

WES is Proud to be a Leader in Sustainability

WES is proud to be recognized by Clackamas County as a Leader in Sustainability for our long-standing commitment to providing resource recovery and watershed protection.

In 2017, WES achieved Silver Level Certification in the County's Leaders in Sustainability program by minimizing waste, conserving energy and water as well as educating employees and the public about conservation, among other efforts. WES will soon reach Gold Level Certification.

WES is committed to responsible stewardship and recovery of resources and to demonstrating leadership in sustainable business practices.

Our employees are dedicated to following and promoting solid sustainability practices to reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities, and to help our customers and partners to do the same.

Although the certification program was designed for businesses, WES adapted it for a county department and now looks forward to helping other departments achieve certification as well.

To learn how achieving Leaders in Sustainability Certification can benefit your business, please visit clackamas.us/recycling/work/getcertified/html.



Members of the WES Green Team are recognized by the Board of County Commissioners for their sustainability efforts.

Dear Customer,

I'm writing to wish you a Happy New Year and share some news about Water Environment Services (WES), which proudly serves more than 165,000 customers.

WES is pleased to begin 2018 with the support of the new Water Environment Services Advisory Committee as we provide you with reliable and affordable services.

The 16-member committee represents the rich diversity of the WES service area as well as its economic development needs, businesses and our broad customer base. Committee members provide a wealth of experience that includes wastewater management, watershed health, surface water management, utility management and economic development.

Committee members either live or work in the WES service area, which is Gladstone, Happy Valley, Johnson City, Milwaukie, Oregon City, West Linn and the communities of unincorporated Clackamas County.

The committee will provide input and make recommendations on wastewater and surface water issues. To learn more about the committee, please visit clackamas.us/wes.

WES is also pleased to welcome several new highly-skilled members to our team as we make progress on a number of projects that will strengthen our ability to protect public health and the environment every day of the year.

On behalf of the WES family, I wish you a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,



Greg Geist, WES Director

A Dream Comes True: WES Employee Earns Operator of the Year Awards

As a high school student, Blake Raines participated in a "job shadow" program at WES' Tri-City Water Resource Recovery Facility in Oregon City. Blake quickly realized he had found his calling and he began dreaming of working for WES.

Barely 10 years later in 2017, Blake earned two prestigious wastewater industry honors, receiving awards for "Oregon Regional Operator of the Year" and "Operator of the Year for the Lower Columbia Section."



Blake Raines, Wastewater Operator for WES

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A lifelong outdoor enthusiast, Blake feels his job as a wastewater operator for WES represents the best of both worlds. "I get to help protect local rivers, which makes me feel like I am giving back to the environment. We take useless water and clean it before returning it to the river. We also use it to make energy and natural fertilizer. I truly love what I do."

A Creek Runs Through it – Carli Creek Project Taking Shape in 2018

2018 promises to be another productive year for our Carli Creek Project.

WES will continue the construction designed to improve the quality of stormwater runoff that makes its way into Carli Creek before it enters the Clackamas River.

Nestled between industrial properties and the river, Carli Creek contains high levels of pollution commonly found in industrial land and highway runoff. Despite the pollution, there is an abundance of wildlife in the creek that needs protection, including salmon and steelhead.

The project includes building channels, ponds, habitat structures, and permeable berms to filter pollutants before the runoff enters the creek. When complete, it will function like a large wetland that will improve the water quality for the environment.

The first phase of the project completed in 2017 included restoring 1,500 feet of habitat in Carli Creek, which was funded by a grant from PGE. Additional phases planned for 2018 include construction of the treatment wetland and the stormwater pipe installation on Capps Road and SE 120th Ave. that will bring water to the wetland.



Carli Creek Project site



As the new year begins, WES has saved nearly three million kilowatt hours at our Tri-City Water Resource Recovery Facility by taking part in Energy Trust of Oregon's Strategic Energy Management Program. The program helps agencies lower utility costs by training employees to identify energy-saving opportunities, which benefits ratepayers and the environment. As a result, WES has saved more than \$130,000 in energy costs. WES will expand these conservation practices to more of our facilities in 2018.



In 2017, WES awarded \$240,000 in grants through the RiverHealth Stewardship Program to 14 organizations to support watershed education, restoration and stewardship activities. The grants support a wide variety of activities that enhance water quality, restore habitat, manage invasive species, remove trash from waterways and organize community events.