

# <u>DEAR VALUED CUSTOMERS:</u>

At Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority, we believe success is built on partnerships. It is our goal to keep our customers informed about both our progress over the past year and our future objectives. Our 2007 annual report highlights the significant milestones we shared with the community, as well as our organization's strong financial position. We hope you view our annual report as a testament to the hard work of Western Carolina employees and our dedication to environmental stewardship in the Upstate.

In efforts to maximize our collaborations within the community, Western Carolina is working with its 18 public partners to develop consistent Upstate improvement programs. A focus for 2007 has been addressing issues of Inflow & Infiltration (I & I). I & I occurs when rainwater and groundwater enter the sewer system and take up the available system capacity that is needed to convey and treat used water from homes and businesses. This partnership has advanced programs to address and prevent excessive levels of I & I throughout the Western Carolina system.

Our capital improvements program continued throughout 2007 with a variety of advancement projects for the treatment system, complementing the economic growth of the Upstate. As projected in the Upstate Roundtable Report, the multi-year process of consolidating our facilities into regional organizations is successfully underway, which at the conclusion, will include seven regional treatment systems to improve water qualities and efficiencies.

The Freshwater Freddie blog, launched in January 2007, complemented the beginning of the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program, to raise awareness about the hazards of pouring FOG into the sewer system. This program partners Western Carolina with the Greenville County School District and the Roper Mountain Science Center as venues to distribute education materials, including a Grease-Be-Gone can with plastic liner, children's coloring book and informational brochures. The public awareness program works with the community to encourage their support to improve and maintain our sewer lines.

In addition to working with Greenville County Schools, Western Carolina has also collaborated with Greenville County Recreation District (GCRD) in several significant community projects. The year 2007 has included the development and near-completion of Corey Burns Park, a 28-acre site on Western Carolina property. The land, adjacent to the Taylors Treatment Plant, served as the development location for a multi-purpose recreation facility to open in Spring 2008.

At Western Carolina, we strive not only to work for our customers as a clean water provider, but also to work with our customers in providing a significant contribution to economic growth, community development and system-wide improvements. Keeping our customers informed is important to our community relationship. Thank you so much for your own support and contribution, as we encourage you to contact us at any time.

#### Sincerely,



Ray T. Orvin, Jr. Executive Director



John V. Boyette, Jr., Chairman J.D. Martin, Vice Chairman James "Jimmy" T. Martin, Sec./Treas. Billy "Butch" D. Merritt Michael B. Bishop George W. Fletcher

**BOARD** of COMMISSIONERS

L. Gary Gilliam Ralph S. Hendricks Willie J. Whittaker



#### **2007 FINANCIAL STATUS**

Western Carolina continues to maintain a stable financial health. Long-range planning and careful allocation of resources allow the Authority to sustain an excellent revenue bond rating as well.

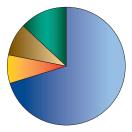
The growth in the Upstate has required Western Carolina to increase treatment capacity and simultaneously improve the quality of treated water returned to receiving streams. Our mission is to protect the public health and provide the necessary sewer infrastructure to support economic growth. Despite the high cost of these requirements, Western Carolina's financial position has remained strong.

There has been very little increase in total revenues from \$69.6 million in Fiscal Year (F.Y.) 2006 to \$69.9 million in F.Y. 2007. Expenses for operations, depreciation and long-term debt expense increased less than 5% from \$54.5 million in F.Y. 2006 to \$57 million in F.Y. 2007. Net assets increased approximately 6% from investments in capital projects of \$12.9 million (net of income and expense) and \$.5 million in contributed capital. The small increase in revenues for F.Y. 2007 can be attributed to the User Charge remaining the same in 2006 and 2007. A small customer-base increase and conservation also attributed to very little gain over the two fiscal years.

The increase in expense is due to growth in depreciation expense. The Authority invested \$83.8 million in the acquisition of capital assets: \$59.9 million from bond proceeds received from a previous sale, \$11.6 million of internal equity and \$12.3 million in new debt from the State Revolving Fund Loan. There has not been a significant change in long-term debt (less than 1%) since F. Y. 2006. Western Carolina remains in an excellent financial state.

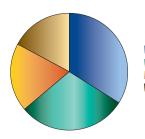
#### REVENUES

Total Revenues: \$69,921,421



DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL 70% INTEREST INCOME 8% INDUSTRIAL INCOME 9% NEW ACCOUNT FEE & OTHER 13%

**EXPENDITURES** Total Expenditures: \$69,921,421



OPERATING EXPENSES 34% DEPRECIATION 30% CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 19% LONG-TERM DEBT INTEREST 17%

#### **REPORT DISCLOSURE**

The Abbreviated Balance Sheet presented in this report gives an overview of Western Carolina's financial health at a specific point in time (June 30, 2007). The Revenues and Expenditures charts present a summary for a period of time (the year ended June 30, 2007).

The Abbreviated Balance Sheet and Revenues and Expenditures charts summarize data from Western Carolina's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR is prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The CAFR, which is approximately 82 pages in length, contains extensive financial information. The Abbreviated Balance Sheet and the Revenue and Expenditure charts do not conform to GAAP, but are presented in the accrual basis of accounting. The abbreviated reports consolidate all of Western Carolina's funds.

Anyone interested in reviewing the complete CAFR may contact our Accounting Department or visit our website at www.wcrsa.org for an electronic version. Copies of the CAFR are also on file at the County Treasurers' Offices located in our service area. As you review this report, please feel free to share any questions or comments with us.

Tamela Carnes

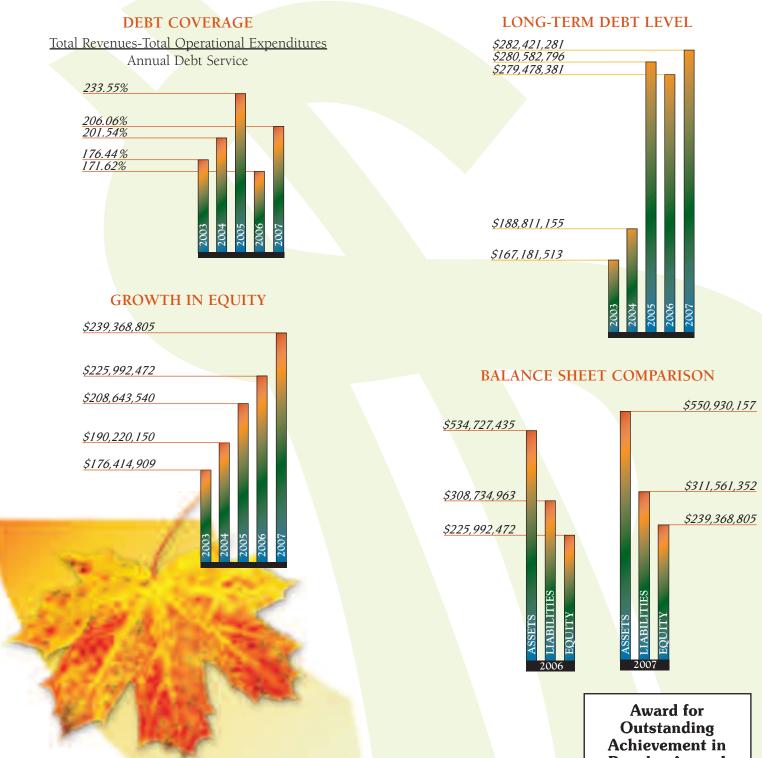
Pamela Carnes Controller



John Boyette, chairman of the Western Carolina Commission, presents Pamela H. Carnes, controller, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

# **ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET 2007**

ASSETS	\$550,930,157
LIABILITIES EQUITY	\$311,561,352 \$239,368,805
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$550,930,157



# FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARD

Western Carolina was presented with two prestigious financial reporting awards in 2007. Western Carolina received the Popular Annual Financial Report Award for the 2006 Annual Report to the Community. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the organization has received the award. (See right).

Western Carolina also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. This award represents the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The CAFR award is presented annually by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving over 12,000 government finance professionals.

# **Popular Annual Financial Reporting**

PRESENTED TO

Western Carolina **Regional Sewer Authority** South Carolina

for the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2006



# PARTNERING for ECONOMIC GROWTH

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2007**

Pelham Regional Treatment Plant – The Pelham Regional Treatment Plant construction was completed, upgrading the plant capacity from 7.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to 22.5 MGD in order to accommodate its growing service area. With this greater capacity, the Pelham facility will also be able to serve the Taylors area, allowing Western Carolina to take the Taylors plant out of service. The project also included the addition of filtration and ultraviolet disinfection in order to provide tertiary water quality. The Pelham plant is now the second largest facility in Western Carolina's system.

Enoree River Trunk Line – The Enoree River Trunk Line project was completed, adding a three-mile sewer conveyance system that will assist in allowing the Taylors plant to be decommissioned by conveying flow from the Taylors area to the Pelham Treatment Plant.

Lower Reedy Treatment Plant – The Lower Reedy Treatment Plant expansion was completed, taking the plant's capacity from 7.5 MGD to 11.5 MGD in order to meet future capacity needs in the service area and adding filtration and ultraviolet disinfection in order to provide tertiary water quality.

<u>Durbin Creek Treatment Plant</u> – Due to projected residential and industrial growth in the Durbin Creek service area, Western Carolina is upgrading the capacity of this plant to 5.2 MGD. The project also includes the addition of filtration and ultraviolet disinfection to provide tertiary water quality.

Sewer Line Rehabilitation – To keep the sewer system in the best possible condition, Western Carolina conducts ongoing maintenance projects to reverse the damage created by normal deterioration of underground components. Western Carolina committed \$4 million to rehabilitation work this past year, focusing on portions of the areas served by the Gilder Creek, Durbin Creek, Pelham, Taylors, Mauldin and Lower Reedy facilities. Rehabilitation will continue in 2008 in other parts of the Western Carolina service area. <u>Mauldin Road Treatment Plant</u> – Construction continued on this project to upgrade the Mauldin Road facility, Western Carolina's largest treatment plant, to meet stricter permit limits set by SCDHEC. The project includes new filters as well as the addition of ultraviolet disinfection, increased aeration capacity and additional biosolids facilities.

<u>Grove Creek Pump Station & Force Main</u> – The Grove Creek Pump Station and Force Main is being constructed to divert effluent discharge from Grove Creek to the Saluda River Basin. This project was designed to take the Grove Creek Treatment Plant out of service and divert the flows to the new Piedmont Regional Treatment Plant.

<u>Gilder Creek Treatment Plant</u> – Due to continued development in the area served by the Gilder Creek Treatment Plant, preliminary planning and engineering was begun for expanding the plant's capacity above the current 8 MGD. Construction is expected to begin during 2008.

Administration Building – Construction was started on a new consolidated, energy-efficient building to replace other separate, aging and maintenance-intensive facilities that housed the engineering, customer service, human resources, accounting and administration departments.

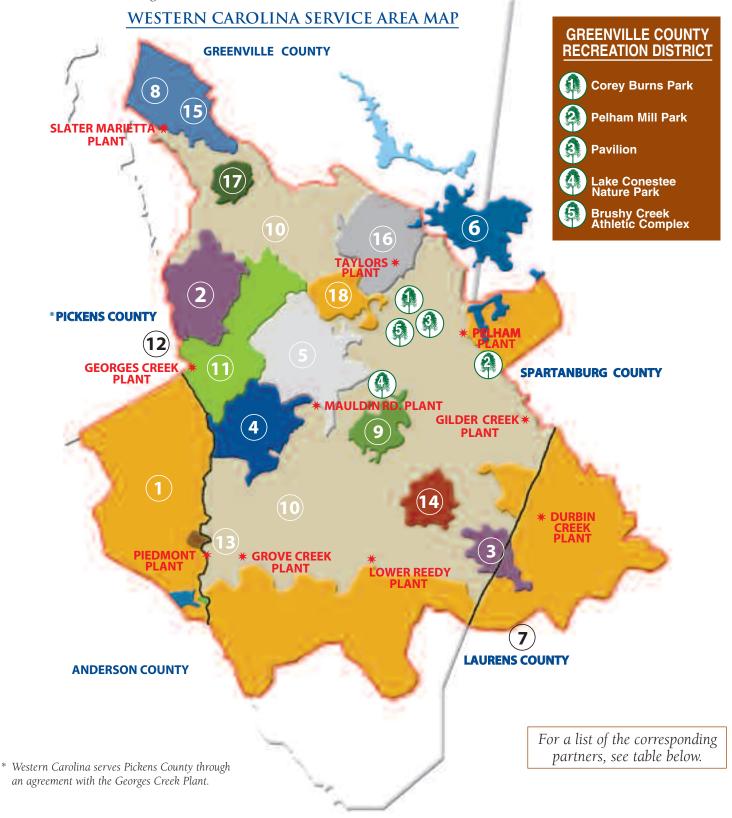
<u>Piedmont Regional Treatment Plant</u> – Construction is scheduled to begin during 2008 on the Piedmont Regional Treatment Plant, which will replace the existing Grove Creek and Piedmont plants.

<u>Green Energy Project</u> – Preliminary planning and engineering is currently underway to facilitate the re-use of methane, which is generated as a by-product of the treatment process, as an alternative "green" source of energy. Potential future uses for our methane gas include power generation, building heating or vehicle fuel. This project will reduce our dependency on traditional fossil fuel sources.



PUBLIC PARTNERS

Western Carolina works with 18 public partners that maintain more than 1750 miles of lateral/collector sewer lines connected to Western Carolina's approximately 290 miles of trunk lines and 10 treatment facilities. The entire system is required to meet all federal and state regulations. Western Carolina is joining with these partners to protect and rehabilitate the sewer system. The partnership is essential for providing the necessary sewer infrastructure to support economic growth. See the numbered map and corresponding table below.





Decades of work in partnership between Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority and the Greenville County Recreation District (GCRD) resulted in the development of the following community facilities that are enjoyed year-round by area residents and visitors:

# COREY BURNS PARK

This 28-acre site on Western Carolina property, adjacent to the Taylors Treatment Plant, is an ongoing development project that will open in the spring of 2008. The park offers a 5-field tournament venue for baseball, concessions and restroom facilities.

## ) PELHAM MILL PARK

This historic site is home to one of Greenville's earliest textile mills. The original dam, constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is a focal point and draws visitors to a scenic view of the Enoree River shoals. The project will restore a historic post office, which was moved to the site when Hwy. 14 was widened. The proposed park, that includes contiguous property owned by Western Carolina, will be a great destination for picnics and passive recreation. Long-range plans call for walking trails and a dog park.

# THE PAVILION

The 16-acre site on Western Carolina Property was offered to the GCRD in the late 1980s. This multi-purpose indoor recreation complex was recently expanded by eight acres. The facility offers the Upstate's only ice skating rink, tennis courts, soccer fields, a historic miniature children's train, and various programs ranging from summer day camps to special seasonal events.

#### ) LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK

Western Carolina's recently-crafted partnership with the GCRD will significantly expand the trail system to the existing 300-acre Lake Conestee Nature Park. The park is operated by the GCRD.

#### BRUSHY CREEK ATHLETIC COMPLEX

This state-of-the-art three-field athletic complex is home to thousands of Upstate soccer enthusiasts during the spring and fall seasons. Western Carolina conveyed the land to the GCRD in the late 1980s.

For more information regarding Greenville County Recreation District's programs, community calendar of events or a map of Upstate parks, visit **www.gcrd.org**.

# PARTNERING with the COMMUNITY

#### 2007 REEDY RIVER SWEEP

Western Carolina employees and volunteers participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Reedy River Sweep. The Western Carolina "Stream Team" group, in partnership with employees from Black and Veatch, removed trash and debris from the 1.5-mile section of the Reedy River. The portion runs through the property of the Mauldin Road Treatment Plant at the intersection of I-85 and Mauldin Road, and serves as the receiving stream for the plants effluent. The fall workday was scheduled in conjunction with the South Carolina Beach Sweep/River Sweep week. Also during Beach Sweep week, the Boy Scouts troop #521 joined Western Carolina to help keep the Reedy River clean during their own River Sweep event.







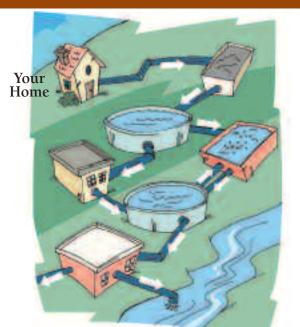




## OUR WATER ENVIRONMENT

Water is our most important resource, as it is essential for all living beings to survive. While water covers more than 2/3 of the Earth's surface, 98% of it is saltwater. Freshwater makes up only 2% of all water and more than half of that is in the form of ice or vapor, so it is important to protect our water environment.Western Carolina's team works 365 days a year to ensure that clean water is returned to the Reedy, Enoree and Saluda River Basins.

# **CLEAN WATER PROCESS**



Reedy, Enoree & Saluda Rivers

## WHAT IS CLEAN WATER?

Western Carolina serves the Upstate as a clean water provider. After used water from homes, businesses and industries enters

Western Carolina's system, it must be cleaned and treated before it is returned to rivers and streams. Western Carolina must also remove any additives, like fluoride, that drinking water providers add to improve water for consumption. Removing all the pollutants and additives makes clean water safe for our rivers, lakes and streams.



### WHAT IS DRINKING WATER?

After the water returns to our rivers, lakes and streams, it is available for our use again. Drinking water providers, such as Greenville Water System, clean the water from the environment. This water is also treated with small amounts of chemicals, like chlorine, to kill any remaining germs, and to ensure that the water is safe for us to drink. While the



chemicals help our drinking water, the additives can harm our clean water environment. The partnership between Western Carolina and local water utilities is important for the maintenance of our health and environment.

# Clean Water Act 1977

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 were established in response to the growing public concern for controlling water pollution. As amended in 1977, the law became known as the **Clean Water Act**. The purpose of this law was to establish a standard for regulating what enters the water environment of the United States. This standard established the need for pollution-control programs and set water quality standards for all clean water providers.

# PUBLIC PARTNERS

1 Anderson County Wastewater Management 731 Michelin Blvd Anderson, SC 29626 260-4023 Berea Public Service District 7401 White Horse Road Greenville, SC 29611 294-4848 **3** City of Fountain Inn 315 N. Main St. Fountain Inn, SC 29644 409-3334 **4** Gantt Fire, Sewer & Police District 234-3491 103 Lydia Street Greenville, SC 29605 277-7301 **5** City of Greenville P.O. Box 2207 Greenville, SC 29602 467-4335 6 Greer Commission of Public Works P.O. Box 216 Greer, SC 29652 848-5517

7 Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission P.O. Box 1006 Laurens, SC 29360 682-3250

8 Marietta Water, Fire, Sanitation & Sewer District P.O. Box 249 Marietta, SC 29661 836-6878

9 City of Mauldin P.O. Box 249 Mauldin, SC 29662

10 Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict 120 Augusta Arbor Way Greenville, SC 29605 277-4442

**11)** Parker Sewer & Fire Subdistrict 117 Smythe St. Greenville, SC 29611 467-4030

**2** Pickens County 222 McDaniel Ave., B-2 Pickens, SC 29671 898-5851

(13) Piedmont Public Service District P.O. Box 57 Piedmont, SC 29673 845-6817

(14) City of Simpsonville Public Works 110 Woodside Park Drive Simpsonville, SC 29681 967-9531

15 Slater Water, Sewer & Light District P.O. Box 5 Slater, SC 29683 836-3176

6 Taylors Fire & Sewer District 3335 Wade Hampton Blvd. Taylors, SC 29687 244-5596

(7) City of Travelers Rest 6711 State Park Rd. Travelers Rest, SC 29690 834-9020

#### Wade Hampton Fire & Sewer District 4211 E. North St. Ext. Greenville, SC 29615 244-0390

# What is INFLOW and INFILTRATION?

Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) is a process through which rainwater and groundwater enter our sewer system, affecting the sewer treatment. Inflow consists of the rainwater runoff that directly flows into the sewer system through situations like a faulty manhole cover or a storm sewer cross connection (see I&I diagram). Infiltration includes the rainwater and groundwater that seep into the sewer system from the ground, through situations like a cracked or broken pipe, or roots in the sewer line.

The additional amount of water that Inflow & Infiltration add to the sewer systems can double and even triple the volume that treatment plants normally receive. I & I is the primary cause of sewer overflows and can expose our community to the diseases and pollutants carried in used water. Excessive I & I also increases the cost of treatment due to the unnecessary use of electricity, technology, manpower and the construction required to meet the increased capacity.

### *How can Inflow & Infiltration be reduced?*

- \* Identify problem areas with flow-monitoring programs
- \* Conduct periodic inspections of sewer lines and manholes
- \* Implement active repair and rehabilitation programs

Western Carolina joining with the above partners allows for a full and consistent Upstate-wide program for the reduction of I & I. The partnerships also increase the ability to support future economic growth, ensure a consistent rate structure, and create a more efficient system and a healthier environment.

# INFLOW AND INFILTRATION SOURCES



INFLOW SOURCE INFILTRATION SOURCE

#### UNITED WAY PACESETTER

Western Carolina is a strong supporter of the United Way. As a United Way Pacesetter, Western Carolina employees and volunteers helped surpass their \$70,000 donation goal for 2007 from employee donations and many special events. Western Carolina raised a total of \$74,036 to benefit United Way with events like the annual Fish Fry and Freshwater Freddie Golf Tournament.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DAY

Several Girl Scout troops from the South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands – completed their Water Drop Patch at Western Carolina's environmental workshop, held at the Georges Creek Treatment Plant. The six-hour annual workshop provides an interactive learning experience, including stream hikes, testing stream samples, treatment plant tour and an overview of the Saluda Watershed.



#### **TEACHER WORKSHOPS**

Western Carolina held its first Teachers' Workshop for high school teachers from Anderson County School District Five. The one-day workshop introduced teachers to the various occupations and career opportunities available in the treatment industry. The teachers participated in group activities, toured laboratories, and learned about the pretreatment and biosolids processes. The groups also focused attention on management, engineering and administration positions within Western Carolina. The purpose of this workshop was to educate the teachers so they can better direct their students as to the training and education needed in order to be employed in one of these fields.

#### STUDENT GROUPS

Western Carolina hosts facility tours for various groups including local schools, colleges/universities, businesses, Girl Scout troops and other environmental-interest groups as part of our public education program. This program is an ongoing effort to increase awareness about the importance of the treatment process and protecting the aquatic environment of the Upstate. To schedule a tour, please call **864-299-4040**, ext.312.

#### FOG CAMPAIGN

Launched in January, the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) campaign, along with Freshwater Freddie, was developed to increase community awareness about the environmental problems created by pouring fats, oils and grease into the sewer system.

As part of the FOG Public Awareness Campaign, Western Carolina's Grease Inspector Kim McDonald visited Fountain Inn Elementary School to promote ways to help the environment through the *Grease-Be-Gone* program. More than 160 students and teachers learned about proper disposal of grease, pollution prevention, the water cycle and water treatment. Participants received a *Grease-Be-Gone* can with plastic liner and additional tips on how individuals can do their part to help combat the grease problem.

The FOG campaign is also hosted at the Roper Mountain Science Center's Second Saturday program. The facilities are open to the public and offer educational features to hundreds of community members each month.









#### PEAK PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Ten of Western Carolina's treatment plants received Peak Performance Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) at the Association's 37th Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. NACWA's Gold Peak Performance Awards were presented to the Georges Creek, Gilder Creek, Grove Creek, Mauldin Road, Pelham, Slater, Marietta and Taylors Treatment Plants to recognize their 100% compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements in 2006. NACWA's Silver Peak Performance Awards were presented to the Durbin Creek, Lower Reedy and Piedmont Treatment Plants.

#### **EMPLOYEES RECEIVE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS**

The Water Environment Association of South Carolina (WEASC) presented four Western Carolina employees, Trent Bowles, Don Milner, Samantha Bartow and Ann Sims, with awards for their outstanding performance. Bowles received the Golden Man Hole Cover Award, while Milner was









Sims

Bowles

Bartow

presented with the William D. Hatfield Award. Both Sims and Bartow were inducted into the 5S Society South Carolina Chapter. Bartow was also recently elected District Treasurer for the Blue Ridge Foothills District. Western Carolina would like to congratulate these employees for their extraordinary accomplishments.

## POLLUTION PREVENTION

KS Gleitlager USA, Inc. was awarded the 2006 Pollution Prevention Award. Western Carolina presents this award annually to encourage industries to devise and implement pollution prevention strategies. Gleitlager was



recognized for implementing a cost-effective examination procedure to evaluate, target and reduce metals in the water discharge and for reducing lead discharge. The company also succeeded in reducing water consumption and chemical usage.

The following companies also received Pollution Prevention Certificates of Achievement: Ethox Chemicals, Henkel Corporation, KM Fabrics and Roy Metal Finishing.

### DHEC OUTSTANDING FACILITY AWARD

Four of Western Carolina's treatment plants, Gilder Creek, Georges Creek, Grove Creek and Mauldin Road, were awarded the South

Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Outstanding Facility Award. The award recognized Western Carolina for its community outreach programs, a Biosolids program, the Annual River Sweep, the FOG (Fats, Oils and Grease) Campaign and employee involvement.



#### **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AWARDS**

The South Carolina Occupational Safety Council (SCOSC) presented safety awards to Western Carolina facilities at the 70th Annual SCOSC Conference. The Mauldin Road Treatment Plant won the Palmetto Safety Excellence Award for the state in its



category and code. Gilder Creek, Georges Creek, Marietta, Grove Creek, Piedmont, Lower Reedy and Pelham Treatment Plants were all awarded the South Carolina Safety Certificate.



Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority recognized 27 local industries for demonstrating excellent compliance with environmental regulations throughout 2006. The Compliance Excellency Awards are presented annually to local industries that are in complete compliance with Sewer Use and Pretreatment Regulation. Western Carolina applauds these good neighbors for their outstanding efforts in helping to achieve a cleaner environment in the Upstate.

Accotex, Inc. Air Products Polymers, LP Air Products Remediation CompX National Cryovac, Inc.-Sealed Air Corporation Cytec Carbon Fibers, LLC EEEA. Inc. ENCO Technologies, Inc. Fabri-Kal Corporation GE Gas Turbine Mfg. Operations\*\* Goglanian Bakeries, Inc. Hitachi Electronic Devices, Inc. Holly Oak Chemical, Inc. Innovative Container Services, LLC

Kemet Electronics Corporation-Simpsonville\* Mitsubishi Polyester Film, LLC National Electrical Carbon Products, Inc. Nicca USA, Inc. Roll Technology Corporation Roy Metal Finishing Co., Inc. Roy Metal Finishing Co., Inc.-Mauldin Safety Components Fabric Technologies, Inc.\* Sara Lee Bakery # 2 Soltex, Inc. Southern Weaving Company Teknor Weaving Company Vopak Logistics, LLC

Received this award for 12 consecutive years.

\*\* Received this award for 14 consecutive years.



# WATER CONSERVATION: Save a Little Every Day

Water is one of our most precious commodities. Try a few of the following tips to see how easy it is to do your part to save our water rather than waste it:

- \* Check all faucets, inside and outside, for leaks.
- ✤ Take showers in 5 minutes or less.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the tap water to cool it.
- \* Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and wash your hands.
- Make sure your dishwasher and washing machine are full before you run them.
- \* When you water the lawn, make sure only the grass, not sidewalks or driveway, gets wet.
- Water your lawn in the evening or first thing in the morning to keep water from evaporating.
- Use food coloring in the water storage tank of your toilet to check for leaks.

# **RECYCLING:** Reduce & Reuse

The amount of water we use isn't the only thing we should be reducing. Every day a single person throws away 4 lbs of trash. That adds up to almost 6 billion pounds of trash a year in South Carolina alone. Here are a few ways you can start recycling in your community:

- \* Collect plastic and glass bottles, aluminum cans, paper and cardboard.
- Reuse shopping bags.
- \* Repair torn clothes instead of throwing them out.
- \* Use rechargeable batteries.
- Reduce your use of disposable paper products like napkins and paper plates; try using reusable things like cloth napkins instead.
- \* Buy products made from recycled materials.
- \* Use a compost pile instead of disposing of food and yard waste.

# AIR POLLUTION: Keeping the Air You Breathe Clean

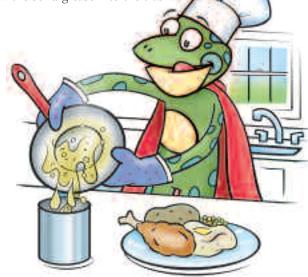
Keeping our air safe and healthy is important, especially during summer months when smog is at its worst. Smog includes ground-level ozone, which can be quite harmful to individuals. You can prevent ground-level ozone formation by:

- Carpooling automobile emissions create 25% of all pollution in the United States.
- Go electric try using electric lawn equipment instead of gas powered ones.
- Use propane it's an environmentally-friendly alternative to charcoal lighter fluid.

# FATS, OILS AND GREASE (FOG)

Few people know that pouring grease down the sink and into our sewer system can cause potential health risks and hurt the environment. Disposing of FOG in the sink can cause sewer and water pipes to clog and back up, resulting in increased costs and environmental hazards. Western Carolina offers a free Grease-Be-Gone can with a plastic liner as a safe alternative for grease disposal. Follow a few easy steps to learn how you can help:

- Do not pour grease into sinks, garbage disposals or toilets.
- Pour grease into a disposable container, like the Grease-Be-Gone can.
- \* Allow grease to harden.
- \* Throw the solid grease into the trash.



# **DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORY**

Administration	299-4000
Accounting	299-4036
Collection System	299-4033
Customer Service	299-0260
Engineering	299-4020
Finance	299-4011
Human Resources	299-4009
Information Systems	299-4040
Laboratory	299-4040
Maintenance Shop	299-4050
Operations	299-4040
Pretreatment	299-4703
Purchasing	299-4027
Solids Management	299-4040

WESTERN CAROLINA REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY 561 Mauldin Road Greenville, SC 29607 www.wcrsa.org