



NEW Water is a single-purpose government utility that reclaims water and promotes pollution prevention and water conservation. It owns and operates two wastewater treatment facilities in Green Bay and De Pere, WI. It is a wholesale wastewater treatment provider for 18 municipal customers, serving more than 231,000 residents over a 285-square-mile area. [Learn more about NEW Water as a wholesale provider.](#)

NEW Water collects and treats an average of 38 million gallons a day at the Green Bay Facility (30 mgd) and De Pere Facility (8 mgd), removing more than 97 percent of its pollutants.

NEW Water, the brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (GBMSD), was formed December 4, 1931, during the depression, with the first treatment plant beginning operation early in 1935. The first facility had a capacity of 10 million gallons per day (MGD). It included two primary clarifiers and chlorination for treatment of the wastewater. Treatment at that time averaged 2.5 MGD. This was better than no treatment at all, but it soon became evident that it also wasn't enough.

Area growth and a desire for improved water conditions led to several plant expansions from 1935 through the 1950s. In 1955, a secondary treatment system, using tricking filters, was installed to biologically treat the water. The design capacity of the plant at this time was 22 MGD. Also during the middle 1950s, work began on the separation of storm and sanitary sewers. That way, storm water wouldn't be filling up the system, and treatment could focus on the more concentrated wastes.

In the early 1970s, federal clean water regulations mandated tougher water quality guidelines. This effort culminated in a \$72 million expansion project, which utilized activated sludge in its secondary treatment process. The plant was completed in 1975 and had a capacity of 52 MGD.

NEW Water's 1990s expansion took another large stride toward cleaner water with the addition of two aeration basins, two clarifiers and an improved solids handling system. Additional facilities provided for dechlorination of the treated water leaving the plant.

NEW Water has begun its journey to become a [*Utility of the Future*](#), one that views what is sent to the facility as a resource to be recovered, rather than a waste to be disposed of, and one that serves as a community partner, and leader in water quality improvement efforts. On the horizon, NEW Water looks forward to continuing to protect its most valuable resource, water.