



# CITY OF EDMONDS

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
200 2ND AVENUE SO. • EDMONDS, WA 98020  
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MIKE NELSON  
MAYOR

August 25, 2021

## **Subject: Carbon Recovery Project**

Dear Neighbor:

The City of Edmonds Wastewater Treatment Plant has started construction of the project to replace our old sanitary sewage sludge incinerator with a new gasification/pyrolysis process. The project will allow us to develop a recyclable end product, biochar, while at the same time reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our energy efficiency. We understand there will be some impact to the community in terms of construction activity, increased traffic, and a potential for increased odor during the project. We would like to provide you with a brief update.

### **Current Project Status:**

We are waiting on final building permits to be issued before significant construction begins. While waiting the contractor has undertaken some equipment removal inside an existing building here at the WWTP. Scrap metal is being deposited into recycle containers currently parked on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S. and south of Alder Street. These containers will be moved to the west side of the WWTP sometime in October of this year.

Much of the work to be performed here at the WWTP will occur on the west side of the plant and inside an existing building. This should help reduce construction noise and congestion during the day. The old incinerator will be extracted and the new gasification/pyrolysis equipment inserted into the existing building by means of a large door on the west side, away from the residential area. During the month of September, a large odor scrubber will be installed adjacent to and north of the facility's internal parking lot.

From time to time a crane will be brought onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S between Alder and Dayton Streets to unload heavy equipment. When this takes place, the unloading will happen between late morning and early afternoon to minimize disruptions.

The current construction schedule shows that work will be completed by March of 2022. While this date is not firm, it is expected the project will be substantially completed by that time. The contractor will be working Monday through Thursday from approximately 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. (10-hour days) with an occasional Friday as needed. Any work done between 6:00AM and 7:00AM will be inside the building. Although weekend work is not anticipated, should a critical piece of equipment need to be installed without delay, weekend work may be authorized and any advance notice we have will be passed on to you without delay.

While the City has provided limited parking for the contractor close to the WWTP some contractors and WWTP employees may need to park on City streets in the area of the project.

Pedestrian traffic to the south and west sides of the treatment plant will be closed as soon as construction on the Hwy 104 begins. Signs will be posted.

### **Odor Concerns/solids hauling**

In the past, all solids generated during the treatment process were incinerated on site and only inert material (ash) left the premises. During construction of the new system (approx. 7-8 months), dewatered wastewater solids will be hauled from the treatment plant to a land fill in eastern Oregon. This material will be dewatered on site prior to disposal.

These solids are then pumped into containers parked in the facility's internal parking lot. Two containers should be there at all times. The truck drivers who deliver empty containers and remove full containers have been instructed not to block residential driveways. A designated "drop" area has been established on the west side of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S just north of Alder Street for the drivers to temporarily park containers.

Treatment plant staff have been working hard to reduce odor. At present there are three processes being used to accomplish this.

1. Covering the sludge as it is pumped into the container and securely tarping the container once full.
2. Adding a biodegradable liquid to the sludge to neutralize and reduce unpleasant odors.
3. Using an air odorant (starting in the next few weeks). This approach has been used successfully in similar applications throughout the country as a temporary measure.

And of course, other means to eliminate and/or mask any unpleasant odors will be used if these measures are not effective.

As soon as the new gasification/pyrolysis equipment is installed and ready for operation the wastewater solids hauling effort will end. Although the exact date is not certain, it is expected the hauling will end sometime in February of 2022.

We hope this information is useful to you. Please feel free to contact me or Michael Derrick here at the treatment plant if you have other questions. We will be happy to discuss the project or hear your suggestions. Sometime next year as well, we would like to invite you over to celebrate the end of the project, celebrate the big step forward this represents environmentally, and give you a guided tour of our award-winning treatment plant!

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Yours truly,



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