

# Bridgeport Water Pollution Control Authority's Long-Term Control Plan

## Plan Will Limit Sewer Overflows

The Bridgeport Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) has embarked on a multi-year program that will bring its 100-year old combined sanitary and storm water sewer system into compliance with new state and federal requirements.

When the system was built, a single pipe carried both sewage and storm water. During a heavy rainfall or when there is a lot of melted snow, too much water gets into the sewers. Instead of following its intended path to the wastewater treatment plant, the overflow goes directly into local rivers, creeks, and Long Island Sound.

In September 2010 WPCA submitted a Draft Long Term Control Plan to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) to reduce the amount of sewer overflows into local waters. This plan was required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the CTDEEP.

WPCA Capital Costs for Long Term Control Plan Alternatives	
Alternative	Capital Cost
Green Alternatives (includes rain barrels, rain gardens, cisterns, green roofs, porous pavement)*	\$0**
Raising Weirs / Closing Outfalls*	Negligible Cost+ (per weir/outfall)
Remote Monitoring System*	\$2.5 Million
Conveyance Tunnel with Treatment	\$425 Million
Underground Storage Tanks	\$550 Million
Full Sewer Separation	\$560 Million
Total Cost of the Comprehensive LTCP Program	\$385 Million

\* These alternatives, standing alone, cannot achieve full compliance with CTDEP requirements.

\*\* Costs primarily borne by private developers /property owners who modify existing drainage systems

+ Cost comes out of existing WPCA Operations & Maintenance budget.

The plan encourages voluntary use (by building owners) of green alternatives to manage their storm water. Green alternatives include installing rain barrels and gardens, cisterns, green roofs and porous pavement surfaces.

The proposed Long-Term Control Plan recommended these improvements:

- Limited separation of combined sanitary and storm water piping
- Raising regulator weirs and closing outfalls (pipes or culverts) that release sewage and storm water into local creeks and rivers during heavy storms
- Underground storage tanks and a conveyance tunnel to treat overflows
- Increased monitoring of sewer overflows and additional water sampling in rivers, creeks, and Long Island Sound
- Increased public communication when sewage overflows occur

It will take at least 30 years to implement all the projects detailed in the Plan.

Hard copies of the Long Term Control Plan are available at the WPCA office, 695 Seaview Avenue, Bridgeport. Discussion of the plan has previously occurred at Bridgeport City Council meetings and will resume in the future.

For more information contact WPCA at (203) 332-5550.



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