

SUMMERSIDE TAKES GREEN LEAD IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT



When the City of Summerside needed to replace aging wastewater infrastructure, it saw an opportunity to build a greener community.

The city built the first Level 4 tertiary plant in PEI. The goal was simple: ensure the highest level of treatment for effluent before it reaches Summerside Harbour.

The city began construction in 2006 and had the plant fully operational by 2008. The tertiary BNR system removes ammonia, phosphorus, and nitrogen from the wastewater. In the process, the plant helps preserve the local environment, including nearby grounds harvested in Prince Edward Island's famous shellfish industry.

The Summerside project also incorporated an innovative use of the waste sludge that results from wastewater treatment. Instead of simply shipping off the sludge as little more than a waste for land application, the plant uses it to produce biofertilizer for local farmers. As of 2022, the Summerside plant produced about 5,000 tonnes of the

biofertilizer every year—reducing costs for farmers and offsetting the production of synthetic fertilizers in the process. In building its high-level plant, the City of Summerside took advantage of funding programs through partnerships with federal and provincial governments. Though the city's water and sewer rates increased after the construction, the new plant provides invaluable benefits. Summerside has become a greener city, protected the local shellfish industry, and provided a valuable product for farmers. The high-level treatment also works to keep clean both Summerside Harbour and Green's Shore Beach on the city's waterfront.

The city is now looking to reduce the carbon footprint of the plant's processes, as it continues its commitment to a green agenda.

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