

Digester Walls Going Up on NEW Water's R2E2 Construction Project

Energy-Forward Project Will be Visible from Tower Drive Bridge

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GREEN BAY (March 24) – Construction is humming along for NEW Water's new solids handling facility, Resource Recovery and Electrical Energy, or R2E2. Anaerobic digester walls are scheduled to be raised as early as next week.

Construction of the \$169-million project launched in 2015, and is scheduled for completion in 2018. In 2008, NEW Water began planning for the new solids facility to address aging infrastructure, stricter environmental standards, and needs for greater capacity.



Above: Computer-generated image of R2E2's anaerobic digesters, currently under construction. The digesters will stand approximately 114' above ground and approx. 60' wide, be visible from Highway 43 and the Tower Drive Bridge in Green Bay.



Above: The iconic red-and-white stacks of NEW Water's current solids handling facility. This structure will be replaced by R2E2, and is set to be demolished in 2019-20.

"R2E2 represents a new philosophy for NEW Water, one that views what is sent to us not as a waste, but as a resource to be recovered," said Tom Sigmund, Executive Director of NEW Water.

The project will use anaerobic digestion to generate energy and produce electricity, resulting in an approximate 50% reduction in energy costs per year. Anaerobic digestion is back to the future for NEW Water, since digesters were used from the 1930s through the 1970s, when NEW Water began accepting industrial waste from the paper mills. At that time, the combination of industrial and municipal waste was not conducive to anaerobic digestion.

With R2E2, NEW Water will be able to accept different wastes, such as dairy, sugar, and food processing, in addition to traditional waste, which will also boost energy production, and result in a significant savings in cost, and energy output.

Further, struvite – a combination of magnesium, nitrogen, and phosphorus naturally present in wastewater – will be harvested and made into commercial fertilizer, and bring in about \$400,000 in non-ratepayer revenue annually.

To learn more about R2E2, please:

- View a time-lapse of R2E2 construction here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pg5DWAeB5Yk>
- Watch the R2E2 informational video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHJsXNGDMDA>
- Visit our website here: <http://www.newwater.us/projects/r2e2-project/>
- Sign up to take a tour – open to the public – here: <http://www.newwater.us/education/tours/>

About NEW Water

NEW Water, the brand of Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, is a wholesale provider of wastewater treatment and conveyance services to 18 municipalities, and approximately 231,000 people through a 285-square-mile area in Northeast Wisconsin. NEW Water strives to lead water quality improvements for the bay of Green Bay through operational excellence, resource recovery, education, and watershed management.

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