



OVERVIEW

What is the Piscataway Bioenergy Project?

The Piscataway Bioenergy Project is a design/build project next to WSSC Water's Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility in Accokeek, Maryland, in Prince George's County. At the heart of the project is how WSSC Water handles biosolids, the nutrient-rich organic material resulting from the wastewater treatment process. WSSC Water's five major water resource recovery facilities currently produce about 8,000 tons of biosolids monthly.

Why is this project needed?

WSSC Water is committed to investing in a sustainable future for the community. With the addition of the green technology at Piscataway's new facility, the amount of biosolids left over from the treatment process will be significantly reduced. Creating cleaner (Class A) biosolids will produce a sustainable product that can be returned to the earth, thus lowering greenhouse gas emissions and reducing landfill usage. Bioenergy is an increasingly popular choice for utilities all over the country, and advancing our region through the latest innovations in the field is a smart investment.

What will this project cost?

The Piscataway Bioenergy Project is the largest and most technically advanced project ever constructed by WSSC Water. The \$271 million project will serve our customers for generations to come.

What is the project timeline?

Construction began in the spring of 2019 and is expected to be substantially complete by November 2024.



PROJECT BENEFITS

How does the public benefit from this project?

The project supports green jobs, protects our waterways and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Through innovative technology, the amount of biosolids left over from the new treatment process will be significantly reduced and cleaner. Creating these Class A biosolids will generate methane gas, which will be captured and upgraded to renewable natural gas (RNG) that WSSC Water will sell on the open market. Selling RNG will generate Renewable Fuel Credits, which can be sold to generate additional revenue for WSSC Water.

How does this project save money?

Cost savings will be achieved through reduced purchased power consumption, reduced disposal costs, and the production of a product whose profits could offset other costs and the production of Class A biosolids whose sale/reuse may help offset costs.



CONSTRUCTION

What will the construction process entail?

Construction will take place at the existing Piscataway facility during normal business hours. Noise and odor levels will be comparable to current operations. There should be no additional impacts.



The Future is Now

Rendering of future bioenergy facilities at the Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility.



BIOENERGY

What is bioenergy?

Bioenergy is the production of energy that results from the biosolids treatment process. Biosolids are a highly treated wastewater byproduct and contain valuable nutrients, organic matter and energy. Biosolids from all of WSSC Water's water resource recovery facilities will be processed at Piscataway through a thermal hydrolysis system, followed by anaerobic digestion and final dewatering.

Is bioenergy safe?

Yes. Biosolids have been used safely and effectively for decades and are increasingly popular among utility companies nationwide. Bioenergy projects are held to the strictest industry standards and are regularly monitored to ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations. Class A biosolids, which are what will be produced at Piscataway, are treated to exceptional standards and have non-detectable pathogen levels. This makes them a great choice for compost or as a soil additive to promote healthy soil conditions and water retention. Studies from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency show that neither contact with biosolids nor consumption of foods grown with the organic fertilizer pose a risk to human health.

Who would use biosolids?

Class A biosolids can be used by anyone in need of compost or soil additives. This usually includes farmers, gardeners or managers of large lawns or public spaces, such as golf courses. Class A biosolids help fertilize and condition the land and are usually more affordable than traditional off-the-shelf compost.



BIOENERGY OPERATIONS

Will the plant smell?

The plant will not have a higher odor level than it does today. As with current operations, the Piscataway WRRF will constantly monitor odors and treat them to the highest standards possible.

Will the plant be noisy?

The plant will operate at noise levels consistent with its noise levels today. There is not currently a noise problem associated with operations.

How will materials from the region be delivered to Piscataway for bioenergy processing?

Materials will be safely delivered to the Piscataway WRRF via truck from four other WSSC Water water resource recovery facilities located throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Is WSSC going to sell its byproducts to the public?

WSSC Water has not yet decided how to distribute its eventual byproduct. Possibilities range from going to market with the product, to distributing it to nonprofits and public sector partners, to selling it to another distributor. As the project gets closer to start up, WSSC Water will begin making these decisions and keep the public informed.