



# Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable Program

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# Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable History

- WATER is an educational partnership between NCTCOG, municipalities, and water utilities in the North Central Texas region
- Formerly known as the North Texas Grease Abatement Council
- Started in 2005 with the goal to target grease related issues in North Central Texas and reduce SSOs
- Expanded with a new name and new mission in 2015



WATER's mission is to help reduce potential damage to the region's household plumbing systems and wastewater treatment systems as well as to decrease hazards to water quality through educational efforts related to the proper disposal of items such as

- wipes,
- paper towels,
- feminine hygiene and personal care products,
- medicines,
- household hazardous waste, and
- fats, oils, and grease (FOG).



# Funding, Budget, and Participation

- Budget is funded through voluntary cost-shares, based on population size or customers served
- FY2022 Participation:
  - 17 city participants, serving a total population of approx. 2.1 million residents
    - Represents approx. 27% of the North Central Texas region
  - 2 special district participants, serving over 1 million customers each
- Annual Budget: \$57,200

2021 Population (NCTCOG Estimates)	Cost
1 million+	\$7,500
750,000–999,999	\$7,000
500,000–749,999	\$6,000
350,000–499,999	\$5,000
200,000–349,999	\$4,150
100,000–199,999	\$3,250
50,000–99,999	\$2,150
25,000–49,999	\$1,400
10,000–24,999	\$1,000
Less than 10,000	\$500
Special district partners serving 1 million+	\$7,500
Special district partners serving 500,000–999,999	\$6,500
Special district partners serving 100,000–499,999	\$4,000
Special district partners serving less than 100,000	\$2,150

Note: Special district partners should use wastewater ratepayer population. A special district partner with regional systems is considered one entity.



# Benefits of Participation in Work Program

Access to deliverables

Access to .mp4 files of PSAs/videos

Priority and discounted registration on trainings

Logo on Defend Your Drains North Texas website as a partner

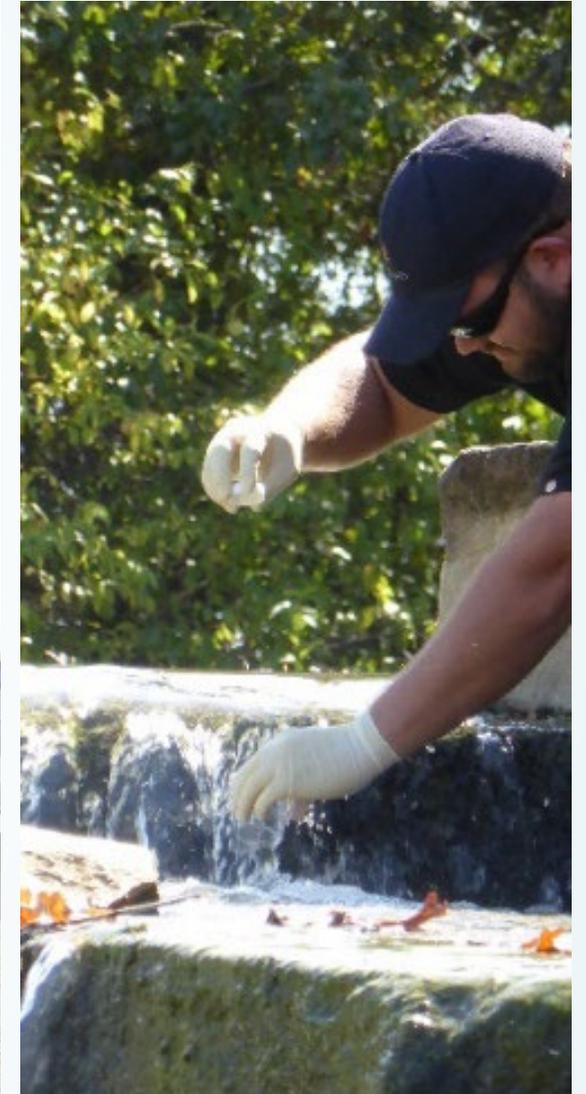
# Work Program Activities

- Administrative Tasks, including hosting quarterly committee meetings
- Coordination of regional training
- Coordination of the regional Defend Your Drains North Texas campaign, including maintenance of website and associated social media accounts
- Advertising (social media, Google ads, etc.)
- Development of PSAs or other deliverables as requested by members
- Coordination of the Annual Holiday Grease Roundup



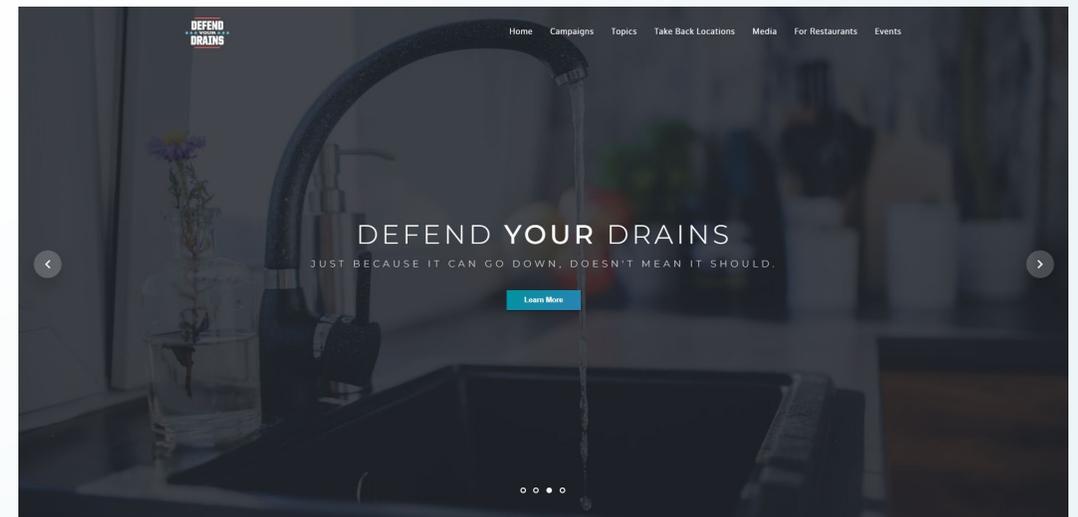
# Regional Trainings

- Grease Interceptor Inspector Training
- Field Technician Training
- Industrial Inspections Training
- Paid instructors and municipal volunteer presenters, depending on direction received from members



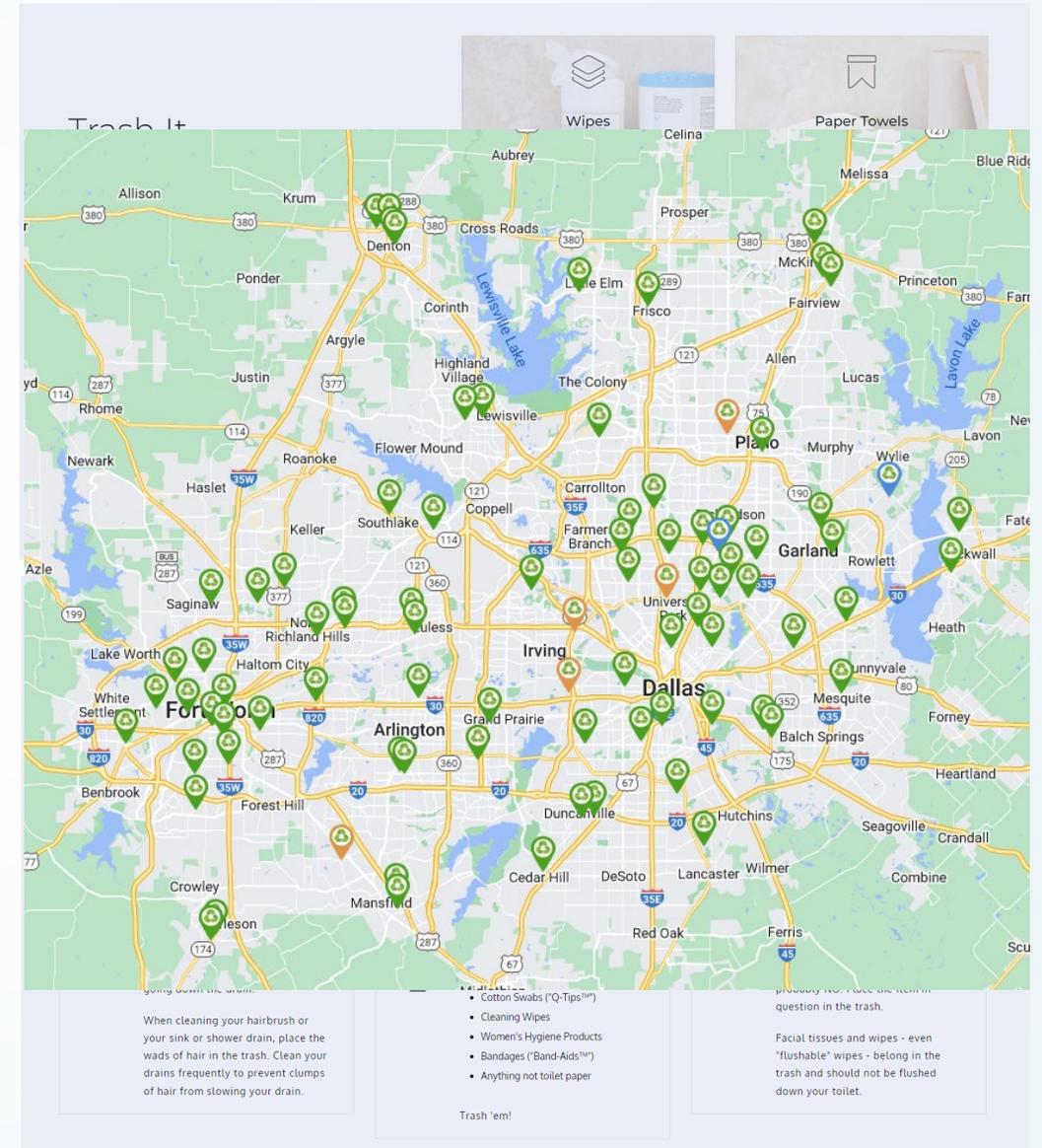
# Defend Your Drains North Texas

- Defend Your Drains and Cease the Grease messaging originated from the City of Dallas Water Utilities
- Dallas agreed to share logos and other assets with the region in 2016
- NCTCOG has expanded upon the original Defend Your Drains messaging since then
  - Including a new website, updated marketing deliverables, locator map, and more



# Defend Your Drains North Texas Website

- Website redesign combined the Cease the Grease North Texas and Defend Your Drains North Texas websites into one
- Includes topic specific information, campaign details, and searchable take back locator map
- Educational videos, public resources, and restaurant information also available



# Flyers, Handouts, Social Media Toolkits, and Other Deliverables

Presented by: (Insert Your Name Here)  
How You Can Defend Your Drains!



DEFEND <sup>\*\*\*</sup>YOUR<sup>\*\*\*</sup> DRAINS

# WIPES BLOCK YOUR DRAINS

DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com



### TRASH IT

These items can clog pipes and cause blockages even if labeled "flushable." Throw them in the trash to prevent expensive plumbing repairs.

- WIPES**: Wipes don't break down when flushed down the toilet.
- PAPER TOWELS**: Paper towels are designed to be absorbent and strong and to not break down in water, so they will clog your plumbing.
- FEMININE HYGIENE**: Pads and tampons are very absorbent and don't break down like toilet paper. They commonly cause plumbing issues.
- PERSONAL CARE**: Everyday personal care products like cotton swabs and dental floss tangle up in your drains and can clog your plumbing.

### DISPOSE RESPONSIBLY

These products can damage your pipes and negatively impact the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams.

- FATS, OILS, AND GREASE**: Your drains don't love bacon as much as you do. Recycle used cooking oil at a drop-off location.
- CLEANING PRODUCTS**: Household cleaning products may clean your home but large amounts can be dangerous going down the drain. Take leftover products to the hazardous waste.
- MEDICINE**: The best medicine for your drains is no medicine. Return extra and expired medicines at take-back events.
- PAINTS/PESTICIDES**: Latex paint and pesticides are considered hazardous waste and should be carefully taken to a hazardous waste collection center.

**DEFEND YOUR DRAINS**

[www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com)

### Trash it. Don't Flush it.

**Wipes**

Even if the wipes are labeled "flushable," they are not! Throw them in the trash!

**Paper Towels**

Paper towels take a long time to dissolve in water and could clog your pipes! Always throw them in the trash!

**Feminine Hygiene**

Tampons and Pads are designed to absorb and retain liquids. Never flush them in the toilet.

**Personal Care**

Items such as dental floss, hair, cotton balls or condoms should not be flushed in the toilet. Throw these items in the trash!

[www.defendyourdrains.com](http://www.defendyourdrains.com)

**Only flush the 3 P's:**  
Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper.

BLOCK

EVERYTHING

Wipes clog sewer lines.

Wipes are designed not to break down once wet. So, they don't degrade like toilet paper does.

Flushing Wipes Causes:

- Blockages in your pipes.
- Equipment damage at your waste water treatment plant.
- Costly septic system repairs.
- Sanitary sewer overflows.
- Microplastics in local waters.

DEFEND YOUR DRAINS  
Wastewater And Treatment Education Foundation

For more information visit:  
[www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com)

# Educational Explainer Videos



Wipes Clog Pipes



Fats, Oils, and Grease



Drug Take Back



Proper Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste



Simple Life Cycle of Drinking Water



Why Your Sink Disposal Isn't a Garbage Can



Always Trash Your Personal Care Items



Disposal of Home Cleaning Products



Annual Holiday Grease Roundup



Only the Three P's: Pee, Poop, and Toilet Paper



Don't Flush Paper Towels or Tissues!

# Holiday Grease Roundup

- Annual FOG collection event during the Holiday season
- Started in 2014 through Dallas County Schools biodiesel program for buses
- Runs from mid-November through the first week in January
- Directed by WATER to offer this to the entire region, not just cost-sharing participants



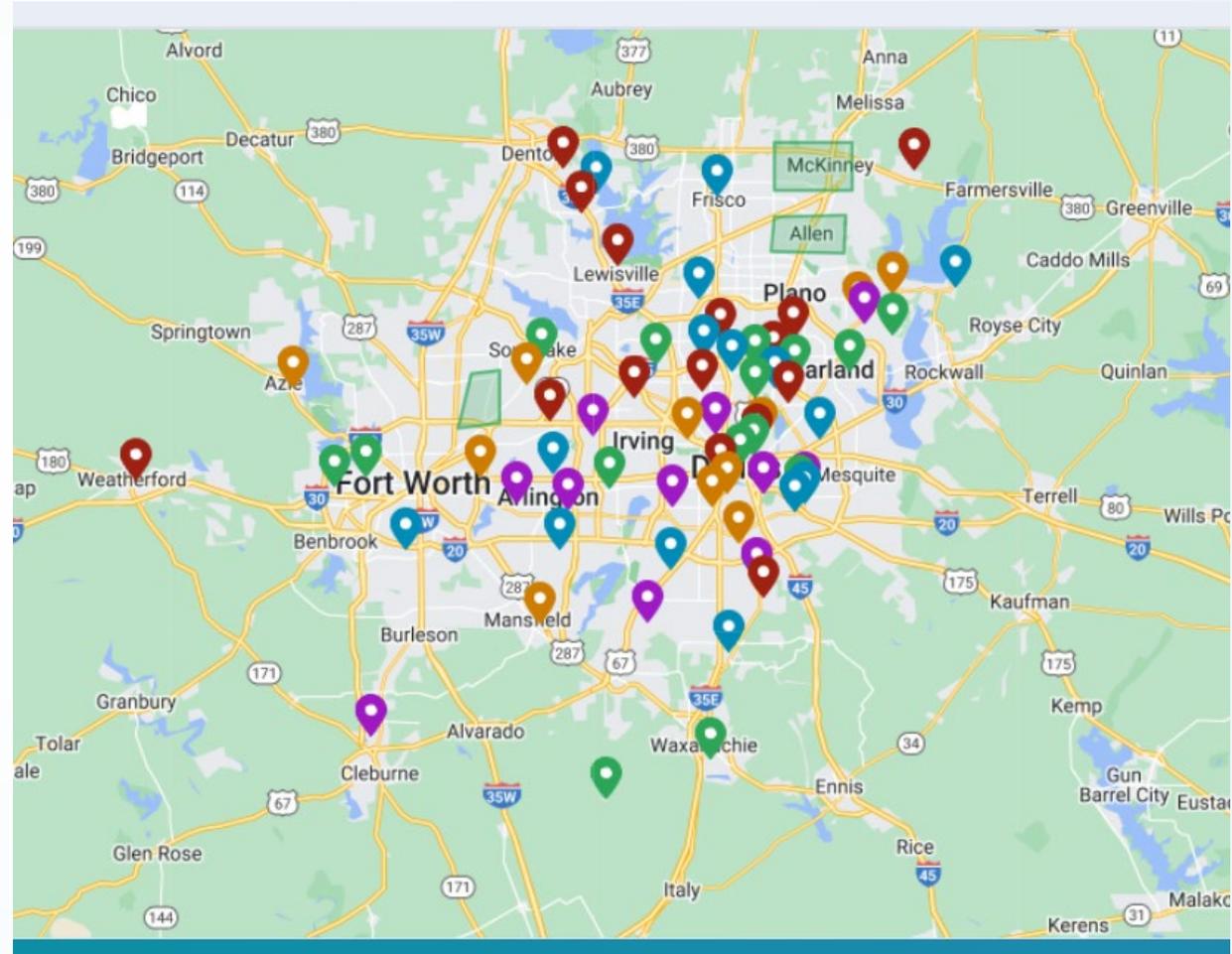
# Holiday Grease Roundup Participation

- ▶ Entities can participate in the Holiday Grease Roundup in three ways:
  - ▶ Through their own established grease/FOG collection program,
  - ▶ Partnering with American BioSource for a grease container and collection, or
  - ▶ Only participating as a marketing partner, with no collection location.



# Holiday Grease Roundup Participation

- Most collection locations are open to ALL North Central Texas residents, but some are restricted or are curbside pick-up only through established Household Hazardous Waste programs
- Most locations run for the entirety of the HGR (or are available year-round)
- Participants can also select specific days if their location cannot be available for the entirety of event



# Holiday Grease Roundup Marketing Materials

- ▶ Participants are provided marketing materials so there is cohesive messaging across the region
  - ▶ Individual participant flyer
  - ▶ Holiday Grease Roundup Logo
  - ▶ Social Media Toolkit
  - ▶ Flyers/Handouts
  - ▶ Bill Inserts
  - ▶ Press Release
  - ▶ Email Templates
  - ▶ Video
- ▶ Participant's logo is also posted on the website and their collection site is pinned on the map

Join us for the

Nov. 22-Jan. 10 / nov. 22-ene. 10

## 2021 Holiday Grease Roundup

Recolección de Grasa de Festividades 2021

Don't pour your leftover cooking grease down the drain! Recycle it for free instead. Find your closest drop-off location at [www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com).

No tire los restos de grasa de la cocina por el desagüe! Recíclela gratis. Encuentre el punto de entrega más cercano en [www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com).



Join us for the

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DEFEND  
\*\*\* YOUR \*\*\*  
DRAINS

[www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com)  
#HolidayGreaseRoundup

What Happens to the Grease?  
¿Qué ocurre con la grasa?  
We will use the collected cooking oil and grease to create biodiesel or turn it into biogas for energy production.  
Usaremos el aceite de cocina recogido y grasa para crear biodiesel o convertirlo en biogás para la producción de energía.

This collection is for cooking oil and grease only. Motor oil and other automotive fluids are not accepted.  
Este sitio solamente es para aceite y grasa de cocina. No se aceptan aceites de motor u otros líquidos automotrices.



LEWISVILLE  
Deep Roots. Broad Wings. Bright Future.

City Facilities for Recycling  
Instalaciones de la Ciudad para reciclaje

1100 N Kealy  
Lewisville, TX 75057

Collection Hours / Horario de Recolección  
Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

### Cooking Grease Clogs Up The Sewer System

Fats, oils, and grease harden in pipes or sewer lines, causing blockages and major clogs. Household pipes and city sewer lines are not able to handle these materials and can lead to sewer overflows.

Don't pour grease down the drain. Pour it into a covered container, like an old coffee can, and recycle it at a drop-off.



If the sewer overflows, city crews have to shut down streets, tying up traffic and increasing expenses for you and the city.

Don't pour cooking oil down the drain. After you deep-fry food, cool the used oil. Put it into a rigid plastic container with a screw-top lid (maybe even the container the oil came in), and recycle it at a drop-off location.

#HolidayGreaseRoundup

DEFEND  
\*\*\* YOUR \*\*\*  
DRAINS

Go to [www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com](http://www.DefendYourDrainsNorthTexas.com) to learn more!

# Holiday Grease Roundup Program Growth

- In 2017, NCTCOG worked with members to find new partner to collect/utilize the grease
- Continue to expand participation and increase amount of FOG collected
- 2021 Holiday Grease Roundup included 41 participants and 70 drop off locations
  - Represents over 4.7 million residents

Holiday Grease Roundup – Historic Data		
Year	Participants	Amount Collected (Gallons)
2014	7	984
2015	10	2,773
2016	14	5,034
2017	11	4,000
2018	13	3,581
2019	27	3,502
2020	33	6,693
2021	41	8,445
<b>Total:</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>35,012</b>

# Future WATER Goals and Activities

General  
Program  
Growth and  
Participation

Growth of  
social media  
presence

Additional  
educational  
videos

Holiday  
Grease  
Roundup  
expansion

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# Connect



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