

Pipelines

FALL 2024



Greene Forward Continues to Advance

Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department's reinvestment campaign, Greene Forward, is strategically designed to increase capacity for planned growth, enhance service levels, and increase system resiliency; all while minimizing financial impacts to our customers.

Greene Forward is upgrading and adding new facilities to keep delivering clean water and sewer services for the next generation. This campaign includes wide-spread improvements on water and sewer assets that will take place across the next 5-10 years. These improvements are being planned and implemented as existing debt is retiring, allowing minimal financial impacts on our rates.

Featured Project: Northwest Regional Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

The Northwest Regional Water Treatment Plant (NRWTP) is nearing completion and is expected to start transitioning from hard to softened water this fall. The upgrade and expansion of NRWTP will include the addition of reverse osmosis (RO) membrane treatment and the expansion of treatment capacity from 10.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to 12 MGD, with provisions for additional plant expansion up to 16 MGD to meet projected demands.

The project's primary purpose is to ensure long-term regulatory compliance by providing higher-quality water to current customers. Low-pressure reverse osmosis is considered one of the most advanced and effective methods to treat and remove both regulated and unregulated materials from drinking water.

The membrane treatment will also reduce hardness in the water to levels comparable to other utilities in the area. By reducing the distributed water hardness, existing customers will be able to decommission their in-home softening systems.

GREENE » FORWARD

Clean, soft, reliable water.

Key Water Projects Being Completed

- **Booster Station & Transmission Line Improvements**
- **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)**
- **Programmable Logic Controller and Radio Upgrade**
- **Well Network Optimization**
- **Hilltop Wellfield**
- **Sewage Lift Station Elimination**
- **Clifton Water Resource Reclamation Facility**

Prevent Sewage Backups with FOG Awareness

Fall and the associated dropping temperatures brings its own set of challenges, and for homeowners, one concern that often goes overlooked is the potential for sewage backups. Increased



holiday cooking can lead to blocked sewer lines, making it crucial to focus on prevention, particularly when it comes to FOG – Fats, Oils, and Grease.

Understanding the Risk: As temperatures drop, FOG has a tendency to solidify in pipes, creating a sticky barrier that can catch other debris and contribute to blockages. When this occurs in sewer lines, it can lead to backups, causing inconvenience, potential damage, and costly repairs. These simple practices can reduce the risk of blockages.

Proper Disposal: Avoid pouring cooking oils, grease, and fat down the drain. Collect solid materials in a sealable container and dispose of it with household trash. Manage liquid cooking oil as household hazardous waste. Drop-off dates, times and location are listed on page 2, in the right column.

Cold Water Rinse: After washing dishes, run cold water down the drain for a few minutes. Cold water helps solidify any residual FOG, allowing it to be carried further along the sewer system without adhering to the pipes.



Use Sink Strainers: Install sink strainers to catch food scraps and solids before they enter the drain. This can prevent blockages and aid in reducing the load on the sewer system.

Educate Household Members: Ensure your household is aware of the importance of proper FOG disposal. Simple changes in behavior, such as scraping plates before washing, can make a significant difference.



Routine Maintenance: Schedule periodic inspections and maintenance for your sewer lines, especially before the winter season. Professional inspections can identify potential issues early, allowing for timely intervention.

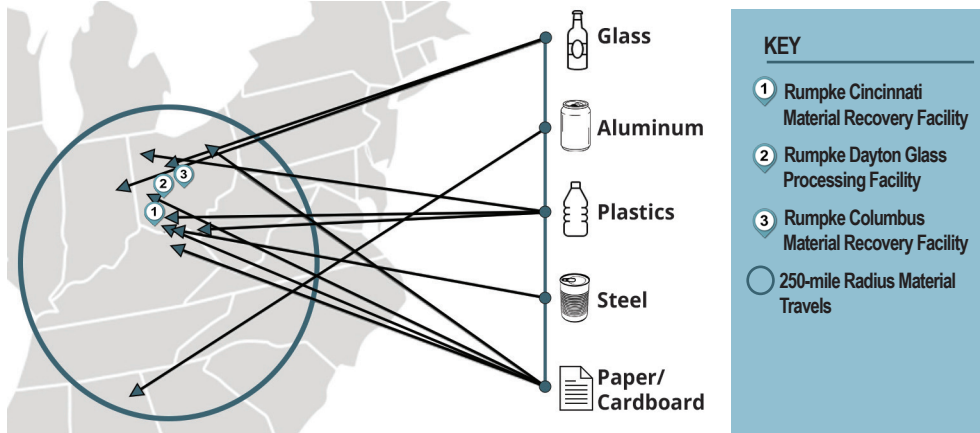
Preventing sewage backups is not only about safeguarding your home but also about being a responsible member of the community. By adopting FOG management practices, you contribute to the smooth functioning of the sewer system, ensuring a hassle-free season for everyone.

Recycling and Circular Economy

You've been told that recycling "saves the earth," but do you know the actual benefits we receive from recycling? It reduces the amount of waste in landfills, conserves natural resources, saves energy, and reduces the need to collect new raw materials. But did you also know that it increases economic security by the use of a domestic source of raw materials and it creates new jobs? With the increase in technology, recycled materials, also known as commodities, are in greater demand than ever before.

A study performed by the EPA (Recycling Economic Information Study) found that in a single year, recycling and reuse activities in the United States accounted for: **681,000 jobs; \$37.8 billion in wages; and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues.** This equates to 1.17 jobs for every 1,000 tons of materials recycled. (www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy)

The current standard of recycling involves a circular economy. Commodities that are collected via curbside service and dropped off at our Environmental Services facility are delivered to a sorting hub. After being sorted into the respected categories, they are sold to manufacturers as raw materials, and subsequently, repackaged for new consumer products to begin the process again. Out of all commodities collected, 90% are sent on to be reprocessed within 250 miles of Greene County. Of that, 80% are sent to processing facilities here in Ohio.



One of those processing facilities is Pratt Industries. The Georgia based company expanded to Wapakoneta, Ohio with a recycled paper mill in 2019 creating 300 new jobs. The site sources most of its material from recycled mixed paper and cardboard to make new cardboard boxes and uses 425 thousand tons of it per year. Cardboard is unique in that it can be recycled up to seven times without losing its durability or resistance. So next time you are disposing of a milk jug, can or cardboard box, ask yourself, are you throwing away a resource?

Protecting Our Communities Through Sustainable Practices

Regardless of where one stands on the topic of Climate Change and/or its cause(s), one thing that we can all agree on is the need to protect our communities now and into future generations. We have a finite amount of resources available to us and a delicate ecosystem to protect. Who doesn't want future generations to enjoy the amazing landscapes, features, and assets that we have across this area? While Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department's (GCSED) mission and existence aim to tackle this challenge on a macro scale, many things can be done-by each of you-at the micro level (residential) to aid in this effort. Here are the top 5 practices that you can incorporate at your home to help us protect our communities:

- 1. Reduce-Reuse-Recycle:** This practice helps us to divert materials from landfills and helps us to meet Greene County Solid Waste District's goals. **Reduce** the amount of waste you produce.

- Reuse** items as much as you can before replacing them.
- Recycle** items wherever possible. GCSED Environmental Services offers this service at no cost to Greene County residents at our Xenia location.
- 2. Conserve Water:** An easy way to live more sustainably is to conserve household water use by installing water-efficient appliances and fixtures, taking shorter showers/turning off the tap while you brush your teeth, and being cautious when using for external purposes.
- 3. Get Off the Bottle and onto the Tap:** In 2023, Americans consumed 15.94 billion gallons of bottled water, on average a 20oz bottle of water costs approximately \$1.50. When translated into gallons, bottled water costs approximately \$9.60 per gallon. GCSED's tap water costs less than \$0.01 per gallon, is just as safe, if not safer, and carries zero impact to the environment.

Greene County Environmental Services

Household Hazardous Waste

Accepted:

- acids & cleaners
- aerosol spray cans
- antifreeze
- <5 gallons of fuel - gasoline & kerosene
- herbicides & pesticides
- putty & adhesives
- stains, varnishes & paint thinner
- oil based paints
- liquid cooking oil

Not Accepted:

- motor oil
- electronics
- small household appliances
- computers & accessories
- televisions
- pharmaceuticals
- ammunition
- explosives

Drop-off Dates/Times:

Tuesdays	Saturday
12:30pm - 2:30pm	9:00am - 12:00pm
October 22nd	October 12th
November 19th	
December 17th	

Greene County residents only. Materials accepted at staff's discretion.

Drop-off Location:

2145 Greene Way Blvd., Xenia, OH 45385
Call: 937.562.5925 or
Visit: greencountyohio.gov/recycling

Ways to pay your bill

Online: greencountyohio.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 4:00 pm
667 Dayton-Xenia Road
Xenia, OH 45385

After-Hours Emergencies

937-562-7450

Billing/Bill Payments

937-562-7457

greencountyohio.gov

