




3 RIVERS PROUD

Our region's three rivers define us. Any mention of Pittsburgh on television is accompanied by the beautiful view of our rivers. Study after study shows that our rivers are a deep source of pride.

That's why ALCOSAN is 3 Rivers Proud. We have great pride in our rivers, our region and our role in protecting the waterways that make our community a great place to live, work and play.

What is ALCOSAN and How Does it Protect Our Rivers?

ALCOSAN, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, is the clean water agency for most of Allegheny County. We receive the water after you wash it down a drain or flush a toilet. All of that wastewater heads to ALCOSAN's North Side plant, where we treat it and then return the cleaned water to the Ohio River. And we do that for 83 communities, including the city of Pittsburgh.

Unfortunately, there's a big problem when it rains or when there is heavy snowmelt. That excess water overloads the system, and untreated wastewater containing diluted sewage and other contaminants that should come to ALCOSAN is released into the rivers instead. Fixing this issue is vital to the future of our region, and ALCOSAN is leading the charge to stop the overflows and clean up our rivers.

Green-First Clean Water Plan

The Clean Water Plan is our region's blueprint for eliminating overflows and complying with federal mandates. The plan includes a combination of approaches and technologies.

- Green Revitalization of Our Waterways (GROW)*
ALCOSAN's GROW program has awarded millions of dollars in grants and provides technical assistance for an array of community projects designed to keep excess water out of the sewer system. The program enables municipalities to take on work that might otherwise be too expensive for them to complete.
- Regionalization Efforts*
ALCOSAN is working with our municipal partners to assume operation and maintenance of large, multi-municipal trunk sewers. This will create a more efficient system and ease the burden on individual municipalities.
- Plant Expansion*
Expansion of the treatment plant is a critical component of the plan. A \$29 million upgrade to the main pump station already has been completed, and a new maintenance garage for our fleet of trucks was constructed outside our plant gates, making room for

expanded treatment. We currently treat 250 million gallons per day – enough to fill 5 million bath tubs.

- Long-Term Planning*
Another leg of our plan involves long-term planning for the construction of what is called gray infrastructure – including pipes, diversion structures and underground storage tanks. Once we know the effectiveness of green and other stormwater reduction plans, we will know exactly what facilities we will need.



Working Together for Clean Water

ALCOSAN has been working with community leaders and municipalities on a solution for eliminating stormwater overflows not just because regulators require it, but, more importantly, because it is the right thing to do. The authority signed a Consent Decree in 2008 but, as planning progressed, we learned that meeting its terms would be too expensive for our ratepayers. We are working on

amendments to the Consent Decree to ease the burden on ratepayers, use the most effective, cost-efficient solutions and increase the use of new technology, especially green infrastructure that includes plantings, bioswales and other techniques. While we are negotiating, progress is being made.



The Clean Water Plan is a major undertaking and will be one of the largest public works projects in our region's history.

Implementation will cost in excess of \$2 billion. As a non-profit, public agency, ALCOSAN does not have the authority to tax residents for its service. The bulk of ALCOSAN's funding comes from the individuals and businesses that pay us for wastewater treatment. Those rates will need to go up to cover the cost of the project.

Help is available for families. ALCOSAN has established a Clean Water Assistance Fund, which provides a quarterly credit on sewage treatment bills to make this essential service affordable for everyone.

To learn more about ALCOSAN and its Clean Water Plan, visit 3riversproud.org. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, attend community events we sponsor, and join us for our signature event, the annual ALCOSAN Open House in September. **By working together, we all can be 3 Rivers Proud.**



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