

# The Connector



*Bringing you quarterly updates from Metro Water Recovery*

Issue 8 July 1, 2022

## What's Inside this Issue?

Happy summer! We hope everyone is planning to refresh with time away.

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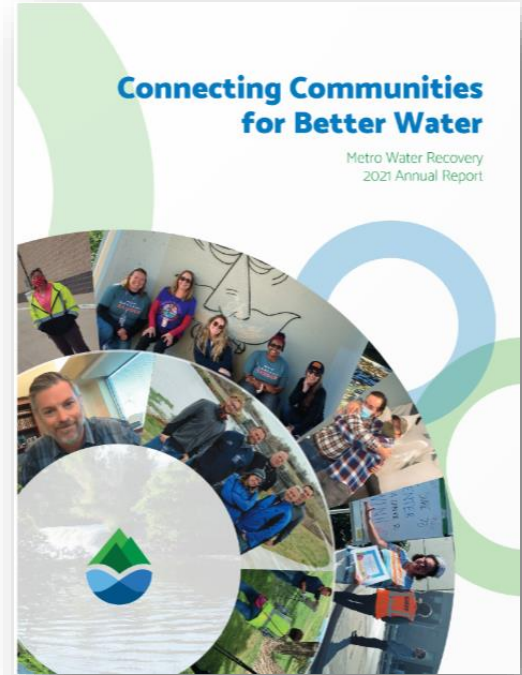
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## 2021 Annual Report

### Connecting Communities for Better Water

Cleaning and recovering water and resources from approximately 2.2 million people in our service area is a complex, community effort. Metro Water Recovery's 2021 annual report highlights how communities inside and outside the organization are working together to make used water usable again for agriculture, aquatic life, water supply, and recreation.

The 2021 annual report provides a glimpse into how Metro is attaining the seven goals from our [2016 Strategic Plan](#). The report is designed to be a quick read, with short write-ups, graphics, and photos. Most of the stories include links to web pages where interested readers may learn more. Details about Metro's 2021 financials may be found in a separate document on the website, the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#).



Metro's communities are connected by pipes and people with a common drive for better water. Employees from all Metro departments joined together to share their good work in the 2021 annual report. The creators and compilers of this report are extending a deep and heartfelt appreciation for everyone's work on the report and their enthusiasm for sharing what we do with people outside the organization.

You can share this news with your network by reposting our blog [here](#) or click on the link below to read the report:

[metrowaterrecovery.com/2021-annual-report](https://metrowaterrecovery.com/2021-annual-report)

## Welcome City of Fort Lupton New Metro Member Connector

As a wholesale wastewater treatment provider, Metro Water Recovery proudly serves local governments – composed of both cities and sanitation districts known as Connectors. On June 14, we were privileged to announce the City of Fort Lupton as Metro’s newest Connector. This connection marks our first new Member Municipality in nearly 13 years, when the City of Brighton and South Adams County joined Metro in July 2009.

Fort Lupton Mayor Zo Stieber-Hubbard weighed in on the importance of this partnership for the future of the city. “Positioning Fort Lupton for the future, our inclusion with Metro is a positive move for our citizens and businesses. Metro’s voice when dealing with Colorado’s regulatory agencies is far better heard than ours alone.”

The agreement was signed on June 7, 2022. Metro will accept Fort Lupton’s flows at its Northern Treatment Plant in Brighton no later than December 31, 2025, with the option to extend the connection by one year to December 2026. Metro’s service area now extends to the north of Brighton and straddles both sides of U.S. 85 (see map to the right).

### How does an entity request to become a Connector?

It starts with completing the [new Connector Request form on the website](#). Metro asks that our current Connectors share this info with those who express interest. Thank you in advance for the help!

### About Fort Lupton

Anchored along the South Platte River and established as a trading post in 1836, the City of Fort Lupton has served an important role in Colorado’s history for nearly 200 years. With a population of 7,995 (2020 census), Fort Lupton maintains a small-town atmosphere with a high quality of life within commuting distance to larger population centers – including Greeley, Denver, and Fort Collins.

Located in Weld County, Fort Lupton is home to the South Weld County offices, the Fort Lupton campus of Aims Community College, and the Colorado Army National Guard. The City of Fort Lupton operates the Coyote Creek Golf Course, a recreation center, the public and school library, and its own water and sewer treatment plants with approximately 192 employees.

Share this news with your network by reposting our website blog [here](#).



Metro’s updated service area map, click the image for a closer view.

## Colorado General Assembly 2022 Legislative Session Wrap Up

The 2022 legislative session concluded on May 11, 2022. The end of session was filled with the normal last-minute negotiations and late nights. Over the five months of the legislative session, Metro Water Recovery's government affairs team worked hard to support the policy issues of greatest importance to Metro and our connectors. Metro welcomed being part of many key conversations and initiatives related to our policy agenda and looks forward to building on that momentum in the year to come.

Metro dedicated a significant resources to support HB1345, a PFAS source control bill, and we are thrilled that it passed and has been signed by the Governor. This new law will be the most comprehensive PFAS source control legislation in the United States. What is most exciting about this bill is that it seeks to address the problems associated with PFAS chemicals at the source – getting PFAS chemicals out of consumer products – thereby preventing them from entering the water cycle. Thank you to our partners in the clean water community and to our legislative leaders for their partnership on this great bill.

Following are some of Metro's key policy positions and the 2022 bills associated with those positions.



*Colorado General Assembly in April*

### **Policy Position: Support policies to control PFAS at the producer/manufacturer source**

[House Bill 1345](#) – Concerning measures to increase protections from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals.

Sponsors: [Representatives Lisa Cutter](#)

(D-Jefferson) and [Mary Bradfield](#) (R- El Paso)

Overview and Provisions of Interest: The bill calls for the elimination of PFAS in certain products and requires labeling for other products that contain PFAS. Metro partnered with many of our clean water utilities to support this bill.

Status: The bill passed the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor on June 3, 2022.

### **Policy Position: Support policies to expand the recovery of resources**

[House Bill 1159](#) – Waste Diversion and Circular Economy Development Center

Sponsors: [Representative Lisa Cutter](#) (D-Jefferson) and [Senator Kevin Priola](#) (R- Adams)

Overview and Provisions of Interest: This bill does not impact our day-to-day operations, but it does align directly with Metro's mission of protecting the region's health and environment by cleaning water and recovering resources. It provides a great opportunity to talk about all the amazing work the wastewater industry does.

Status: The bill passed the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor on June 3, 2022.

## Colorado General Assembly 2022 Legislative Session Wrap Up (continued)

### **Policy Position: Expand the utilization of wastewater thermal energy**

Senate Bill 051 – Concerning policies to reduce emissions from the built environment

Sponsors: [Senator Chris Hansen](#) (D-Denver) and [Representative Emily Sirota](#) (D-Denver)

Overview and Provisions of Interest: Beginning January 1, 2023, the purchase of air-source heat pumps, ground-source heat pumps, pump water heaters, and residential energy storage systems will be exempt from sales and use tax until January 1, 2033. Beginning in tax year 2023, the bill also creates refundable income tax credits for the purchase of heat pumps, necessary electrical panel upgrades, and residential energy storage systems through 2033. The idea is that these tax exemptions and credits will incentivize the utilization of wastewater thermal energy. Metro worked with the bill sponsor to ensure that, if these systems will be installed, they will be done so with the knowledge of the local wastewater utility and in compliance with all state and local drinking water and wastewater requirements.

Status: The bill passed the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor on June 2, 2022.



Senate Bill 138 – Concerning measures to promote reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado

Sponsors: [Senator Chris Hansen](#) (D-Denver) and [Representative Alex Valdez](#) (D-Denver)

Overview and Provisions of Interest: This bill addresses a wide range of topics to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Metro worked with the bill sponsor to add an amendment that expressly calls out Wastewater Thermal Energy in both the “Clean Heat Plan” and the “Greenhouse Gas Emission Roadmap.” Similar to SB51, Metro’s engagement on this bill seeks to expand utilization of this type of technology for space heating and cooling.

Status: Unfortunately, this bill was lost during the last few hours of the legislative session. It became embroiled in larger political issues due to some of the more controversial provisions within the bill. Metro will continue our efforts to expand the utilization of wastewater thermal energy as a renewable energy source.



*Erin Bertoli , Metro Governmental Affairs Liaison (first chair from the left), preparing to testify at House Bill 1345 committee hearing.*

## Industrial Pretreatment Program Protecting Treatment Operations

**M**etro is designed to treat residential sewage (domestic discharge from household toilets, showers, dishwashers, and sinks) and not the types of contaminants that are present in wastewater from commercial and industrial businesses, including waste haulers. Discharges from businesses can harm the equipment and operations of wastewater treatment and downstream water bodies.

To minimize the possibility of contaminants entering publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) like Metro, the EPA created the National Pretreatment Program.

Metro's discharge permits require that we implement an EPA-approved Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) across our entire 805-square mile service area to control the discharges from businesses. The EPA approved Metro's IPP on August 25, 1986. Metro's IPP directly regulates businesses within our service area. Metro does not have the authority to regulate any domestic discharges from residences.

**Connectors are a key part of Metro's IPP program.** Sharing knowledge of new commercial and industrial business as soon as possible helps Metro work with dischargers early in their process, ensuring safety of our operations and downstream waterways. Contact Pragati Sharma for questions at [psharma@metrowaterrecovery.com](mailto:psharma@metrowaterrecovery.com).

[Learn more about sources of wastewater and Metro's IPP via our website.](#)



## Introducing Pragati Sharma Senior Industrial Pretreatment Program Manager

**P**ragati Sharma is an experienced pretreatment professional. She's been a part of the Metro family for more than 12 years and was recently promoted to the position of Senior Industrial Pretreatment Program Manager. She brings more than 15 years of pretreatment experience to her new role. Working for various wastewater treatment plants and pretreatment programs, she started her pretreatment career in Utah and later moved to Colorado. Pragati also worked for South Adams County Water and Sanitation District before joining Metro.

In addition to leading the Industrial Pretreatment Division, Pragati will be the main point of contact for EPA Region 8 as it relates to the pretreatment program. She will be collaborating with the Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager and Director of Environmental Services to plan for the upcoming regulations that may impact Metro.

# Metro PFAS Education Campaign

## Taking the Next Step

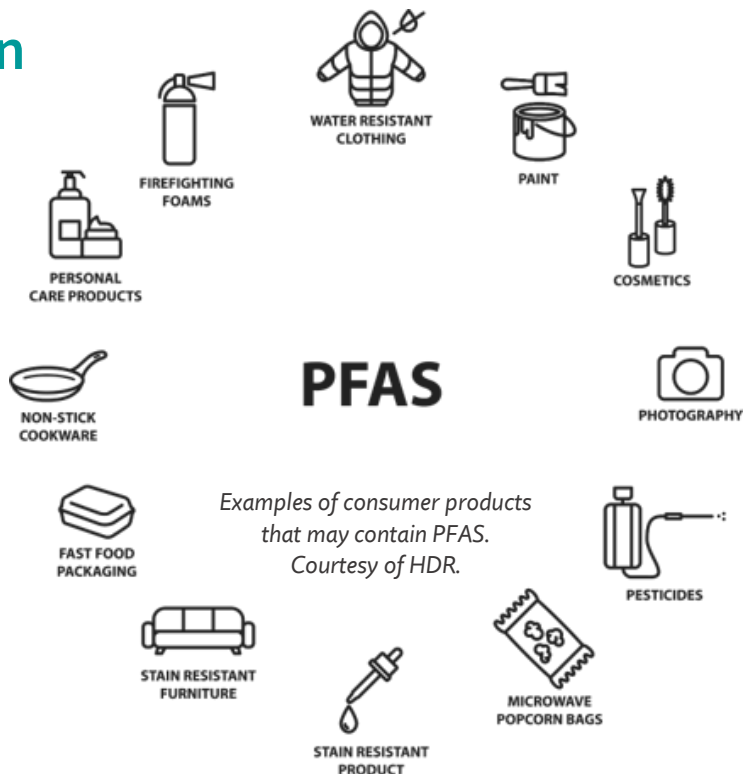
The PFAS legislative work shared on page 3 is only one way Metro Water Recovery is working to reduce PFAS coming to our treatment facilities. Metro is developing an education campaign which is focused on three components.

**Monitoring** – Metro is required to measure levels of PFAS in the effluent. This sampling data is provided monthly to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This data also is posted on [Metro’s new PFAS web page](#).

**Advocacy** – Metro’s support for HB22-1345 was an important component to its success. While the outcome of the bill was a good start, gaps still exist. Metro is dedicated to filling those gaps and comprehensively addressing the issues associated with PFAS through this new campaign and future legislation.

**Education** – Launching Metro’s new PFAS webpage is the first step in a multi-month, consumer-based education campaign. The campaign includes components such as tools for consumers to make informed purchases, collateral for Connectors to share with their customers, paid media and updates on regulatory and legislative work.

**Connectors can contribute to the success of the education campaign.** Some of you already participated in an outreach survey – thank you! A summary of those results are available by reaching out to Dawn Ambrosio at [dambrosio@metrowaterrecovery.com](mailto:dambrosio@metrowaterrecovery.com).



### Connector PFAS Education Discussions

Metro needs your help. Because we are a wholesale provider, we are one step removed from your customers and value already established communication channels. We would like to partner with you to develop and share the critical information we are creating as part of the PFAS education campaign.

Metro will be hosting two PFAS education discussions for Connectors. Please join us for one or both sessions to learn more. Both sessions will be held at the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility and virtually.

Session 1 – July 18, 2022 at 11:00 am

Session 2 – August 15, 2022 at 9:00 am

RSVP to Dawn Ambrosio at [dambrosio@MetroWaterRecovery.com](mailto:dambrosio@MetroWaterRecovery.com)

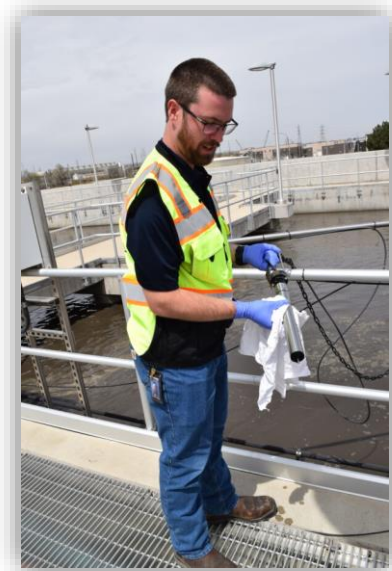
## Updated Rules and Regulations

### Approved and Posted

As you may recall, Metro shared (via [The Connector, Issue 6](#)) that on December 20, 2021, the Board of Directors adopted amendments to Section 6.0 of the Metro Water Recovery Rules and Regulations Governing Operation, Use, and Services of the System (Rules and Regulations). Subsequently, the EPA has approved the updates and the [new version of the Rules and Regulations are now posted to the website](#).

## Currents Employee Feature

When your water goes down the drain, Metro technicians and scientists work tirelessly to treat, monitor, and recover it. Did you also know that our work is supported by a stream of real-time data, which allows Metro to assess and react to changing conditions of treatment systems? [Take a look behind the scenes and learn more about the great work of Metro's Instrument Solution Team](#).



Matt Maino, In-Line Instrument Specialist I, inspecting an ammonia probe near an aeration basin at the RWHTF's South complex.

## Important Dates to Remember

July 15, 2022	Q2 2022 Sewer Connection Charges Due
July 18, 2022 at 11:00 am	Connector PFAS Education Session 1
August 16, 2022	Adopt and Certify the 2023 Estimated Annual Charges for Service – to Board for approval
August 16, 2022	Revise the 2022 Estimated Annual Charges for Service – to Board for approval
August 17, 2022	Community Open House & RWHTF Tour
August 15, 2022 At 9:00 am	Connector PFAS Education Session 2
September 1, 2022	Deliver Volume II of the 2023 Budget to connectors
September 15, 2022	Q3 Annual Charges Due
October 15, 2022	Q3 Sewer Connection Charges Due

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/metro-water-recovery/>

[Previous issues of The Connector can now be found on Metro's website.](#)