



OVERVIEW

What is the Piscataway Bioenergy Project?

The Piscataway Bioenergy Project is a construction project that will enhance the current operations of the Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). This project includes the addition of biosolids processing facilities, which will enable WSSC to produce safe, treated and sustainable Class A biosolids. The Piscataway WRRF will treat biosolids from all of WSSC's water resource recovery facilities.

Why is this project needed?

WSSC is committed to investing in a sustainable future for the community. Bioenergy upgrades at Piscataway will allow WSSC to reduce discharges to the Chesapeake Bay, power consumption from fossil fuels and disposal costs. With the upgrades, we 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?

This project in its entirety will cost about \$262 million. This includes the planning and design phases as well as final construction.

What is the project timeline?

This project is moving into the construction stages with the groundbreaking occurring in May 2019. Testing will begin in early 2023 and start-up is slated for early 2024.



PROJECT BENEFITS

How does the public benefit from this project?

Bioenergy investments at Piscataway will increase regional sustainability, improve regional environmental quality and lower long-term costs.

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.



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'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 five other WSSC water resource recovery facilities located throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Is WSSC going to sell its byproducts to the public?

WSSC 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 will begin making these decisions and keep the public informed.