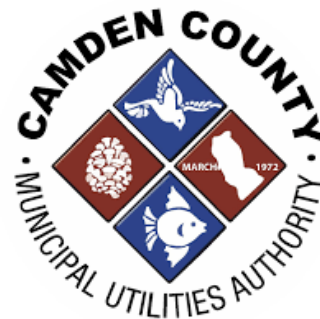


Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority

What's In the Pipeline?



Employee Newsletter

Summer 2024



The Pipeline is Back!

Many of you will remember that the Authority had an employee newsletter known as "The Pipeline". We are in an exciting period in the Utility's history: we are poised to expand our facilities' operations to address the growing challenges of our century; we are taking continued steps to improve sustainability, resiliency, and safety; and we are assisting our region with large scale environmental improvement projects (to name just a few). As we update our Environmental Management System to reflect these changes (read more below), we wanted to make sure that they are clearly and directly expressed to the entire CCMUA Team, with the opportunity to hear your thoughts and feedback. We hope you enjoy the news letter and encourage you to submit ideas for future editions!

Why Change the Environmental Management System?

In 2000, the CCMUA adopted a third-party certified "environmental management system" (EMS) program. The goals and commitments most important to the Authority and to this management team – ecological and social responsibility, exceptional service to ratepayers, transparency and active engagement with stakeholders, to name just a few – were to be the core of the EMS, and its stated purpose was "to help meet those commitments". Now, two decades later, thanks to the commitment of our excellent staff, the CCMUA has met many of its goals and continues to set its sights even higher as a national leader among water resource recovery utilities; but the contributions of the EMS program to this success are unclear. The third-party EMS systems CCMUA trialed suffered from a lack of applicability to the Authority (or even our sector), excessive documentation requirements, and too much focus on process rather than results. For these reasons and more, in 2022 Executive staff began exploring alternative standards around which to organize the Authority's EMS.

We believe we can do better with our own in-house system, and two recent developments will guide us along the way. The authority's pending new 2024 NJPDES Surface Water Quality Permit is more thorough than any permit in our history and will require new and streamlined documentation, improved tracking of assets, additional training requirements, and greater engagement with the public, among other things. While meeting these requirements will be a new challenge, we believe the Authority is prepared to meet them, and will make our organization stronger.

The other development is the creation of the Authority's new Energy and Sustainability Master Plan, currently being drafted. This plan will formalize the CCMUA's commitment to ecological, social, and economic sustainability into routine decision-making processes and help us to set new goals for even brighter, healthier future for Camden County. See the reverse side of this newsletter for more on our first set of goals under the new EMS!

Inside This Issue:

A New Chapter for our
Environmental Management System

The Safety Corner

Upcoming Earth Day Projects

2024 EMS Goals and Status

Employee Spotlight: Dumitru Tomsa



Safety Corner: Improving Safety Around Pump Station Cranes

The Authority is currently undergoing a number of improvements to ensure the safety and smooth operation of the cranes used to hoist and service equipment at its pump stations.

1. Maintenance staff are cataloguing the location and condition of all cranes and entering them into our asset management software to ensure regular inspection and load testing
2. Health and safety planning contractor Woodward and Curran are developing a new crane/hoist safety program custom to the authority, including an operator's certification program for staff
3. Contractor PCS Crane Services is co-developing the training for operators, anticipated at about 80 qualified CCMUA staff members

Join Us for Earth Day Projects at the MUA!

There are two fun opportunities coming up to help green our campus:

1) On APRIL 30TH, the CCMUA will be joined by the New Jersey Tree Foundation to PLANT TREE'S ALONG THE PLANT'S SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST FENCE LINES. These will assist the community not only by screening any escaped odors but by adding shade and beauty to the public pedestrian pathways that surround the plant. There will be enough trees to accommodate at least 30 CCMUA volunteers for the 2-3 hour planting session.

2) We are repurposing the small fenced-in space next to the Admin Building side door to install an EMPLOYEE RAISED BED COMMUNITY GARDEN. DATE TBD, but likely in late April or early May, we will need volunteers to help install the raised beds, fill with soil, plant our vegetables, and of course, tend the garden throughout the growing season.

Interested in participating? Contact Lu Bivona at lbivona@ccmua.org or by phone at ext. 1271



2024 Goals Under the New EMS Program

Goal	Status Update
Monthly average Carbonaceous Biological Oxygen Demand (CBOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) less than 7.5 mg/L all year (dry weather)	This goal represents an ongoing challenge to do our best, and significantly lower than our regulatory limits. Averages ranged from 10-15 mg/L for TSS (still excellent) and 7-8 mg/L CBOD (on target)
Maximize Biogas Production from Anaerobic Digesters	A pilot program bringing in organic waste slurry from Waste Management has boosted biogas production by about 40%
Zero Neighborhood Odor Reports Attributable to the CCMUA	Three separate odor events have been reported to the odor hotline this year, only one of which was attributable to the authority (PST #2 had a clogged drain). Corrective action was taken immediately
Commission Vehicles and Charging Stations Subsidized by NJ Board of Pub. Utilities' Clean Fleet Incentive and PSE&G EV Charging Programs	Applications have been submitted and quotes for both vehicles and charging stations obtained
Reach 40% of Solids Processed with One Sludge Dryer, 85% with Both Dryers	Achieved so far, within a rounding error of 40% (39.64%). Second dryer expected to be running again c. January 2025
Overhaul Existing EMS Manual to Fulfill Requirements of New NJPDES Surface Water Quality Permit	Permits have not yet been issued, but some preliminary work has begun on meeting new public engagement requirements, including the creation of Public Outreach Coordinator role
Complete the Energy and Sustainability Master Plan	Under way. Mission Statement and selection of Plan Elements nearly complete

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 Facebook or LinkedIn



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT | DUMITRU TOMSA

It's Du-mee-true, not Dih-mee-tree! And if you work here, you know his friendly face and love of good conversation. Dumitru's history with the Authority actually started as a cleaning services contractor in 2006, when he would stay late chatting with then-Executive Director Andy Kricun about environmental issues here and in his native Romania. He was hired in 2011, doing everything from purchasing to interceptor markouts. These days his focus is on the Treatment Works Approval process and helping parties to navigate their connections to the regional sewer system. When not at his desk, you'll find him in the wild fishing, taking nature photography, or working on science projects with his nephew.

