

Issue #5

Winter 2021

News + Updates



Virtual FOG Abatement Program Training

Implementing an effective FOG Abatement program will save your utility money and time. It is not trivial to do, however. Fortunately, there are good options for training on the impacts of FOG and how to implement a FOG abatement program through the Western States Alliance (WSA), a member-based organization of FOG professionals. WSA is a project of the Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC). The training is being offered for free due to a grant from the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

There are eight virtual sessions planned and there will be 10 in-person training events scheduled.

The training schedule will be posted on the WSA Website:

Visit the WSA Website!



All virtual training follows the same format:

Session 1; 2 hours – Developing the Business case for FOG Abatement Programs (part 1)

Session 2; 2 hours – Developing the Business case for FOG Abatement Programs (part 2)

Session 3; 2 hours – Implementing the FOG Abatement Program (part 1)

Session 4; 2 hours – Implementing the FOG Abatement Program (part 2)

While anyone can register for any virtual training session, WSA is applying for CEUs to be awarded in Massachusetts, Washington, Maryland, Hawaii, South Carolina, Mississippi, New Jersey, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Montana.

In-person training is planned for Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas (border), Georgia, California, Minnesota, Missouri, Louisiana, Alaska, and Utah. WSA is especially interested in helping rural municipalities with 10,000 or less population and 80% or less of the state's household median income.

If you'd like more information about the training, please contact Jean Waters at jwaters@PPRC.org



Are you a Fats, Oils, & Grease (FOG) regulatory professional? Do you work with a pumping company that handles FOG for Food Service Establishments (FSE's)?

Then we want YOU to join us for Western States Alliance's Annual FOG Forum in April!

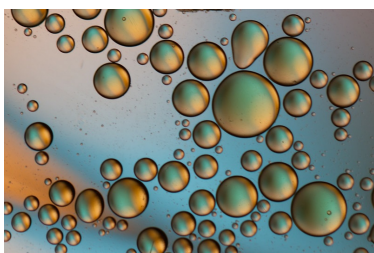
We plan to offer technical presentations on FOG data management systems, FOG level sensory equipment, and FOG to energy conversion equipment. Hear from regulatory professionals, pumpers in the field, and FOG interceptor manufacturers. Learn from case studies covering FOG retrofits and municipality enforcement. Learn about technical assistance and outreach to better provide your customers with the resources and information they need to help them keep FOG out of the sewer system and help your FOG program improve its efficiency, reduce its costs, and keep the lines flowing.

This Forum will likely be virtual, consisting of four half-day presentations where you learn what works and what doesn't from your colleagues around the nation. You will have the opportunity to discuss best management practices and learn about new technology in the field to make your program successful.

WSA Annual FOG Forum is coming up in April 2022!

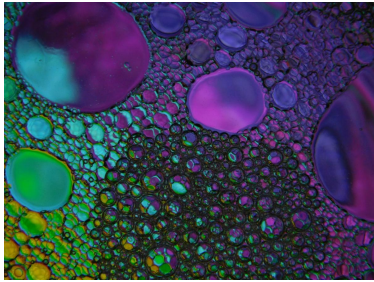
Save the date: Further information about exact dates and times will be sent out in the upcoming weeks, so save time in April 2022 to participate in the Annual FOG Forum!

[Learn More About FOG Here](#)



How Should FOG Be Managed?

A recent **post on the Water and Wastes Digest**, reported that EPA granted a Small Business Innovative Research award to FHNC Ltd., a company in Ft. Worth, TX, to develop and commercialize a technology to treat sewage to remove fats, oils, and grease from waste streams. This will be accomplished through a tri-stage hydrocyclone, which separates the liquids with centrifugal force.



(oil images by Cajetan Barreto via Flickr)

The reason this technology is supported is to increase public sewer capacity and reduce sanitary sewer overflows.

While there will likely be some appropriate applications for a device like this, FOG can be prevented from entering the wastewater conveyance system **right now** by implementing a FOG abatement program!

Food Service Establishments (FSEs) producing FOG may not be controlling all of it. Grease may be entering the system through drains that are not connected to the grease interceptor. FSEs may not be getting their grease interceptor pumped out at the appropriate frequency. FSEs may have inadequate storage and management practices when saving yellow grease for the hauler, which can result in FOG entering combined sanitary and stormwater sewers.

The sewer infrastructure can be protected, sanitary sewer overflows can be reduced or eliminated, and costs to the ratepayers reduced by implementing an effective FOG abatement program. Learn more at the **Western States Alliance National Resource Reference Guide**. These resources are made available free to you because of a grant from the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

WSA National Resource Reference Guide

FOG Program Case Study

Chiloquin, Oregon is a small town in southern Oregon with about 300 households, which includes people from several tribes, and the dominant one is the Klamath Tribe. The public works department is responsible for maintaining the potable water distribution system, the wastewater collection and treatment system, the storm water system, and more.



One of their concerns is blockage of the sewer system from Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) or flushable wipes. These blockages result in damage to the public sewer system and can cause sewer backups in homes and sanitary sewer overflows.

The Western States Alliance (WSA) provided in-person, custom training to Chiloquin in September 2021. In addition to public works personnel, some city administrators and public health personnel were able to attend. This in-person training proved to be a great opportunity to bring these stakeholders together and provide an overview of what it takes to implement a successful FOG abatement program. From reaching out to stakeholders, to gathering and analyzing data, to establishing regulatory authority, everyone began to understand the importance of preventing FOG from entering the sewer system. Feedback from the training was very positive and included comments realizing the importance of data collection and documentation.

WSA provided Chiloquin with two “post cards” that were distributed to households. One educated residents about how to dispose of household FOG (freeze the grease) and not put it down the drain. The other explained that “flushable” wipes are not flushable.

In-person, customized training is available on a limited basis from WSA, due to a grant from the USDA Rural Utilities Service. WSA would like to deliver this training in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas (border), Georgia, California, Minnesota, Missouri, Louisiana, Alaska, and Utah in 2022. WSA is especially interested in helping rural municipalities with 10,000 or less population and 80% or less of the state’s household median income.

For more information about the training, please contact Jean Waters at jwaters@PPRC.org.

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