

A Sustainability Story: Waste to Wood

Name: _____

Use one of the words from the word bank in each of the blanks in the Waste to Wood story below. Each word should only be used once. Use context clues, along with the things you learned in the MWMC Sustainability Video, to determine which word belongs in which blank.

Wastewater
Sustainability
Recycled
Biosolids
Renewable
Wood

Farms
Pipes
Waste
Microorganisms
Harvested
Landfill

Biocycle
Toilet
Poplar
Fertilizer
Solids
Non-Renewable

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission cleans water for the entire Eugene-Springfield region, and strives to do so in a sustainable way. _____ is the act of taking good care of the resources we have and reducing waste. One way that the MWMC does this is turning waste into _____.

It's a simple fact, everyone pees and poops! When human waste is flushed down the _____, it's transported in wastewater underground through large _____ to the Regional _____ Treatment Plant in North Eugene. At the plant, solids are physically removed from wastewater in large tanks called primary clarifiers. The _____ settle to the bottom of the clarifiers through gravity, and then are pumped to anaerobic digesters to be treated by _____ and processed into biosolids.



After that, the _____ are pumped underground to the Biosolids Management Facility, where they decompose in large lagoons over several years. Once they're done processing, the biosolids are ready to use as a safe, nutrient-rich _____. That fertilizer is applied on the MWMC's Biocycle Farm to help our _____ trees grow. It's also applied on grass _____ to help local farmers. This is an example of sustainability in action – instead of trashing biosolids in a _____, we reuse them in a way that benefits our local environment. _____ water, or treated wastewater, is also used on the _____ Farm to irrigate the poplars.

After the poplar trees grow for about 12 years, they're _____ and turned into plywood, wood chips, and other wood products that are sold to provide a renewable resource for our community. That's what sustainability is all about – reducing _____ and producing/using _____ resources that can be easily replaced or naturally regrown rather than _____, or limited, natural resources that cannot be easily replaced.



Metropolitan Wastewater MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



partners in wastewater management