

Johnson County Wastewater Fats, Oils and Grease Community Education

NEAA26 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



National Environmental
Achievement
AWARDS



JOHNSON COUNTY
Wastewater

**Community Education:
Fats, Oils & Grease**



**Avoid the clog.
Watch for FOG.**

Johnson County Wastewater's FOG Program helps protect the sanitary sewer system, and your pipes, by educating residents and businesses about the dangers of pouring fats, oils and grease down the drain.

Request a speaker to come to your neighborhood, business or organization:

jocogov.org/fog

jcw-fog@jocogov.org



The Johnson County Wastewater Fats, Oils, and Grease Program launched a robust community outreach program that includes:

A community resource table that travels to multiple county buildings providing branded swag, educational materials and an engaging video for residents to learn about how to properly dispose of FOG.

Educational speaking opportunities at local and nationwide events. They have been invited to share knowledge and best practices with community members at organizations such as the local Lions and Rotary Clubs and the Kansas Water Environment Association.

Program Features:

- Educational Videos
- Speaking Engagements
- Community Meetings
- Branded swag such as stickers and grease scrapers
- Digital and printed ads
- Website and social media content

Wastewater

Member Spotlight: Johnson County Wastewater's FOG Program Protects Public Infrastructure through Innovation and Outreach

Johnson County Wastewater (JCW), located in Kansas, is setting a gold standard for utility-led environmental stewardship through its Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Control Program. Designed to protect the region's wastewater infrastructure, this initiative focuses on preventing costly sewer backups and overflows caused by the improper disposal of cooking-related waste.

FOG materials—commonly found in food scraps, meat fats, dairy products, and cooking oils—are often washed down kitchen drains, especially in commercial food establishments. Over time, these substances accumulate in sewer lines, restricting flow and potentially leading to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). JCW's FOG Program addresses this issue head-on with a proactive approach that combines education, regulation, and community partnerships.

At the heart of JCW's strategy is a comprehensive inspection and compliance process for food service establishments (FSEs). The utility's team conducts regular site visits to ensure that grease traps and interceptors are properly installed, maintained, and functioning as required. JCW also provides clear technical guidance to FSEs, helping them navigate the requirements while promoting best practices in kitchen waste management.

But JCW's efforts extend beyond regulation. Public education is a key pillar of the program, aimed at changing habits at both the commercial and residential levels. JCW engages the community through outreach campaigns, instructional materials, and workshops that underscore the environmental and financial consequences of improper FOG disposal.

JCW's FOG Program has led to measurable reductions in FOG-related blockages and SSOs, safeguarding public health and reducing the burden on wastewater treatment systems. The program reflects JCW's broader mission: to serve the community with excellence, protect the environment, and ensure sustainable wastewater management for future generations.

As an active member of NACWA, JCW exemplifies innovation in utility operations and offers a model for other municipalities seeking to implement or enhance their own FOG control

initiatives. Their commitment to smart solutions and stakeholder collaboration makes them a standout in our Member Spotlight.