

Environmental Services Facts

Council protects water quality, public health

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES), a division of the Metropolitan Council, is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater from approximately 90% of the population in the seven-county Twin Cities area. MCES also conducts research related to water quality and supply, and provides technical assistance to local governments. Among its primary responsibilities, MCES:

- Maintains approximately 600 miles of regional interceptor sewers that collect flow from 5,000 miles of sewers owned by 105 communities.
- Treats an average of 250 million gallons of wastewater daily at seven regional treatment plants.
- Works with approximately 800 industrial clients to substantially reduce the amount of pollution entering the wastewater collection system.
- Provides water quality monitoring and analysis for the region.
- Conducts research and develops policies and plans related to the region's water supply.
- Partners with numerous public, private and nonprofit groups committed to a clean environment.

Services support regional growth

The services that MCES provides protect public health and the environment while supporting regional growth. MCES ensures that:

- Sufficient sewer capacity exists to serve planned development.
- Sufficient capital investments are made to preserve water quality in the region.
- Wastewater collection and treatment is competitive for cost and quality.
- Local plans provide for adequate water supply and prevention of pollution from nonpoint sources, such as urban and agricultural storm water runoff.

Plants maintain outstanding environmental record

As of March 1, 2011, the Council's seven wastewater treatment plants had gone 49 consecutive months with no violations of their federal clean water discharge permits. The Hastings, St. Croix Valley, and Seneca wastewater treatment plants have achieved 20, 19 and 10 consecutive years, respectively, of full compliance with environmental permits.

MCES earned a special Operations Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies in 2009 for its Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Program. The program is a partnership with communities, and is designed to reduce excessive inflow and infiltration of clear water into the sanitary sewer system.

Initiatives boost quality, allow for growth

MCES implements a capital improvement program that maintains and improves the quality of the regional wastewater system infrastructure, supports regional growth and meets regulatory requirements. Some current projects are described below.

Energy reduction. MCES is working to reduce energy consumption by at least 15% at its facilities. Projects



The Council's wastewater collection and treatment system has an outstanding record of compliance with its federal clean water discharge permits.

At the same time, the Council charges its customers among the lowest rates in the nation for peer-sized systems.

at the Metro Plant include cleaning up air diffusers, optimizing steam generation to heat buildings and run electricity-generating turbines, and installing energy-saving lighting systems.

New interceptors. A new, larger interceptor sewer is being built to serve expected growth in Richfield and Edina. Construction of the four-mile pipe will conclude in 2011. Planning is well under way to replace and/or repair aging sewers in portions of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park and Hopkins. Construction is scheduled to start in 2011.

Treatment plant upgrades. Major upgrades are under way at the Seneca Plant in Eagan and Blue Lake Plant in Shakopee, including increased phosphorus removal and improved disinfection processes.

Service is cost-effective, responsive

MCES is recognized nationally for its progressive management and market competitiveness. The Council's charges for wastewater collection and treatment continue to rank in the lowest 25% among similar-sized agencies nationwide.

MCES works with and for citizens in a number of ways, including partnering on environmental improvement efforts; providing educational programs, meetings and forums, surveys and newsletters; and addressing process-related and industrial odor-control issues.

Council monitors regional water quality

MCES implements a variety of strategies to meet the Council's policy of achieving no adverse impact on the region's water quality. MCES provides water quality monitoring and analysis on the region's lakes and rivers; partners with public, private and nonprofit groups to improve water quality; and assists with watershed planning and management.

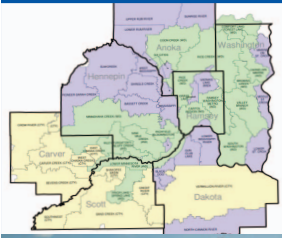
MCES's work is guided by the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan, a chapter of the Metropolitan Development Guide. The guide details the Council's policies and strategies for coordinating the orderly and economic development of the region.

Council coordinates water supply planning

In 2005, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Council to carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the seven-county metro area. The law requires the Council to maintain a base of technical information upon which to make sound water supply development decisions. It also requires the Council to develop and periodically update a regional water supply master plan. With assistance from a Metropolitan Water Supply Advisory Committee, comprising state and local officials, the Council developed a plan that guides local water supply planning and future regional investments. The plan emphasizes conservation, inter-jurisdictional cooperation and long-term sustainability.

For more information

- Visit www.metrocouncil.org or call 651-602-1005.
- [Related fact sheets](#) include Wastewater Services, Inflow/Infiltration, Metro Plant Solids Management, Water Supply Planning and Surface Water Planning.



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The Council is a key player in water supply planning and research in the seven-county region.