



# Jefferson County Household Cooking Oil and Grease Recycling



# Jefferson County Environmental Services Department

- 9 Wastewater Treatment
- 170 Pump / Lift Stations
- 3,100 miles of sanitary sewer line
- 144,000 customer accounts
- 480,000 people served by Jeff Co sewer
- Potential to treat 175 million gallons of sewage per day





# Divisions of ESD

- Administrative
  - daily operations and coordination
- Maintenance and Construction
  - repairs, inspection, line care, building new lines
- Barton Laboratory
  - testing water quality for regulation standards
- Treatment Plants
  - treatment of collection system wastewater









# Grease Control Program

- Federal Consent Decree by EPA in 1996
- Adopted by Jefferson County Commission in October 2006
- Food Service Facilities
  - 2,300 permitted food establishments
  - Annual inspections of each
  - Teach best management practices to managers
  - Manifest system of removal of captured grease



# Apartment Education

- 297 apartment complexes in Jefferson County with approximately 88,000 people residing in multi-family units
- Areas with large apartment complexes are frequent contributors to sanitary sewer overflows
- Prevention: educational programs and diligent, costly scheduled maintenance



# Household Cooking Oil and Grease Recycling Program

- Free service to residents of Jefferson Co.
- All collected oil and grease is recycling by local rendering companies into dog food, candles, cleaning products, etc...
- **GOAL:** *Jefferson County Environmental Services Department developed this program in the ongoing effort to the prevent overflows and protect the water resources and the people and animals that depend on them.*



# Recycling Station





# How it works

- Recycling container is picked up at one of the locations
- Taken home and filled with used kitchen oil and grease
- Residents then return the full container to the collection station and exchanged it for a clean one
- Stations are serviced weekly and the containers are collected by Grease Control Program inspectors
- The gallons collected are consolidated at the Shades Valley Wastewater Treatment Complex where it is picked up to be recycled by local rendering companies

## Guidelines for household cooking oil and grease recycling:

- **Edible oil products (cooking oil or grease) only!**
- **Allow oil to cool before pouring into container**
- **No fuel or motor oil will be accepted**
- **Containers must have a sealed lid**
- **No glass, please**
- **Any questions about the recycling program, please call 205-238-3876**

# Why?

If each household put **one** teaspoon of oil or grease into the sewer system each day =

**160,000 teaspoons** collectively

**160,000 teaspoons** of oil or grease per day =

**208 gallons** of oil or grease to be treated

**208 gallons** per day x **30 days** =

**6,240 gallons** per month

This is equivalent to **113** drums of oil entering the sewer system each month



- Any oil or grease that can be recycled and reused instead of entering our treatment plants where it must be extracted through an expensive and lengthy process; removes some burden from the system.
- Keeping additional oil and grease out of the treatment plants can only be accomplished through community wide education and recycling participation!



# How well it works

- Since 2010, we have recycled over **16,000** gallons cooking oil and grease
- **21** locations in Jefferson County  
Adamsville, Bessemer, Center Point, Downtown Birmingham, Gardendale, Homewood, Hueytown, Leeds, Midfield, Pinson, Tarrant, Trussville and UAB

# Locations of Recycling Stations

- **Adamsville**
- **Bessemer**
- **Birmingham**
- **Center Point**
- **Gardendale**
- **Homewood**
- **Hueytown**
- **Leeds**
- **Midfield**
- **Pinson**
- **Tarrant**
- **Trussville**
- **UAB**
- **Vestavia Hills**