

PISCATAWAY BIO-ENERGY PROJECT

STATE PROGRAM: Maryland Department of Environment

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$128M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will create a centralized sludge processing and bio-energy cogeneration facility that will receive sludge generated from all five of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Water (WSSC Water)'s treatment plants serving Montgomery and Prince George's County. This \$271 million project received over \$128 million in financing from CWSRF loans with interest rates below 1 percent. This competitive financing allows WSSC Water to minimize borrowing costs and the financial impact on utility ratepayers. Through the partnership between the State of Maryland, EPA, and WSSC Water, this innovative project will reduce utility operating costs, greenhouse gas emissions, and nutrient inputs to the Chesapeake Bay. Previous processing facilities only produced Class B biosolids. This new centralized upgrade will provide anaerobic digestion equipment and facilities to provide Class A biosolids which can be used for clean energy and marketed for use as fertilizer. Wastewater treatment, energy, and sludge disposal costs incurred by the utility will also be reduced by decreasing the demand to dispose biosolids at a landfill and through generating clean energy on-site. Through reducing inefficient energy consumption and the generation of clean energy, this project will reduce overall WSSC Water greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 15 percent and provide sustainable economic development by creating green jobs.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/documents/2020_pisces_compendium.pdf.