

W LIVABLE CITY YEAR

City of Auburn



SEWER PIPE BLOCKAGE AND EDUCATION STRATEGIES TO HELP



Executive Summary

Our research worked to develop ways to mitigate sewer pipe clogs from Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG) in the City of Auburn. Our goal is to provide educational strategies for FOG and provide an evaluation plan for the city to monitor the effectiveness of decreasing sewer pipe clogs from FOG. We reviewed literature related to FOG disposal effects on the environment, behavior-changing education, and past and present programs for FOG disposal education in other cities in the United States.

Areas of Focus

Our research was split into three main topics: clogged pipes, educational strategies to help reduce FOG clogs, and alternative ways to dispose of FOG.

- The two main sources of clogged pipes are FOG and personal wipes.
- Education and outreach to local communities can prohibit clogged pipes and potentially save the city money.
- Alternative FOG disposal strategies should be provided along with education and outreach.

By providing alternative strategies of FOG disposal and doing local outreach, communities can lower FOG clogs in municipal sewer pipes.



Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) clog up sewer pipes.
Credit: 2017 Arlington County Government

Pre- and Post-Intervention Survey

To evaluate outreach and education efforts, surveys were made and can be distributed to local communities. Surveys should be around 5 questions, be multiple choice, and be easy to answer.



An example of a FOG collection bin. This bin is already in use in Auburn, located at the south end of Les Gove Park, north of SE 12th Street.
Credit: City of Auburn

Research Findings and Suggested Approaches for FOG Reduction

• Improved Brochures:

Primarily use images to portray appropriate waste disposal behaviors and demonstrating strategies for handling FOG in the kitchen.

• Household Fog Collection Resources:

Place additional FOG collection bins throughout the city in convenient locations and/or distribute plastic lids for aluminum containers for at-home use.

• Cooperation with Local Schools and/or Community Organizations:

Adopt the Sewer Science program in local schools and have information booths at local events with hands-on activities for adults and children.

• Evaluation:

Distribute surveys before and after implementation of any of the above ideas to obtain information on changes in FOG awareness levels, disposal behaviors, and potential behavior change.

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This project was made possible through the following collaborations:

School of Public Health
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
Environmental Health 545: Water, Wastewater, and Health

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