



# CITY OF EDMONDS

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
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MIKE NELSON  
MAYOR

September 27, 2021

## **Subject: Carbon Recovery Project; Update #2**

Dear Neighbor:

The City of Edmonds Wastewater Treatment Plant has started construction of the project to replace the old sanitary sewage sludge incinerator with a new gasification/pyrolysis process. The project will allow the development of a recyclable end product, biochar, while at the same time reducing the plant's carbon footprint and increasing its energy efficiency. We understand there will be some negative impact to the community due to construction activity, increased traffic, and a potential for increased odor during the project. We would like to provide you with this brief update #2.

### **Current Project Status:**

Demolition work is proceeding in the solids handling building. Smaller parts of the old incinerator are being dismantled and removed via the east side door of the plant. Scrap metal is being recycled. Salvaged items have been retained by treatment plant staff for use in other areas of the plant. The odor scrubber equipment has arrived and will soon be installed and made operational.

We are hopeful that the City's building permit and the State's right-of-way permit will be issued by the first week in October and then full construction will begin. When these permits are issued, a large door will be cut into the west side wall of the solids handling building (the SR 104 side of the plant) and a loading dock will be installed there. Through this door the old incinerator will be removed and the new gasification/pyrolysis equipment will be inserted.

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 west side of the plant next to Highway 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 biosolids as they are pumped into the container and securely tarping the container once full.
2. Adding a biodegradable liquid to the biosolids to neutralize and reduce unpleasant odors.
3. Using an air odorant to mitigate odors from any exposed biosolids. A 55-gallon barrel of cherry scented liquid has been installed on the roof of the plant's building closest to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S. Once every fifteen minutes a 3 second burst of odorant will be ejected from this barrel.

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 or you would like a copy of a previous update. We will be happy to discuss the project and/or hear your suggestions. Sometime next year 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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