

ECUA Protector of the Environment...

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and Backflow Programs

The Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) is working with local Food Service Establishments (FSEs) to promote and improve the environmental impact that creates a positive, clean, and safe working and eating environment through the Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and Backflow Programs.

FOG is designed to reduce the number of sewer pipe blockages and related overflows by educating residents and businesses how to properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease. Introducing FOG into the sewer system can result in backups and overflows on streets, properties, and into businesses. Sewer overflows aren't only unsanitary and bad for the environment, the expensive cleanup and repairs associated with the improper disposal of FOG, can lead to increased sewer rates for all customers as well.

The Backflow Program establishes a routine cross-connection control program to detect and prevent cross-connections that may create an imminent and substantial danger to the public health. The goal is to ensure protection of public health through the provision of minimum requirements and standards for design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our potable water system.

The ECUA encourages businesses and individuals to do their part in maintaining a clean system and requires proper disposal of grease by commercial Food Service Establishments (FSEs). They are required by the Municipal Code to install interceptors and maintain them properly. Additionally, Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be employed to reduce the amount of grease entering the sewer.

ECUA Protector of the Environment...

We Want to Recognize Your Business...

The ECUA will recognize and award Food Service Establishments (FSEs) found to be in continuous compliance with the Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and Backflow Programs' guidelines, as a "Protector of the Environment."

The "Protector of the Environment Award" is based on FSEs who practice clean and safe environmental standards, reduce the amount of grease from entering into the ECUA sewer lines, and adhere to Best Management Practices.

"Protector of the Environment" Guidelines:

- Businesses are recognized as environmental leaders...
- Businesses with multi-locations are awarded the recognition at individual locations only...
- Businesses train their employees on Best Management Practices...
- Businesses participate in scheduled 90 day inspections...
- Businesses have NO FOG and Backflow Program violations or warnings within a one year period...
- Businesses partner with the ECUA to eliminate sewer overflows, which could potentially result in expensive cleanup and repairs...

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The Award

The “Protector of the Environment” award will recognize commercial customers and/or Food Service Establishments (FSEs), owners and managers, who implement and enforce Kitchen Best Management practices to reduce the amount of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) from entering into the ECUA sewer lines. The program requires that FSEs must have installed a backflow device and be current with backflow testing guidelines. The award will be presented to a local business who is in compliance with the ECUA FOG and Backflow established guidelines.

The winner of the award will be determined by an impartial ECUA selection committee. The judging will be based-on various criteria:

- a) FOG environmental inspection records...**
- b) Backflow compliance records...**
- c) On-site inspection reviews...**
- d) Recommendations from the environmental specialist.**

The winning business will be awarded a “Certificate of Accomplishment” plaque and a “Protector of the Environment” window decal. This will identify the recognized business as an establishment that maintains a clean and environmentally safe operation.

The goal of the “Protector of the Environment” award is for the general public to recognize the local winning business as an environmentally clean and safe place to visit, support, and patronize.

How Will Participating in the “Protector of the Environment” Program Help My Business?

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority’s (ECUA) goal is to ensure protection of public health through the provision of minimum requirements and standards for design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our potable water system, and to monitor business and residential compliance through our Backflow Program. In addition, we encourage the abatement of fats, oils, and grease into the sewer lines, with qualified education and training through our FOG Program.

Many businesses utilizing the ECUA system have pursued innovative ways of preventing the introduction of impurities into the sewer lines through waste minimization and implementing Best Management Practices.

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The Benefits

There are many reasons the “Protector of the Environment” Program will be a positive addition to your business. It’s a **REAL** worthwhile opportunity!

Recognition and Community Respect

Environmental Awareness

Achievement

Leadership Opportunities

Recognition and Community Respect

The “Protector of the Environment” designation informs the public of your commitment to a clean and safe environment.

Environmental Awareness

Your business has developed, implemented and accomplished successful and effective environmental techniques learned through the ECUA’s Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and Backflow Programs.

Achievement

Your business has trained employees on Best Management Practices, has no FOG or Backflow Program violations, no warnings within a one year period, and participates in scheduled 90 day inspections.

In some select cases, businesses receiving an achievement award, have been recognized by their insurance carrier and awarded lower insurance rates. The insurance company identified the FSE as a proactive business, encouraging a safe and clean working environment.

Leadership Opportunities

Managers who follow the established guidelines of the FOG and Backflow Programs, and win the “Protector of the Environment Award,” will have demonstrated leadership qualities. Companies who recognize this achievement are more likely to be proactive in advancing the careers and/or position of the managers because of their successful participation in the program.

