

Virtual 2021 FOG Forum Summary

See what you missed in April



The Western States Alliance held our annual FOG Forum in a virtual format for the first time in our Forum's history. This new virtual format allowed us to highlight national programs, projects, and speakers from across the country.

Topics covered during the Forum included a USDA Overview, Illegal Dumping, FOG Instrumentation, Prison Enforcement, The Evolution of FOG Programs, and Engaging Tenants. Participants attended from all over the country, which helped provide innovative FOG Abatement information. If you want to view presentations from our FOG Forum, please use the link below.

Final Round of Virtual Trainings

Don't miss our 2021 Trainings



Fatbergs: The Growing Menace to Our Municipal Wastewater Conveyance Systems

So what exactly is a fatberg?

The first use of the word “**fatberg**” was in London in 2013. A 15-ton calcified blockage, roughly the size of a double-decker bus, was discovered in a sewer line in the Kensington neighborhood. People complained about slow flushing toilets and the massive blockage was given the moniker fatberg as a descriptor.

Fatbergs consist of clumps of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) joined by the addition of “disposable” wipes. They can include facial tissue, paper towels, tampons, sanitary towels, condoms, and other wastes flushed into the sanitary sewer system. As this

New York

Wednesday July 21, 10:00am-

12:00pm EST, [Register Now](#)

Thursday July 22, 10:00am-

12:00pm EST, [Register Now](#)

Monday July 26, 10:00am-

12:00pm EST, [Register Now](#)

Wednesday July 28, 10:00am-

12:00pm EST, [Register Now](#)

California

Wednesday July 21, 1:00pm-

3:00pm PST, [Register Now](#)

Thursday July 22, 1:00pm-3:00pm

PST, [Register Now](#)

Monday July 26, 1:00pm-3:00pm

PST, [Register Now](#)

Wednesday July 28, 1:00pm-

3:00pm PST, [Register Now](#)

Find Out More On
WSA

2021 Pacific Northwest Pretreatment Workshop:

Registration Open

September 13 - 15, 2021

The Heathman Lodge

Vancouver, WA

Registration: \$350

Includes: Breakfast Mon-Tue-Wed
and Lunch Mon-Tues

CEUs: Up to 2.0 for WA-OR-ID

The annual PNPW Workshop brings pretreatment professionals from across the region to receive technical training on a variety of topics, updates from EPA and state programs, up-to-date policy news, and information on newest technologies on the market.

collection of matter grows, it goes through the chemical reaction process of saponification.

Saponification breaks down FOG into fatty acid salts (soap) and glycerol. Further reaction results in calcification, transforming the blockage into something more akin to concrete than lard.

Should communities be concerned about fatbergs? If so, Why?

According to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, U.S. municipalities, both large and small, **shell out at least \$1 billion annually on maintenance** to remove clogs that will eventually become fatbergs. The problem has grown so large that several states are now following [the example of Washington State](#) in passing legislation mandating manufacturers of sanitary wipes to label their products with “do not flush” disclaimers. South Carolina and California are introducing similar bills to avert sewer clogging by mandating similar labeling disclaimers on similar products.

To learn more about fatbergs in the U.S., the role of Grease and cooking oil in their formation, and steps communities are taking to prevent fatbergs, check out more articles on our blog.

Read Up On
Fatbergs

Register Now



National Resource Reference Guide (NRRG)

National Resource Reference Guide

Purpose

The FOG National Reference Resource Guide is a “one-stop” shop to learn about Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG), its value as a resource, its problems in sewer conveyance lines, its contribution to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), its cost of treatment, and how a municipality can establish or enhance a FOG Abatement program.

FOG & Pretreatment News

WSA Newsletter

PPRC Blog

Interceptor Whisperer

PDI Standards and Info

Got FOG Abatement?

Implementing a FOG Abatement program takes time and planning. It will definitely save your municipality money, reduce damage to your infrastructure, and potentially prevent sanitary sewer overflows, so it's worth the effort.

Still, there are many things to consider, so [Western States Alliance](#), a project of [PPRC](#), created the [National Resource Reference Guide](#) to help.

[This website is a “one stop shop”](#) of resources you need to help you plan and implement your FOG Abatement Program. The website includes [a Primer](#) on developing a program as well as several individual, specific resources that cover discrete elements needed. For example:

Establishing regulatory authority – there are several examples of how a municipality can use existing ordinances or develop their own. One document that is helpful is an [Example Ordinance](#) put together by the EPA Region 8's Al Garcia for municipalities that don't currently have a pretreatment program. It uses the authority of the municipality's NPDES permit to regulate FOG.

Communication with stakeholders – it is impossible to have a successful program without effective communication with stakeholders.

Identification of stakeholders is important and some of the groups affected are identified in the graphic below, used in the WSA FOG training. The [National Resource Reference Guide](#) includes a fact sheet, [Establishing an Ordinance to Control Fats, Oils, and Greases](#) in English and [Spanish](#) to help you communicate with stakeholders about the need for a FOG Abatement Program. There is also a fact sheet, [Fats, Oils, and Grease; Yellow vs Brown Grease](#) that can be used to educate stakeholders about the difference between Yellow and Brown Grease and their value and treatment.

Developing the business case – is important as you work with municipality leaders and FSEs so everyone has an understanding of the financial benefits to implementing a FOG Abatement Program. [Establishing the Business Case Worksheet](#) can help organize the costs and benefits.

Inspecting FSEs – is a critical part of the program. As you develop your program, you should be able to identify the high-FOG producers using values from the [Kennedy/Jenks Brown Grease study](#), which quantified FOG loading by food service type, including meal and service frequency. The [FSE Inspection Checklist](#) and [FOG Inspection Template](#) are useful to help you develop your own inspections.

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