



# Municipal connections

December 2021  
www.alcosan.org

## Municipalities moving forward on Regionalization

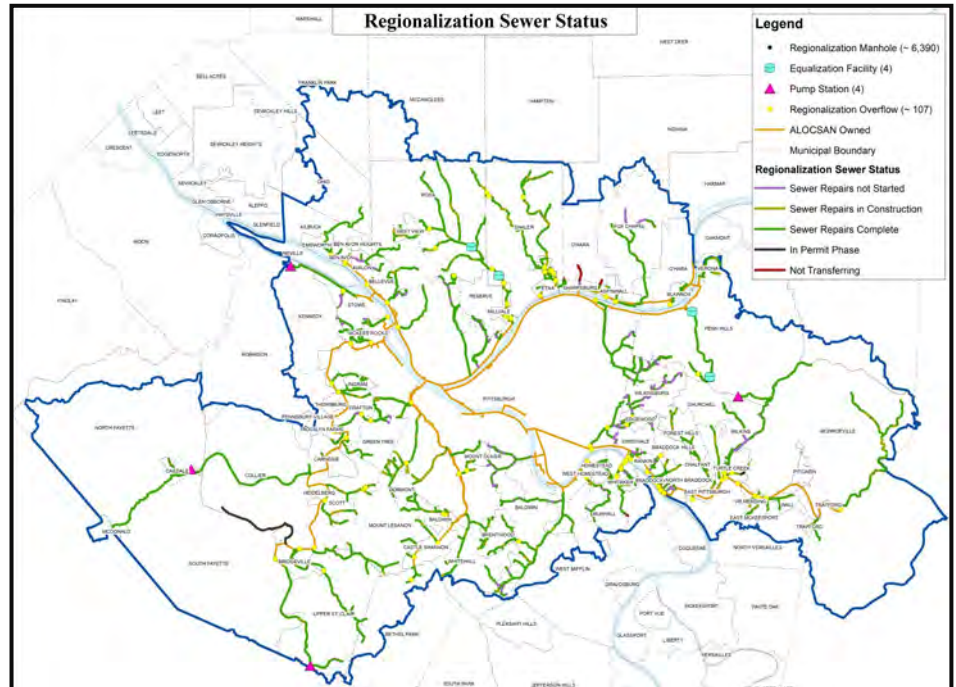
Many municipalities are in the process of addressing, or have completed, repairs and continue to advance toward the goal of transferring ownership and operation of multi-municipal trunk sewers to ALCOSAN.

But some are having difficulty with the permitting and transfer process. Here are a few tips to help you during this phase:

**Permitting:** You can greatly speed up the transfer process by providing a copy of your permits. If you have been unable to locate a copy of your permit(s), don't worry. ALCOSAN is ready to support customer municipalities by completing Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) record searches. Simply email Julia Spicher, ALCOSAN's Regionalization manager, [Julia.spicher@alcosan.org](mailto:Julia.spicher@alcosan.org), for assistance.

**Transfer Agreements:** Your Transfer Agreement binder includes a checklist to help walk you through what documentation is required to complete the execution process. Reach out to Julia Spicher if you have related questions or need a copy of your Agreement.

Thanks to all who participated in our recent municipal



Regionalization Sewer Status as of December 2021

workshops to discuss regionalization and ALCOSAN's Green Revitalization of Our Waterways (GROW) program. Soon we will schedule follow-up sessions with communities that requested multi-municipal meetings about regionalization, source controls and Municipal Consent Order and Agreement compliance.

### Help may be just a call or click away...

If you, or someone you know, needs assistance paying your sewer bill, ALCOSAN's Clean Water Assistance Fund is available for homeowners who are ALCOSAN customers. Administered by Dollar Energy Fund, the program is open to households with an income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty guidelines.



For more information, contact Dollar Energy Fund at 1-888-282-6816 or [www.dollarenergyfund.org](http://www.dollarenergyfund.org)



## Clean Water Assistance Fund increased

ALCOSAN increased the Clean Water Assistance Fund award amount to \$40 per quarter, beginning Jan. 1, 2022. This is the largest increase since the Fund was created in 2016. The Fund's credit is applied to a customer's account by the agency that bills for sewage treatment, usually a municipality or water agency.

Homeowners with an income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty guidelines should contact the Fund's administrator, Dollar Energy Fund, 1-888-282-6816 or [www.dollarenergyfund.org](http://www.dollarenergyfund.org).

More details are available [here](#).

## Five-year rate increase set, allowing long-term budgeting

ALCOSAN announced a new five-year rate structure that increases rates starting January 1, 2022. The average homeowner will pay an increase of \$36 annually or \$3 a month, with similar increases in the following years. The five-year period allows residents, businesses and municipalities that are part of the ALCOSAN system to plan budgets for the long term without the prospect of surprise increases. These rates are also lower than those required under ALCOSAN's original federal consent decree.

ALCOSAN – a fully ratepayer-funded authority – will use the increase to finance [Clean Water Plan](#) activities, which is the Authority's blueprint for removing 7 billion gallons of overflows from our waterways, making our rivers and streams healthier and cleaner. These infrastructure projects include funding our [GROW program](#), [plant expansion](#), [regionalization](#), and our new [regional tunnel system](#).

Qualified homeowners in the ALCOSAN territory can reduce their bills by applying to the Authority's [Clean Water Assistance Fund](#). Details of the application process are available at Dollar Energy Fund, at [dollarenergy.org](#).

Visit the ALCOSAN website [for more information](#).

## New GROW Grant Cycle starts February 1



As you know, the ALCOSAN Board of Directors awarded GROW grants over \$22 million to 15 source control projects in September. As one cycle finishes, another begins!

Municipalities recently attended workshops by ALCOSAN and 3 Rivers Wet Weather staff to discuss potential GROW projects,

Regionalization and the impact on Municipal Consent Order Agreements (COAs). The goal was to identify GROW projects for the upcoming cycle of awards

The next GROW Cycle officially begins Feb. 1, 2022, when Letters of Interest will begin being accepted. All LOIs should be postmarked by the March 31, 2022 deadline. ALCOSAN does not accept hand-delivered packages due to continuing COVID-19 safety protocols.

If you have questions about GROW, please email: [GROW@alcosan.org](mailto:GROW@alcosan.org). We look forward to continued collaboration with our municipalities.

**Reminder: 2021 fourth quarter progress reports for open GROW projects are due in January. ALCOSAN staff will reach out to you.**

## REMEMBER: Submit wasteload management and municipal information requests

ALCOSAN mailed municipality customers a certified letter and sent an email with requests for information to meet requirement of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code, Section 94.12 and ALCOSAN's Modified Consent Decree. Multiple annual submissions to regulatory agencies are required, so please send your information:

- Send your input for the required Wasteload Management Report submission that ALCOSAN must submit annually in March (Reference: [Title 25 PA Code §94.12](#)). Please send your municipality's 2021 Report to: [Wasteload@alcosan.org](mailto:Wasteload@alcosan.org).
- The ALCOSAN Modified Consent Decree requires us to receive your annual report on newly collected flow data or mapping changes regarding [Municipal Source Reduction Measures](#). Please submit your information to [MSRS@alcosan.org](mailto:MSRS@alcosan.org).
- If your municipality has a combined sewer system, please include the following:
  - ⇒ Submit the completed [Nine Minimum Control Number 6 Practices Survey](#) to [MSRS@alcosan.org](mailto:MSRS@alcosan.org).
  - ⇒ Submit the [PA DEP Form 3800-PM-BCW0076e - Annual Combined Sewer Overflow \(CSO\) Status Report](#) to [Wasteload@alcosan.org](mailto:Wasteload@alcosan.org).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact ALCOSAN Director of Environmental Compliance Michelle M. Buys, P.E., [michelle.buys@alcosan.org](mailto:michelle.buys@alcosan.org) or 412-734-6216, or contact Kim Marunczak, Environmental Audit specialist, [kimberly.marunczak@alcosan.org](mailto:kimberly.marunczak@alcosan.org) or 412-734-6289.

## Municipal funding available

The Pennsylvania DEP held a Grants 101 webinar early in December, providing municipalities, municipal authorities, non-profits and small businesses with information on applying for DEP grant funding. We expect more funding opportunities in 2022 as the new Federal money is available. [Watch the webinar](#) to get ready for the next round of DEP grant applications.

ALCOSAN wishes our municipal partners a happy, healthy 2022!



Please direct questions or requests to:

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