a projected a 2.5 year return on investment.

In April of 2021, Environmental Services (ES) began using this industrial shredder. Greene County has a process for record destruction, coordinated with Robin Heise, Records Manager/Archivist. After an extensive approval process, records are taken to ES for destruction. Due to confidentiality, records are kept in locked bins while pending destruction. After shredding, they're sent to a paper mill to be processed into new paper. "We are excited and pleased to host a sustainable system

for our county's records," says Dana Doll, ES Manager. It's both cost effective and upholds our commitment to being stewards of the environment.

While our records disposal operation isn't available to the public, we have two suggestions. First, you can check with your local financial institution. Many banks offer shredding due to a rise of identity theft. Second, if you have a personal machine, you can bring the shreds in a paper bag to ES for recycling. If you have questions concerning this or other recycling needs, please call 937-562-5929.

## Employee Spotlight

**W**e're shining the spotlight on a great GCSED employee, Ashley Sharrett. Ashley came to us almost three years ago from the private sector, working as an office assistant, but wanting to grow in the field. She started her GCSED journey as the Administrative Support Specialist and was promoted to Fiscal Technician in June of 2020. Ashley is now responsible for accepting and entering payments, the Garbage and Recycling fund, and permit and water tests—along with daily reconciliation of cash receipts.

Recently, Ashley was awarded a Star Award from our Peer Recognition Program. Just as the fiscal department was approaching "year-end", they became short-staffed due to an employee's resignation. In addition to being Cashier, Ashley volunteered to cover the utility payments and fixed assets. Soon, she discovered that the SE department was not receiving gas bills. She worked with the County Services Department and Center Point to correct this issue. Amid everything else, Ashley supported Environmental

Services by covering administrative functions while they had a vacancy and trained the new employee for this position. Her manager stated, "She has certainly gone the extra mile to provide first-class customer service to GCSED internal and external customers."

Ashley loves the atmosphere and the daily challenges, saying it "keeps her on her toes". When Ashley isn't in the office, she loves to camp, fish, and attend hog shows. Ashley is a wonderful asset to our department! Thanks for all you do!



Ashley Sharrett  
Fiscal Technician

### Ways to pay your bill

**Online:** [greenecountyohio.gov/sanitary](https://www.greenecountyohio.gov/sanitary)

**By Phone:** 855-925-1665 (24 Hr. Service)

**By Mail:**  
Greene County Sanitary  
Engineering Department  
P.O. Box 340  
Xenia, OH 45385-0340

*Remember to update your GCSED online banking vendor address. Some banks send your payment via USPS rather than ACH transaction.*

### Greene County Sanitary Engineering

**Administration Building**  
937-562-7450  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
667 Dayton-Xenia Road  
Xenia, OH 45385

**After-Hours Emergencies**  
937-562-7450

**Billing/Bill Payments**  
937-562-7457

[greenecountyohio.gov](https://www.greenecountyohio.gov)

