Providing Affordable Service and Community Service Leadership: 
*Essential Best Practices for the Clean Water Utility of the Future*

Andrew Kricun, P.E., BCEE
Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority

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The greater good of the world is largely due to the *unhistoric* acts of the faithful men and women who may rest in unvisited tombs.”

~George Eliot
Affordability is an issue of critical importance to the residents of Camden City.
Services 500,000 customers from 37 Municipalities including Camden City

- Design Flow: 80 MGD
- Average Flow: 58 MGD
- All the wastewater from the 36 suburban municipalities is conveyed to Camden for treatment
- Discharges to Delaware River
Camden County MUA’s Multi-Pronged Approach to Providing Affordable Service and Community Service to Camden City

• A) Affordability for all customers

1) Cost Efficiency
2) Asset Management
   • Maximize preventative to reactive maintenance ratio
   • Timely replacement of capital equipment
3) Judicious Use of the State Revolving Fund (SRF)

Result: CCMUA’s rate in 1996 was $337 per household. 22 years later, it is $352 per household, a reduction of over 40% in inflation adjusted dollars.
Camden County MUA’s Multi-Pronged Approach to Providing Affordable Service and Community Service to Camden City (continued)

• B) Host Community Benefit for Camden City

Annual user rate further reduced by 40%, from $352 to $220 for Camden residents, since Camden hosts the regional wastewater plant
Camden County MUA’s Multi-Pronged Approach to Providing Affordable Service and Community Service to Camden City (continued)

- C) Community Service
  
  - Camden Collaborative Initiative
  
  - Green Infrastructure Program
Environmental & Community Service Leadership - Camden Collaborative Initiative

- Collaboration among USEPA, NJDEP, CCMUA, Camden City and 50 other environmental and community service agencies, to address environmental issues
- Six working groups formed:
  - Flooding
  - Contaminated Sites
  - Recycling
  - Environmental Justice
  - Environmental Education
  - Air Emissions
- Power Corps & Green Ambassadors – *Green jobs Initiatives*
Camden Collaborative Initiative
Waterfront South Rain Gardens
Green Infrastructure on Brownfield Sites - Before & After
Phoenix Park Project- Before
Baldwin’s Run Stream Daylighting Project - Before
Baldwin’s Run Stream Daylighting Project - After
Green Job Opportunities

- **Power Corps**: partnership with AmeriCorps to provide green infrastructure maintenance jobs and life skills training to 180 at-risk young men & women over 3 years.

- **Green Ambassadors**: partnership with EPA, NPS and others to provide green jobs over the summer for Camden high school students with an interest in environmental science.
Conclusion

• Clean water utilities have a tremendous opportunity, and obligation, to provide affordable service to their customers, and serve as environmental champions and anchor institutions in our communities.
Thanks for Listening!

If you would like more information, please contact:

Andrew Kricun, P.E., BCEE
Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority
Camden, NJ  08104
(856)583-1223
andy@ccmua.org