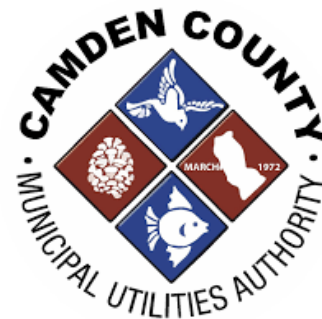


Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority

What's In the Pipeline?



Employee Newsletter

Fall 2024



Raising the Roofs (By Keeping Prices Low)

CCMUA Construction Management Specialist Chuck Billingham was just making friendly conversation with one of the authority's roofing contractors when he asked a simple question: "what's special about this particular roofing membrane?" The system that was to be installed on a half dozen of the Authority's pump stations as part of a roofing replacement project was different (and significantly more costly) from that which had been installed on the roof of the Admin building during its recent renovations. This question prompted Chuck and the Engineering Department to look into the issue more closely, and while the membrane does have some notable qualities, a more traditional EPDM roof membrane would offer comparable performance, the same 30-year warranty as the alternative, and improved safety in application by avoiding flame treatments required for the other - all at a significant savings of nearly \$700,000. Further savings were realized by removing existing skylights in favor of lighting upgrades synchronized with other electrical upgrades. The Authority was able to nearly double the number of station roofs upgraded. Great improvements start with great questions!

The CCMUA Enlists in (Help From) the Army



Many of us, thanks to our work here at the CCMUA, are aware of the problem of combined sewer overflow (CSO) - when older sewage systems designed to convey both storm and wastewater become overloaded during intense rain events - in Camden and Gloucester Cities. Fewer of us are aware that due to the legacy of the CCMUA evolving out of the former treatment system of Camden City, the CCMUA owns one of these outfalls (all the rest are owned by the cities themselves). But even fewer are aware of the scale of the issue at that one outfall, called C32. Because of its size, overflows from that single outfall constitute almost 15% of overflow in a typical year, at about 114 million gallons. The CCMUA has taken the first steps to addressing this problem, with initiatives to add and enhance stormwater inlets to improve water's entry to the system (thanks to \$10m secured from the NJ DCA) and is preparing to award bids to separate flow to the system coming from neighboring Pennsauken. But to fix the issue once and for all will require both design and financial support.

Enter the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its Environmental Infrastructure program under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act. This program extends the technical expertise and, critically, the financial resources of the USACE to help localities struggling with water resource related challenges throughout the United States. With the support of local legislators familiar with the challenges of this CSO issue, Section 219 was recently amended to authorize up to \$119 million in support of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure management and improvements in Camden City. Only \$2 million of that has been appropriated so far: for the first phase of designing the right solutions and demonstrating applicability of the remaining funds. But that represents a great start and our collaborators at USACE have approached us with enthusiasm and with the hope of eventually realizing the full scope of this project. We share their enthusiasm and were delighted to kick off this exciting partnership in September by offering site visits to the C32 outfall and sewershed to Brigadier General John P. Lloyd, then Major General Jason E. Kelly and their teams in September. Extra thanks to the CCMUA staff who helped us make a great first impression at those visits!

Inside This Issue:

A Tale of Two Roofing Materials

Calling in the Big Brains!

The Safety Corner

2024 EMS Goals - Fall Update

Employee Spotlights



Safety Corner: Fire Safety Month and Street Safety Upgrades

The 2024 Fire Prevention Week theme is Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You. The campaign's calls to action: *Install, Test & Replace*. The CCMUA follows the installation, test, and replacement policies of the NJ State Fire Code, but always remember to test your detectors at home once a month and address promptly as needed. The CCMUA will also be conducting its next fire drill in the coming month, so look out for this in your email!

In other news, the Authority recently installed Jersey Barriers and street signs along the busiest corridors around the plant and are already noticing safety improvements! If you feel there are any other locations where stop signs or other improvements could enhance safety, please reach out to Safety Director Nicholas Mueller at his office (x2319) or at nmueller@ccmua.org

2024 Goals - Fall Update

Goal	Status Update
Dry-weather average CBOD and TSS less than 7.5 mg/L	Both have remained below 7.5; the average dry weather TSS is 6.96 and CBOD is 4.83 through September 2024
Maximize Biogas Production from Anaerobic Digesters	No significant update: On average 45% of CHP Electricity is Produced Using Digester Gas. We have continued accepting high strength waste product to the digesters, and we feel confident this is enhancing production, but other maintenance and upgrade activities make this difficult to calculate for now.
Zero Neighborhood Odor Reports Attributable to the CCMUA	7 odor reports have been found to likely have been associated with the plant since January. Zero odor remains our clear goal and we're determined to continue to rigorously identify events so that they can be addressed and prevented
Commission Vehicles and Charging Stations Subsidized by NJ Board of Pub. Utilities' Clean Fleet Incentive and PSE&G EV Charging Programs	Since the last update, agreements are in place with both NJ Board of Public Utilities and PSEG for each of their programs. Contractors are at early mobilization planning for purchases and installation
Reach 40% of Solids Processed with One Sludge Dryer, 85% with Both Dryers	Year-to-date average has continued to hover at 42%, exceeding our target. The second dryer is expected to return to operation c. January of next year
Overhaul Existing EMS Manual to Fulfill Requirements of New NJPDES Surface Water Quality Permit	<p>1) No update: CCMUA is awaiting its updated NJPDES permit requirements, which will be integrated into an updated O&M annual.</p> <p>2) A draft of the authority's Energy and Sustainability Master Plan is planned for completion by the end of December. August was the original intended date, but this process deserves time given its importance!</p>

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT | MARIA ORTIZ



In August we lent some limelight to Maria Ortiz, who has been the backbone of Camden County MUA's purchasing team for almost 11 years! She's a pro at finding the best deals and loves the buzz of working with different departments to solve problems. When she's not making magic happen at work, Maria is all about enjoying life with her kids, grandkids, and friends. Here's to Maria for keeping the balance between work and fun!

AND A GLOWING WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!



Contact Us!

Have thoughts for the next Pipeline? Want to stay up to date? Reach out to publicengagement@ccmua.org or follow and message us on LinkedIn, Instagram, or Facebook

Upcoming Events at CCMUA (and in the neighborhood)

- Monday, November 4th thru Tuesday, November 26th - CCMUA Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive
- Tuesday, November 5th - Election Day (Holiday)
- Friday, November 8th - "God of Carnage" premieres at South Camden Theater Company
- Monday, November 11th - Veterans Day (Holiday)
- Tuesday, November 12th - NJ Tree Foundation Tree Planting at the Plant (contact lbivona@ccmua.org to sign up!)
- Thursday, November 28th - Thanksgiving (Holiday)
- Monday, December 2nd thru Friday, Dec 20th - CCMUA Holiday Toy Drive
- Wednesday, December 25th - Christmas (Holiday)
- Wednesday, January 1st - New Year's Day (Holiday)
- Monday, January 20th - Martin Luther King Day (Holiday)
- Wednesday, January 22nd - CCMUA Winter Blood Drive

In September and October, we wanted to take a moment to give a warm welcome to our team's most *recent* additions. We're so glad to have these folks with us as we continue to grow and provide ever stronger service to the region! Please join us in welcoming: Troy Gallagher - Mary McLean - Ugur Ascı - James Merget - Lina Contreras-Roa - Gabriel Montes - Katelyn Ubil - Kevin McGahey And an extra special welcome to Cianni Washington and Christian Crespo-Meletiche, who successfully completed their internship with the CCMUA through Mastery Schools of Camden's Career Pathways program and have joined us as full-time staff!

