



MESUG or the Municipal Enforcement Sewer Use Group's membership encompasses small, medium and large municipal wastewater and water utilities. We are Wastewater/Water Operators, Environmental Technicians, By-Law Officers, Managers and Administrators from across the province of Ontario, employed by our local municipality.

Since the mid 1980's we have been working on public education regarding water, wastewater and the environment through our members' municipal utilities. As a whole we have been relaying the message to the public that "Toilets and Sinks Are Not Garbage Cans" and what you flush or put down your sink can affect your home, your neighbour's home and the very water source that you rely upon for safe and fresh drinking water.

Specifically, in 2009 to 2011, we worked with the Ministry of the Environment and received funding to create educational brochures for public distribution and education. We created two subcommittees to come up with the information we felt needed to go out to the public in these brochures. A company called Vivid Creative Communications in London, Ontario was hired to assist with the brochures by taking all of the wording and photos that we provided and producing brochures that were readily understandable by the general public.

Four brochures were created:

- 1.] From Drain to Drinking Water – Storm Sewers
- 2.] From Drain to Drinking Water – Pools and Hot Tubs
- 3.] Sinks Are Not Garbage Cans – Food Waste Grinders
- 4.] Sinks Are Not Garbage Cans – Restaurant Grease

These brochures were created and are in a format that each municipality can modify to be specific to their local area as well as insert their own contact information and logo. Today, many municipalities have these on display at their utility locations as well as include them at local Water Festivals, Earth Day events and other public education events. They are also handed out to small businesses, contractors and restaurants to better inform them of how their daily operations can adversely affect their water/wastewater systems and the environment.

We continue to strive for excellence in our individual and group public outreach efforts not only through these brochures but also via facility tours, public speaking events and school presentations.

Currently we are working with the International Standards Organization (ISO) to create a technical specification on what is a flushable wipe. Our goal is to have this ISO Technical Specification adopted into law by both provincial and federal governments to regulate what manufacturers label and sell as flushable to the public. The cost to our member municipalities and their residents in dealing with these wipes in the wastewater system and environment is upwards of \$250 million dollars a year. This is not economically or environmentally sustainable and must change.

Simply, we are a group of municipal utilities who want to make a difference by working together towards one goal ..... to protect our environment from the drain to drinking water by helping our residents and businesses stay better informed.