WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Resource Recovery Efforts

Bio-Solids

Compost

As part of their zero waste goals, the city purchased the neighboring compost facility where bio-solids have been disposed of for years. City ownership of Garden City Compost has spurred exciting organic waste chain partnerships. Several new private compost collection services have formed, and bigger vendors like Logjam Presents have switched to compostable food and beverage containers, diverting thousands of pounds of waste from the landfill.

Effluent

Poplar Farm

Forest Products

Missoula is one of few municipalities that does land application of their effluent, or liquid waste. The 160-acre irrigated poplar farm next to the treatment plant currently acts as a carbon sink and will be harvested in a couple of years. The wood will be sold for local construction and wood products.

River

Algae Research

Clearas Water Recovery, an experimental private company hosted on site, uses some of the effluent to research methods of growing algae that can be used for feed and other products. The process could someday act as an additional step in the treatment process by removing even more phosphates and nitrates.

Methane

Cogeneration

A uniquely designed on-site cogen facility captures heat from methane and uses the excess to produce power via a methane generator. The new technology at the plant has thus far been able to produce about 25% of the plant's electricity during peak operating hours.