

WORKING FOR GREEN, AND FOR GOOD

Camden County MUA's Community Service and Green Jobs Programs

Andrew Kricun, P.E., BCEE

Executive Director/Chief Engineer

Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority



October 15, 2018



The greater good of the world is largely due to the unhistoric acts of the faithful men and women who may rest in unvisited tombs.”

~George Eliot

Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, Camden, NJ

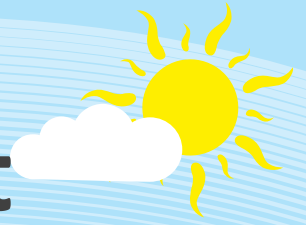


Services 500,000 customers in
Southern NJ

- Design Flow: 80 MGD
- Average Flow: 58 MGD
- Secondary, pure oxygen activated sludge treatment
- Discharges to Delaware River



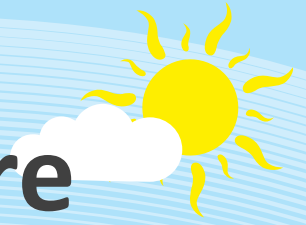
The Clean Water Utility of the Past



- Permit compliance is the ceiling of aspirations
- Minimal interaction with Community and Regulatory Agencies



The Clean Water Utility of the Future



- Permit compliance is the floor
- The Utility of the Future is a proactive environmental and community service partner
 - ✓ Effluent optimization
 - ✓ Water reuse
 - ✓ Cost efficiency
 - ✓ Asset management
 - ✓ Reducing carbon footprint/Green energy
 - ✓ Green Infrastructure
 - ✓ Community service
 - ✓ Organizational culture/workforce development



Four Levels/Stages of Utility Investment in Their Communities



- Indifference
- Do No Harm
- Be a Good Neighbor
- Be a Proactive Advocate and Anchor Institution that is Invested in the Quality of Life of our Community



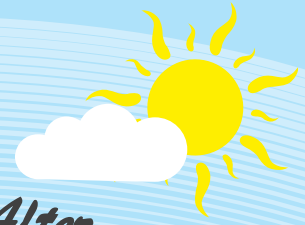
Becoming a Good Neighbor- Environmental Justice Initiatives



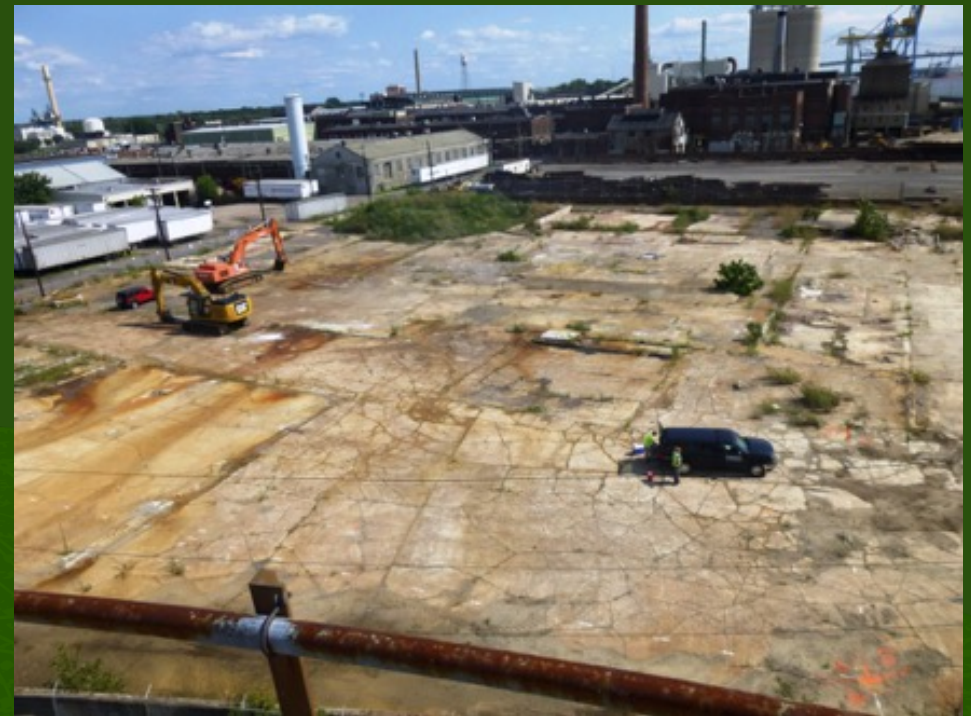
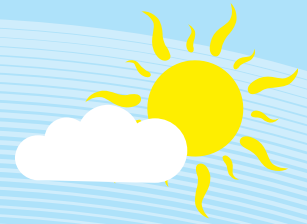
- Reduced rates for Camden City residents (Host Community Benefit)
- Creation of 100 acres of riverfront parkland & rain gardens
- Creation of green jobs for Camden residents



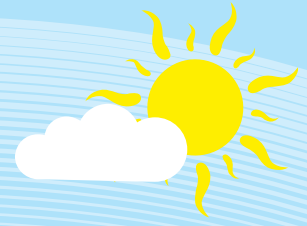
Waterfront South Rain Gardens Green Infrastructure on Brownfield Sites- *Before & After*



Phoenix Park Project- *Before*



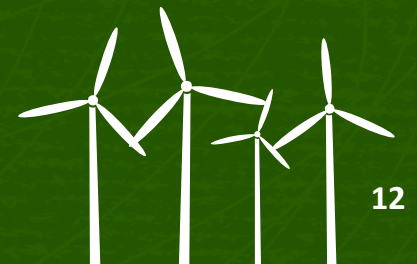
Phoenix Park Project- *After*



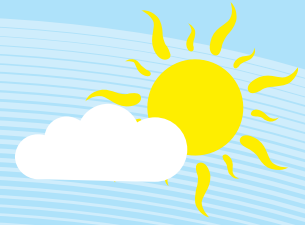
Baldwin's Run Stream Daylighting Project- *Before*



Baldwin's Run Stream Daylighting Project- *After*



Green Job Opportunities



- Power Corps- *partnership with AmeriCorps to provide green infrastructure maintenance jobs and life skills training to 180 at-risk young men & women over 3 years*
- Green Ambassadors- *partnership with EPA, NPS and others to provide green jobs over the summer for Camden high school students with an interest in environmental science*

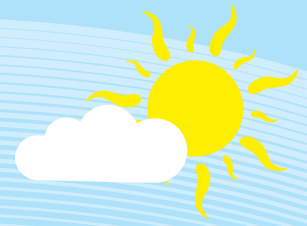




**POWER
CORPS**
CAMDEN



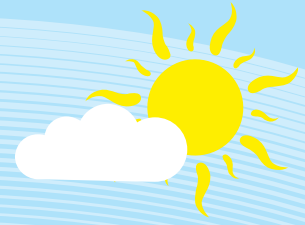
Maintaining Green Infrastructure



PowerCorps routinely maintains about two dozen green stormwater infrastructure sites

Here the members cleanout a curb line inlet that had become clogged with debris, to ensure that the rain garden can operate as intended.

Maintaining Grey Infrastructure



PowerCorps also assists CCMUA and Camden City in grey infrastructure maintenance, through street sweeping, clearing clogs out of inlets, and clearing away debris and illegal dumping

This kind of straightforward maintenance is critical. Even if there were no additional investment, it alone can go a long way toward reducing flood incidence.

Professional and Career Development



Upper left:
Members receive classroom style trainings, where they learn the fundamental of grey and green stormwater infra.



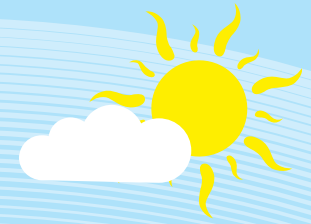
Lower left:
PowerCorps also offers the chance to practice workforce readiness skills, such as interview preparedness and public speaking.



Lower Right: Exceptional members have already been hired by the CCMUA and other community partners.



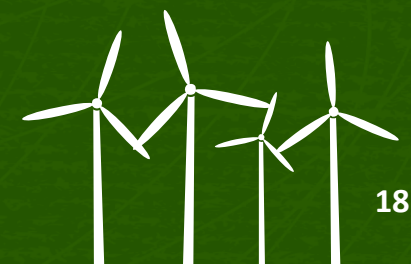
Leveraging PowerCorps for Community Partnerships:



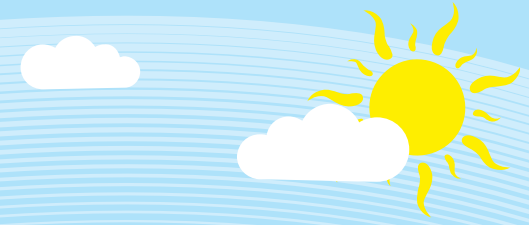
Community Gardens

Left Side: PowerCorps members assist in caring for tomatoes (and gathering chickens!) at a County test farm.

Right Side: Members assist a local urban agriculture nonprofit in building new raised beds.



Leveraging PowerCorps for Community Partnerships:

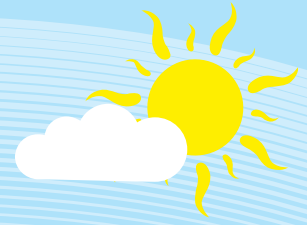


Preserving Natural Beauty

Clockwise (from top): Along stream corridors and at the Cramer Hill Nature Preserve, members place barriers to deter motorized traffic, and plant new trees, and remove illegal dumping debris.



Green Ambassador Program



- Ten High School underclassmen per summer
- 5 week themed program – 25 days of green activities
- Partners include USEPA, National Park Service, NJ Tree Foundation, Rutgers, etc.
- Green Ambassadors improve their own resumes and go back to their schools to promote environmental action



Green Ambassadors – Final Project 2017



Members received a gift of beautiful lumber from NJDEP's Forest Resource Education Center. Here they are sanding it down and priming it.

Green Ambassadors – Final Project 2017



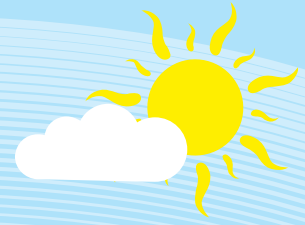
With the assistance of CCMUA staff, the ambassadors fastened the lumber together and prepared it for installation.

Green Ambassadors – Final Project 2017



And cemented the benches into place in Phoenix Park, for community enjoyment!

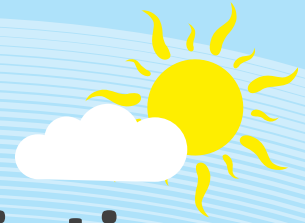
Who are the Partners?



- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
- National Park Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Camden County
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- Urban Promise Academy
- Cooper's Ferry Partnership
- N.J. Tree Foundation
- Rutgers Cooperative Education
- N.J. Academy for Aquatic Sciences
- Center for Environmental Transformation



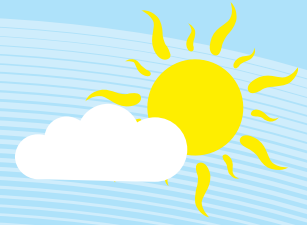
Environmental & Community Service Leadership- Camden Collaborative Initiative



- Collaboration among USEPA, NJDEP, CCMUA, Camden City and 60 other environmental and community service agencies, to address environmental issues
- Six working groups formed:
 - Flooding
 - Air Emissions
 - Contaminated Sites
 - Recycling
 - Environmental Justice
 - Environmental Education



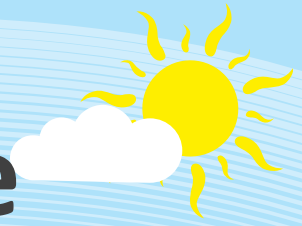
Camden SMART



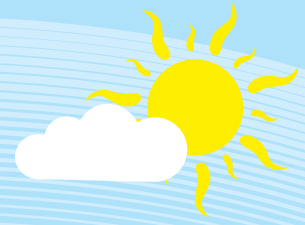
City of Camden
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority
Cooper's Ferry Development Association
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
NJ Tree Foundation



Camden Collaborative Initiative



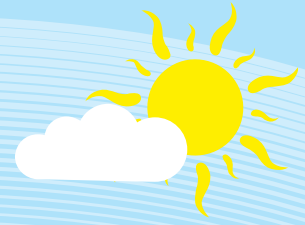
Permanent Job Opportunities



- Over 50% of CCMUA employees are eligible for retirement within the next five years
- This is a very common situation across the clean water industry



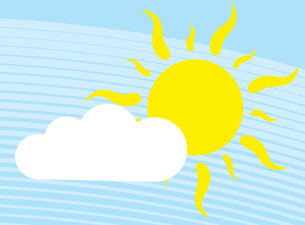
Permanent Job Opportunities *(cont'd)*



- Clean water utilities are often located in neighborhoods where unemployment is higher than national averages (Camden's rate is just under 10%)
- **The opportunity, then, is to develop a program where our neighbors, who need jobs, can be trained to become the replacement workers that we need**
- Training programs, like Bayworks, can be a national model for replication across the County



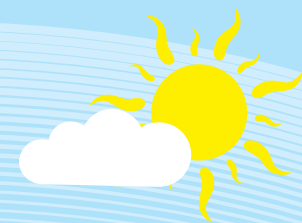
Conclusion



The Clean Water Utilities of the Future have the opportunity, and the obligation, to “become the change we seek” and do our part to help save the planet and improve the quality of life for our neighbors by providing environmental and community service leadership.



Thanks for Listening!



If you would like more information, please contact:

Andrew Kricun, P.E., BCEE
Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority
Camden, NJ 08104
(856)583-1223
andy@ccmua.org

