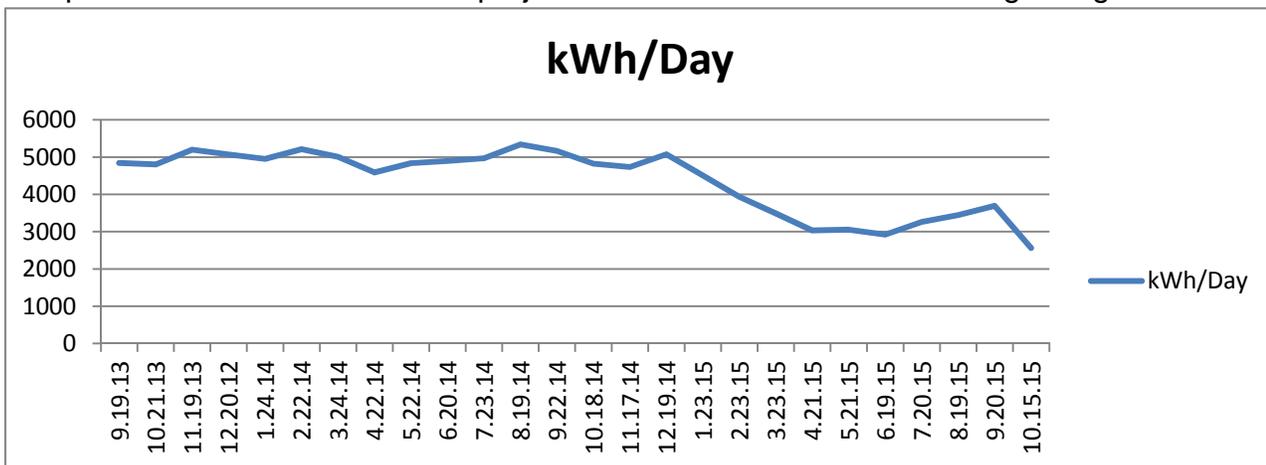


## December 2015 Newsletter

*Island Lake, IL*- The Northern Moraine Wastewater Reclamation District (NMWRD) announced that it has been awarded and received grant funds totaling \$98,903 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation following the completion of energy savings projects. Through the installation of new technology, including a high efficiency blower for the aerobic digester process and variable speed controllers for dissolved oxygen concentration control on the oxidation ditch, the District has been able to demonstrate dramatic reductions in electrical energy usage. The oxidation ditch receives untreated wastewater and employs selective microorganisms in an activated sludge process to remove pollutants from the waste stream. Following clarification, a very high quality effluent, low in nutrients and solids is produced with reclaimed water returned to the environment via the Fox River for reuse. The aerobic digestion process allows for the stabilization of bio-solids, vastly reducing pathogens and reclaiming valuable nutrients including phosphorus and nitrogen for use as farm field fertilizer. The installation of this equipment has resulted in electrical energy costs savings of nearly \$2,000 per month over the past year, in spite of a 15% electrical rate increase in May of 2015.

NMWRD District Manager Eric Lecuyer reported that between the cost savings achieved and the grant funds received the return on investment (ROI) for the new technology, based on current electrical rates is around 10 years, at which time it will have paid for itself. “The District, teaming with its consultant engineer Trotter and Associates, was able to identify and install the most cost effective equipment for the application. The District’s operating staff was able to refine the operation of the technology to extract the maximum benefit,” said Lecuyer. NMWRD Board President Kenneth Michaels stated, “This is just another example of the District doing all it can to operate efficiently and provide crucial wastewater services to the residents we serve at the lowest possible cost. I am proud of the Board and Staff for the completion of these projects and the resulting grant award.”

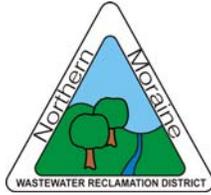


**NMWRD Provides Critical Core Services to Communities and Residents:** The Northern Moraine Wastewater District is an award winning regional Sanitary District that protects public health and the environment through the collection, conveyance and treatment of wastewater. This critical service assures that all of the used water leaving homes and businesses from toilets, sinks and other drains is transported via underground pipes and pumping stations to the treatment plant, located in Island Lake, for treatment. Through the treatment process, wastewater is reclaimed, where pathogens, solids and oxygen reducing materials are removed and high quality, clean, safe reclaimed water is returned to the environment. While this water is not ready for drinking, many downstream communities in the Fox, Illinois and Mississippi rivers draw water from the rivers, and following treatment, provide drinking water for their communities. Nutrients are reclaimed and used for fertilizer on farm fields. If this service was not available and residents had to rely on private sewage disposal, as was done prior to the establishment of the District, negative impacts to the subsurface aquifers would occur with nitrates and other compounds contaminating drinking water supplies. While private septic systems are appropriate for large lots with suitable soils, small in town lots do not have the capacity for effective sewage disposal and are prone to failure. Community wastewater systems, such as the District's, improve the quality of life for residents and assure that wastewater is effectively treated and returned safely to the environment while facilitating the economic development of the villages served. In order to maintain a sustainable utility, the District charges user rates that are designed to offset the operating and maintenance costs of its facilities as well as provide for the timely replacement of equipment and facilities as they reach the end of their useful life. Most of the District's equipment, including pumps, aeration blowers, aerators, clarifiers, chemical feed and support systems operate twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week/365, and in spite of effective maintenance, eventually wear out. It is the District's goal to continue to provide effective and efficient services far into the future and has designed its rate program to provide needed funding to meet these goals.

**Transparency:** In keeping with the District's commitment to transparency, all of the District's business and fiscal information, including the annual audit, operating budget, appropriations ordinance, meeting agendas, minutes and much more can be found at [NMWRD.org](http://NMWRD.org) under the "Transparency" heading.

**Toilets are not Trashcans!** The District's operations continue to be impacted by some customers who flush inappropriate materials, such as baby wipes, disposable diapers, hygiene products and other materials down the toilet. These products, even those wipes that are labeled as "flushable", do not break down easily and can cause sewers to plug resulting in basement backups. Only poo, pee and toilet paper should be flushed...everything else should go in the trash can.

**Sewer Service Bill Payment Options:** The District offers a wide range of payment options for the convenience of its customers. Payments can be submitted via mail to P.O. Box 240, Island



Lake, IL 60042 or dropped off at the District Office (113 Timber Trail) or the “after hours” drop box (420 Timber Trail). Payments should be enclosed in the provided return envelope along with the payment coupon. Automatic payments (ACH) can be arranged by contacting the District’s office. On line payments can be made through the E-Pay process with no additional charges and can be accessed via [NMWRD.org](http://NMWRD.org). The District offers a \$1.00 rebate credit per billing period where prepayment in full is received and no bill is mailed for that period. You may pay in advance for as many months as you wish. The District will administer the \$1.00 rebate as a credit to your account for each month that a bill does not have to be produced or mailed and a credit remains on your account. This means prepayment in full must be received by the 28th of the month, before bills are produced and mailed.