



# Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority

## Environmental Management System

### 2022-23 Audit Year-End Report

Volume 14

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## Our Mission

In 1972, the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders created the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority to meet the requirements of the newly empowered Clean Water Act. The CCMUA's origins as an environmental protection undertaking remain evident in the authority's mission:

*Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority is committed to protecting the environment, preventing pollution, being a responsible steward of our natural resources, continually exceeding the requirements of all regulatory obligations, and the continual improvement of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance and improve the sustainability of our operations.*

## Fifty Years and a Cleaner Camden County

Now, 50 years after its creation, Camden County can reflect on establishing the CCMUA as an unqualified success, and perhaps the most effective single action taken to improve the region's environmental quality. Before the Regional Wastewater Treatment System was constructed, 45 million gallons per day of inadequately treated sewage was discharged into the lakes and streams of Camden County. At the time, the State of New Jersey ranked improving Camden County's wastewater treatment system as the highest environmental protection priority in the state. CCMUA's solution was to construct a regional sewage collection system and a modern, centralized treatment facility to replace the existing distributed system of municipal treatment plants. After operations commenced following the project's completion in the late 1980s, studies found pollution of the county's waterways had been reduced by an estimated 95%.

For most sewer authorities, these gains in water quality alone would be sufficient, but the CCMUA's dedication to environmental quality and public health - from minimizing the impacts of odor and emissions on our neighbors, to managing treated solids as a resource rather than a waste product; from shrinking its carbon footprint and energy demand through efficiency and renewables, to serving its communities of Camden City and all of Camden County by sharing its technical expertise - extends further. This exceptional service has not gone unnoticed: the CCMUA has received Platinum Certification from the National Biosolids Partnership for more than a decade, and has been recognized with this accolade again for its performance in 2022. As our 50th anniversary comes to a close, this report serves as a celebration of our accomplishments, a preview of more exciting work to come, and a thank you for the support of the people of Camden County that we proudly serve!



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## Highlight: CCMUA's Big Progress on the Path to 100% Renewable Energy

Ten years ago, the CCMUA made a commitment to pursue powering its wastewater treatment facilities with 100% renewable energy, and we continue to push closer to that goal! Together, the authority's 1.8 MW solar array and anaerobic digestion/combined heat and power (AD/CHP) facility generate 60% of the plant's energy demand (10% solar, 50% bio-gas derived from sewage sludge). The authority's gas generators are capable of supplying 100% of the plant's remaining needs with supplemental natural gas, which both reduces transmission-related energy losses from the grid and, through the CHP facility, generates heat for the plant and sludge processes. Thank you to our talented engineers, managers, and operators who have made these gains in sustainability possible!

## Results of 2022 Performance Year EMS Audit: CCMUA Awarded Platinum Status Once Again

On March 29 - 30, 2023, DEKRA Certification, Inc. conducted an independent third party audit of the authority's environmental management system (EMS), used by the CCMUA in managing its biosolids program. The CCMUA's EMS follows the best management practices (BMPs) recommended by the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) - a joint effort developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Water Environment Foundation, and the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies. The audit concluded that CCMUA biosolids practices are consistent with NBP BMP standards and are generating positive outcomes for the CCMUA and the communities we

serve. The lead auditor noted that the EMS is generating improvements particularly in the areas of regulatory compliance, environmental performance, quality practices and relations with interested parties. All of the minor non-conformances (no major non-conformities were found) from prior DEKRA audits have been effectively corrected and corrective action plans for the minor non-conformity have been submitted and approved by the lead auditor. The audit was consistent with NBP requirements for Reverification Audits and the Scope of Work agreed by CCMUA and DEKRA.

### Completion Status: 2022 EMS Goals and Objectives

Objective	Status
Achieve permit limit until Oxygen System and Return Sludge Projects are completed	Complete
Maximize volume capture on wet weather days	Complete
Install Envirosuite odor monitoring system	Complete
Conduct inspection of biosolids hauling destination	Complete
Create Clean Energy Plan and define clean energy targets	In Progress
Create and/or Update Standard Operating Procedures for Pretreatment Facility and Digester Systems	In Progress
Improve ratio of sludge that is fully dried at dryers to 90%	Complete
Continue public engagement through participation in all 6 Camden Collaborative Initiative (CCI) working groups and offering plant tours	Complete
Complete concept designs for two flood reduction projects in Camden City	Complete
Hold monthly safety committee meetings to improve operations' safety	Complete



### Join Us On Social Media!

The CCMUA is making a comprehensive effort to improve its public outreach efforts and better communicate the achievements and successes of the authority, empowered by the citizens and ratepayers of Camden County! To better share information and gather feedback, the authority has created accounts on Facebook and LinkedIn. We encourage you to like and subscribe to these pages for all of the latest exciting news coming out of the CCMUA!