

DISTRICT DIGEST

Vol. 11 / Issue 2 / May-June 2022

BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

BSD OFFSETS ELECTRICAL COSTS WITH CLEAN SOLAR ENERGY

In 2021, the Brunswick Sewer District partnered with South Portland-based ReVision Energy to offset its electricity usage with clean solar energy. By utilizing Maine's Net Energy Billing policy, the Sewer District is taking advantage of a solar array not even located in Brunswick. The Sewer District recently signed on to a 4.2-Megawatt array built in Acton, ME. Made up of over 11,000 solar panels, this project will offset the energy use of multiple municipalities, including the Freeport School District, Town of Yarmouth, Brunswick and Topsham Water District, as well as the Brunswick Sewer District.

The project is offsetting over 75% of the Sewer District's energy usage, which will save the District money as well as advance their environmental mission.



"For the Brunswick Sewer District the decision to go solar was basic economics," said Rob Pontau, General Manager of the District, "If we can save money on our energy costs with little to no effort, then why wouldn't we? It's a huge bonus that our efforts to reduce costs also benefit the environment. Our mission is 'to protect the health and environment of the communities we serve through wastewater

collection and treatment in an environmentally responsible, efficient, and reliable manner.' Although it's not wastewater collection and treatment, this solar project is environmentally and fiscally responsible and it aligns with our mission to protect the health and environment of the communities we serve. It's a win-win!"

In total, this array will offset over 5.5 million pounds of carbon emissions. This is equivalent to taking 871 cars off the road, or planting over 66,000 tree seedlings. Wondering how solar energy like this works? [Check out ReVision's video.](#)

ReVision Energy finished building the array in December and the Sewer District was able to attend the ribbon cutting over at the site in Acton. ReVision worked with national independent renewable power producer, Soltagge, on the project.



"We're pleased to partner with ReVision Energy to bring additional clean energy to the residents of Maine," said Jesse Grossman, President and CEO at Soltagge. "The project

(Continued on back)

Recognition

Congratulations to our employees celebrating an anniversary in the 2nd quarter:

Jason Prout	<i>Lab Technician</i>	25 years
Darcy Dutton	<i>Customer Service and Billing Clerk</i>	19 years
Brandon Elwell	<i>Collection/Pumping Operator</i>	3 years

Thank you, Jason, Darcy, and Brandon for your service to the District!

(Continued from front)

demonstrates what's possible when policy makers and the private sector join forces to advance the energy transition, and we're happy to be able to contribute our expertise to the initiative."

Interested in solar to offset your home's electrical use? ReVision has a variety of options available for Brunswick residents, from rooftop solar to community solar, which operates much like the Acton array. Keep an eye on their [social media](#) or check out their [website](#) for more information.



REMINDERS

2022 OUTSIDE WATERING CREDITS

Do you do substantial watering of a lawn or garden? Do you have a pool or hot tub to fill? Do you flood an ice rink in the winter? You may be eligible for an outside watering credit. **TO REQUEST THIS ADJUSTMENT, PLEASE E-MAIL info@brunswicksewer.org or CALL 729-0148 in the spring of 2022 when you begin watering outside** to be placed on the list for the entire 2022 season. **Your e-mail or call to us must be received before bills are processed. The district will NOT process any late notifications.**

POLICY AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020

These two amendments require the installation of a sub-meter to receive an adjustment for outside water use. You may view the "Sewer Use Billing Adjustment Policy" which can be found on our webpage (www.brunswicksewer.org) under the "POLICY" tab.

New Construction/Connections: All new residential and commercial connections to the public sewer system who wish to receive a billing adjustment for water not entering the public sewer **MUST use a sub-meter** per the requirements noted in the "SUB-METERED use" section.

Property Ownership Transfers: All new owners of public sewer connected residential and commercial properties who wish to receive a billing adjustment for water not entering the public sewer **MUST use a**

sub-meter per the requirements noted in the "SUB-METERED use" section.

Please contact us should you have questions concerning these policy amendments.

OTHER REMINDERS

When experiencing a sewer system problem, please contact the district **FIRST**. The 24-hour emergency number is **207-729-0148**. Make sure your plumber calls Maine Natural Gas before any tools are placed in your line.

Thinking of doing some yard work? Before your contractor digs, call DIG SAFE (1-888-344-7233). It's free and it's the law.

Sewer bills may be paid by:

- Credit card or by e-check online, with a fee charged. (Fee is 2.75% of transaction amount with a \$1.95 minimum. Fee for e-check \$1.) Please visit our website www.brunswicksewer.org for instructions.
- Automatic deduction from your checking or savings account (no fee charged). Go to our website and select the "I Want To" tab, then "Set Up Direct Payment." Complete the form and mail it to us at 10 Pine Tree Road, Brunswick, ME 04011 to complete the set up. Do not send in paperwork as a form of payment for your **current** bill; we need to process the set up with the banking institution **prior** to the billing.

Please like us on Facebook. Follow us @brunswicksewer on Twitter and Instagram.



FUN FACTS FROM THE SEWER GUY

THE "WE ALL DO IT" EDITION

The oldest fossilized poop found in North America is said to be 14,000 years old.

The oldest fossilized poop ever found was in Spain dating 50,000 years old.

The largest human poop ever found is on display in a UK museum belonging to a Viking Man documented to be 7.87" long and 1.97" across. OUCH!

To end the winter off on the right foot: Some of the most enlightening yet useful words in music left to us by the late great Frank Zappa "Watch out where the Huskies go, and don't you eat that yellow snow". There is nothing more to say!