

## What would program participation look like?

Program participation would begin with facilities expressing interest in the program and meeting with program contacts.

If desired, the facility would then be visited by Optimization program staff to help better understand the specific treatment conditions.

At no cost to the facility, additional influent and effluent sampling would be performed to gain a baseline understanding of the loading conditions.

Facility operators next meet with the wastewater experts to discuss plans and potential optimization practices. These changes would then be enacted and monitored over a several month period by operator staff and optimization program staff.

Documentation and program updates would be provided by the optimization program staff on progress updates.

## General Selection Criteria

1. Facilities that express **program interest and willing participation**
2. Facility **operators who are actively engaged and willing to work with the program's wastewater experts**
3. Facilities with **Activated Sludge, SBR, or Oxidation Ditch treatment processes**

## How can Facilities express interest in program participation?

Interested treatment facilities can reach out to any of the contacts listed below to express interest in the Optimization program.

## PROGRAM CONTACTS

<b>DNR</b>	Adam Schnieders	<a href="mailto:adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov">adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov</a>
<b>DNR</b>	Satya Chennupati	<a href="mailto:satya.chennupati@dnr.iowa.gov">satya.chennupati@dnr.iowa.gov</a>
<b>IAWEA</b>	Matt Wildman	<a href="mailto:mwildman@hrgreen.com">mwildman@hrgreen.com</a>
<b>IAWEA</b>	Jon Koch	<a href="mailto:jkoch@muscatineiowa.gov">jkoch@muscatineiowa.gov</a>
<b>IAWEA</b>	Tim Wilkey	<a href="mailto:tim-wilkey@iowa-city.org">tim-wilkey@iowa-city.org</a>
<b>IWWERP</b>	Dr. Craig Just	<a href="mailto:craig-just@uiowa.edu">craig-just@uiowa.edu</a>

## Concerns, Questions or Feedback?

If a facility has any concerns, questions, or feedback on anything related to the Wastewater Optimization Program, please feel free to reach out to **Craig Just** ([craig-just@uiowa.edu](mailto:craig-just@uiowa.edu)) or **Adam Schnieders** ([adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov))

FACT  
SHEETWastewater Optimization  
Program in Iowa

The wastewater treatment plant optimization program has two purposes:

- 1) To further reduce point source nutrient output to Iowa's rivers and streams
- 2) Reduce energy consumption

The initial focus of the program is on municipal wastewater treatment plants.



### What is the Wastewater Optimization Program?

The Optimization program helps wastewater treatment facilities optimize their treatment process for energy savings and improved nutrient reduction through partnership with a team of qualified wastewater experts. This program is a collaboration between the Iowa Wastewater and Waste to Energy Research Program (IWWERP), Iowa Water Environment Association (IAWEA), and DNR.

### What assistance can the Optimization Program provide?

There are a variety of potential benefits this program can provide, a few examples include:

- Program participation at no cost to the facility
- Wastewater sampling provided to demonstrate the benefits of optimization
- Suggestions from qualified wastewater experts on process changes with the goal of reducing monthly energy usage and costs
- Suggestions from qualified wastewater experts on how to improve nutrient removal through the facility
- Enforcement discretion by the Iowa DNR if temporary violations result from optimization trials conducted during program participation
- Access to equipment to allow and maintain gains achieved via the program
- Ability to be recognized for program participation and successes

The qualified wastewater experts will work with facility operators to understand the current treatment conditions at the facility and how processes could be optimized for energy savings and nutrient reduction.

If proper COVID restrictions are observed and with facility operator's approval, the wastewater expert may elect to visit the facility during program participation.