

Authority Times

News and Information for Customers
of the Borough of Conshohocken Authority

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BCA Hosts Poo & Brew Tour

The Conshohocken Borough Authority was proud to host one of Herbert, Rowland & Grubic's (HRG) Poo & Brew events. Poo & Brew is where a wastewater facility is selected to host a tour of their plant and afterward, everyone meets at a local brewery. We met at Conshohocken Brewing Co. and had a wonderful time there! In all, 34 people attended and enjoyed beautiful weather for our tour.

This was a fantastic opportunity to connect with industry professionals and showcase the unique aspects of our wastewater treatment facility. The diversity and challenges of wastewater treatment plants, especially how our compact facility maximizes efficiency despite space constraints, seemed to be an impressive feature to those in attendance.

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Chair

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Secretary/Treasurer

CHRISTINE BERTINO

JACK AMBLER

MEETINGS

January 28

February 25

March 25

April 22

May 27

June 24

Meetings are held in
the Borough Hall:
400 Fayette Street

Meeting time 6:30 pm



Rain Barrel Credits Available

Borough of Conshohocken customers who install a rain barrel to capture stormwater from a downspout can qualify for a one-time rebate of \$100.

This credit is eligible once per account. A new rain barrel credit shall be available to subsequent purchasers of property that previously received a rain barrel credit, provided that it has been at least two years since the issuance of a rain barrel credit for the property. In no event shall a rain barrel

credit be applied to a property that has received a rain barrel credit within the prior two years.

If interested in applying for the Rain Barrel Rebate, simply complete the Stormwater Management Credit Application which can be found on our website, www.conshohockensa.com. Click on the Stormwater Tab then select the "Stormwater Management Program Credit and Appeals Manual."

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What's the Deal with Toilet Paper?

The importance of choosing the right type of toilet paper, particularly in terms of environmental impact and functionality goes beyond quilted versus unquilted. Here are the key points:

1. **Flushing Issues with Non-Flushable Wipes:** Sewer utilities have faced increased maintenance costs due to people flushing non-flushable items like wipes. Even wipes labeled as “flushable” can cause clogs and spills, emphasizing that toilet paper is the only product that is truly safe to flush.

2. **Environmental Concerns:** The production of toilet paper, especially from virgin wood fibers, contributes to deforestation. It is estimated that toilet paper production accounts for 10-15% of global deforestation. However, toilet paper made from recycled paper is more eco-friendly



and dissolves more easily in water.

3. **Sustainable Alternatives:** Bamboo toilet paper is highlighted as a more sustainable alternative to paper made from virgin forest materials. Bamboo is soft, strong, and dissolves well in water, offering a compromise between comfort and en-

vironmental responsibility. Many bamboo toilet papers are sold online.

4. **U.S. Consumption:** Americans use more toilet paper than any other country, consuming about 20% of the global supply. The average American uses 100 rolls per year. With a simple change, like switching one roll of virgin-fiber toilet paper to one made from 100% recycled paper, American households could save approximately 425,000 trees annually.

5. **The NRDC's “Issue with Tissue” Report:** The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) evaluates toilet paper brands based on their sustainability. In 2021, 11 brands made from recycled materials received high ratings (A or A+), while many major brands that use virgin forest materials received failing grades (F). Find the scorecard at [nrdc.org](https://www.nrdc.org).

Rain Barrel Credits are Available

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The application is at the end of the manual on page 20. The completed application can be emailed to emongan@conshohockensa.com. The application can also be hand delivered or mailed to the Borough of Conshohocken Authority, 400 Fayette Street, Suite 200, Conshohocken, PA. 19428, c/o Edward Mongan.

BCA Hosts Poo & Brew Tour

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The comparisons between our facility and the neighboring facilities, as well as our use of Rotating Biological Contactors (RBCs) instead of Trickle Filters, was particularly interesting to some of our guests. It highlights how technological innovation can address specific needs—like space limitations—while ensuring effective treatment. There was great interest in the Odor Control System, as odor management is a common issue in the industry.

The Authority remains actively engaged in industry education, not only through the Poo & Brew type events, but also by attend-

ing webinars and seminars, continuing education, touring other plants and maintaining membership with several environmental organizations. This kind of collaboration and learning is crucial for continuing to improve water treatment methods and advancing the field of wastewater.

The BCA will be hosting the Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association meeting in May 2025. This is a wonderful opportunity to further exchange ideas and showcase our facility's practices to a larger audience. We expect between 150 to 200 people to visit our plant and dozens of vendors in the expo tent.

Tips to Avoid Frozen Water Pipes This Winter

Leaky pipes that go unnoticed can easily become broken pipes, and in freezing temperatures even healthy pipes are vulnerable. Here are ways to prevent pipes from breaking and causing damage and costly repairs:

- Insulate exposed pipes and faucets outside and around your home, including those in unheated areas like basements, garages, attics or crawl-spaces.
- In severe cold, let cold water drip from faucets served by exposed pipes. Running a drip of water through the pipes helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water is above freezing.
- If a pipe does break on your property, know where your water meter is and how to turn water off immediately to avoid further damage and water waste. Assess the damage immediately. Pipes can be thawed with a hair dryer.
- If you are taking a vacation or will be away for several days, turn off your water at the meter in case damage occurs or ask someone to watch your home in your absence.
- Outdoor hoses should be removed and stored. If available, shutoff outdoor water supply.

