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 prevent overflows and protect the water resources and the people and animals that depend on them.
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