



Municipal *connections*

Fall 2023
www.alcosan.org

ALCOSAN awards over \$3.5 million for 12 GROW projects

Workshops set for local elected officials to learn about using GROW to meet their Consent Orders

ALCOSAN's board of directors and staff are thrilled to announce that in the eighth cycle of the Green Revitalization of our Waterways (GROW) grant program, nine of ALCOSAN's partner municipalities and municipal authorities have been offered over \$3.5 million in grants. This funding will be instrumental in removing nearly 14 million gallons of excess water from the overflow system.

The GROW program, established by ALCOSAN, aims to support source reduction projects in partner communities and authorities. By providing funding for initiatives such as sewer

separation, sewer lining, green stormwater infrastructure, and multi-municipal approaches to source reduction, GROW plays a vital role in improving water quality and reducing the strain on our sewer systems.

Since its inception, the GROW program has awarded grants totaling over \$63 million for approximately 159 projects. These grants have been instrumental in leveraging an additional \$61 million in funding from municipal, authority, and third-party sources. The combined efforts of these projects are projected to significantly reduce the volume of overflows into the region's waterways, estimated to be more than 216 million gallons of overflow per year.

All municipalities or municipal sewer authorities within the ALCOSAN service area are eligible to apply for GROW grants.

This inclusive approach allows for a wide range of communities to benefit from the program and contribute to the overall improvement of the region's water infrastructure.

The GROW program serves as a valuable resource in promoting sustainable and efficient wastewater management practices, and ALCOSAN remains committed to supporting its customer municipalities and authorities in their efforts to protect the environment and enhance the quality of life for their residents.

We congratulate the nine municipalities and municipal authorities that have been offered these grants and commend them for their commitment to environmental stewardship. Together, we can continue to revitalize our waterways and create a sustainable future for our communities.

Attend a regional meeting to learn how GROW can help you meet your CAO obligations

Mark your calendars to attend one of four regional meetings of municipal elected officials and managers, sponsored by ALCOSAN and 3 Rivers Wet Weather. These meetings will detail the requirements for municipalities to reduce their excess flow from entering the system, and how the GROW program can help.

Dates and locations for the meetings are:

- **Tuesday, October 17, 7 p.m. at the Carnegie Borough Building (One Veterans Way, Carnegie, PA 15106)**
- **Tuesday, October 24, 7 p.m. at the Ross Township Community Center (1000 Ross Municipal Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237)**

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- **Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m. at the Churchill Borough Building (2300 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15235)**
- **Thursday, November 9, 7 p.m. at the Green Tree Municipal Center (10 West Manilla Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15220)**

RSVP [here](#).

"GROW projects have been very successful. It's just refreshing to know the projects that are being awarded and worked on with the amount of overflows being taken care of is just tremendous," said Sylvia Wilson, Chairperson of ALCOSAN's Board of Directors.
"It has turned into a terrific program."

"GROW has been a game changer for our municipalities" said Rep. Emily Kinkead, member of ALCOSAN's Board of Directors."

ALCOSAN'S Municipal Partners show how Regionalization works

Our municipal customers continue to move forward together, cleaning up our rivers and streams as they go. They are working to complete the transfer of multi-municipal trunk sewers and facilities to ALCOSAN, as well as assisting in preparing and submitting DEP permit transfer applications, the final step before transfer.

Working together, we have accomplished:

- 17.5 miles of sewers transferred;
- Transfer has been completed in seven Points of Connection (POC);
- Another 35 POCs are in process to move 73.91 more miles of sewers to transfer; and
- ALCOSAN and several municipalities are in active discussions about transferring two pump stations from municipal operations, maintenance and costs to the Authority.

Our Manager of Regionalization Julie Spicher and her staff are fully available to help our municipalities complete the transfer process, explore the post-closing repair option as an alternative to making the repairs prior to transfer, and/or collaborate on municipal COA requirements related to Regionalization.

If you haven't started the process yet, it's easy to start. Municipalities should pass the Resolution to transfer and send us an electronic copy of the signed Resolution(s).

Questions? We have answers! Please contact Julia Spicher (Julia.spicher@alcosan.org) if you need more information about the program or where your municipality stands in the program.



You could get up to \$1 million from the state of Pennsylvania



Applications are now being accepted for grants up to \$1 million each from Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) until November 20, 2023. Municipalities, Municipal Authorities, Councils of Government and others, are all eligible to apply. Infrastructure, construction, planning, and designing are just some of the eligible uses. For additional information, please follow the link:

<https://dced.pa.gov/download/pa-gaming-statewide-local-share-account-guide-lines-2022/?wpdmdl=113332>

ALCOSAN's Municipal Customers, friends and families join our free Open House on September 16

Under bright blue sunny skies, ALCOSAN welcomed all to our award-winning 2023 Open House. Our visitors, whether first timers or seasoned veterans, were amazed by the plant expansion construction towering over the Open House area. But everyone knew there was fun – and education – to be had, and they had a great time celebrating all things clean water.

Parking in our new employees' garage was a new experience, and as the heat increased, visitors were happy to not have to return to a hot car! Our visitors enjoyed 27 new and returning exhibits and hands-on projects and tours. From the Fish Pond to Live Animal Presentations to hearing directly from ALCOSAN staff proudly showing their work to playing the EnviroBowl game, everyone seemed to be having as much fun and they could.

There were surprises, too. ALCOSAN's Scholastic Outreach workers unveiled Frankie's Science on the Go, Scholastic Outreach's STEM-focused lab on wheels. Tim Prevost, our manager of wet weather, happily designed custom raingardens

for all who wanted one. Lot of kiddos played in the Future Plumbers Waterworks. Parents and little kids took full advantage of Frankie's Kiddie Cove, the perfect place to de-stress and relax before charging back out to the other exhibits.

This year, the Authority unveiled the Clean Water Zone, detailing the four major technologies and projects needed to reduce sewage-tainted stormwater from our rivers and streams.

- Treatment Plant Expansion - Right now, we can treat up to 250 million gallons of sewage daily. By 2036, we will more than double our treatment capacity, all on our existing space;
- Regional Tunnel System - We are building large tunnels (18 feet across) deep under the rivers (150 feet down) to take the annual billions of gallons of excess overflows during heavy rain and snow, and deliver it to our expanded plant;
- Source Control and the Green Revitalization of our Waterways Program - Our

municipalities are working to reduce their contribution to excess flow, and the GROW Program is helping them pay for that work; and

- Regionalization - Our municipalities are working to turn their large, multi-municipal sewer pipes over to ALCOSAN to operate, maintain and repair.

Of course, everyone attending received bags, water and water bottles, prizes and even lunch! And how big was the Open House? We had 1,502 guests, served 1,890 boxed lunches and 3,700 bottles of water, 1,200 ALCOSAN bags and 1,000 dishwasher-safe water bottles. It all ran smoothly, thanks to our 271 volunteers.

Michelle Buys, Director of Environmental Compliance, echoed the widespread sentiment about Open House, that ALCOSAN's Open House Day (OHD) was "a fantastic day!" She added, "The weather was great. We had great participation from families, and many people took tours for the first time."

Open House is a free event held every September.



Please direct questions or requests to:

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