



## Get Free CEUs with Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Abatement Program training

Western States Alliance (WSA) offers free virtual and in-person training through a grant from the USDA Rural Utilities Service. Training is 8 hours and 0.8 hours of CEUs are awarded. Virtual training consists of four, 2-hour sessions. In-person training is accomplished in one 8-hour day. The training is provided by knowledgeable FOG professionals with years of experience. 100% of recent trainees reported that they learned something new that will directly assist their work.

Implementing a successful FOG (fats, oils, and greases) abatement program has proven benefits. Sewer infrastructure will be protected, sanitary sewer overflows can be reduced or eliminated, and costs to ratepayers will be reduced. Approximately 40% of industrial pretreatment professionals reported that FOG is their most difficult discharge to control. (FOG illustration credit: Julie McMurry)

## Virtual Training Schedule & Registration

Jan 18, 19, 23, 24: [Oklahoma](#), [California](#)

Feb 1, 2, 6, 7: [Indiana](#), [Kansas](#)

Feb 16, 17, 20, 21: [New Hampshire](#), [Arizona](#)

Mar 1, 2, 6, 7: [Massachusetts](#), [Arkansas](#)

Mar 29, 30, Apr 3, 4: [Mississippi](#), [Idaho](#)

CEUs are awarded in each of the states listed; click on the state to register.

## In-Person Training

WSA would like to deliver free in-person training in these states: Rhode Island, Delaware, Ohio, West Virginia, and Texas. We're especially interested in connecting with jurisdictions that are rural, less than 10,000 in population, and with 80% or less of the state's non-metropolitan median household income. If your jurisdiction serves one or more communities that meet this demographic, we would love to provide in-person training for you. Larger jurisdictions are welcome, of course, but we want to meet the demographic targets of the USDA funding.



Please contact Jean Waters at [jwaters@pprc.org](mailto:jwaters@pprc.org) for more information.



## FOG & Solid Waste Training for Tribes in Washington

Two trainings, one dealing with fats, oils, and greases (FOG) and the other dealing with solid waste are available at no charge for Tribes in the state of Washington. These trainings are offered by the **Pollution Prevention Resource Center** (PPRC) and funded by a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology.

There will be four in-person **FOG trainings to Tribes** in the state of Washington provided for free. These trainings will be six hours in length and will be **customized** to meet the specific needs of the Tribe being trained – based on requests of the Tribe. The trainings will address the sources of FOG and the wastewater treatment system used by the Tribe. PPRC will also provide technical assistance to trainees through our Rapid Response service. Rapid Response is available by phone, email and online. Assistance may include consultation with technical staff as well as information from other in-house or external sources or library searches. Contact Frances Gilliland at [fgilliland@pprc.org](mailto:fgilliland@pprc.org) for more info and to schedule a FOG Abatement Training for your tribal community today.

The other training is for **solid waste**. This training combines the principles of pollution prevention and zero waste (P2ZW) to help Tribes avoid toxics and reduce waste to the landfill. The training is six hours in length and is free. Attendees will receive a Certificate of Completion and one-year of on-demand, technical assistance from PPRC and Gary Liss & Associates to help you implement your P2 and Zero Waste plan and to update your Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. If you are interested in hosting this training for your staff, contact PPRC at 206-352-2050 ext. 101 or email Ed Gonzalez ([egonzalez@pprc.org](mailto:egonzalez@pprc.org)).

***All trainings must be complete by June 30, 2023, so please reach out to us today to schedule training!***

## Where does pumped FOG go in your community?

When WSA provides virtual training, one of our poll questions asks if people know where the pumpers take their FOG. Typically, less than 50% of the trainees know the answer to this question. Based on a

recent "**Rapid Response**" request received at WSA, it seems like this question is one that jurisdictions are going to have to deal with.



WSA received a request for assistance because one of the pumpers in the area reported that the facility that was receiving the pumped FOG had closed. He couldn't find another facility within 200 miles, which is cost prohibitive. WSA did some investigation to see where other pumpers are taking their FOG. Most of the pumpers would not reveal where they take their FOG. It may be because they feel that having a place to properly dispose of FOG gives them a competitive advantage. It may be because they are worried about the legality of where they take their FOG.

Either way, it is important for every jurisdiction to know where pumpers can take FOG for proper disposal. Depending upon the ordinances in the jurisdiction, you may not currently have the authority to require pumpers to tell you where they dispose of the FOG. However, keep in mind that most states require that FOG waste be disposed of at a location authorized by the state, such as a municipal solid waste landfill, and that the disposal

amount and location be documented, and records kept for some designated period of time. Check with your state’s environmental regulatory agency’s solid waste department to see what records are required in your state. Often, pumpers, disposal sites, and the generator (FSE) are required to keep documentation. A four- or five-part manifest may be used with signatures of the pumper, generator, and disposal site, with a copy going back to the generator. This procedure varies from state to state. Pumpers may voluntarily tell you where they dispose of the FOG, but it’s something that you should require within the ordinance.

One thing that you can do to have better connections and communications with pumpers and food service establishments (FSEs) is to start a Preferred Pumper Program. Learn more at WSA’s [National Resource Reference Guide](#). Watch the [How to start a Preferred Pumper Program video](#). A Preferred Pumper Program can save your FOG program time and money, too!



## Chemicals in Grease Traps

EPA’s “Safer Choice” certification program helps businesses, organizations, and consumers switch to products that are safer for human health and the environment. But is there a “Safer Choice” option for grease traps or lift stations? The answer is – not really. Almost all municipalities we work with disallow chemical FOG treatments to be added to grease interceptors. A lot of the chemical and biological additives just move the FOG a bit downstream into the public sewer system, or the next lift station. This creates maintenance issues for cities, and therefore they don’t want additives put into the interceptors.

If someone has a plugged drain or building sewer (no grease interceptor) and they need to try a chemical or biological product to remove the clog, there is no prohibition on this. There are several biological-based drain maintainer products available that have the Safer Choice certification. Search for “Biological-based Products: Drain Maintainers” on [EPA’s Safer Choice](#) Product finder website.

**Special thanks to the USDA for funding our FOG abatement programming!**

