

PROJECT NEEDS

The City of Albert Lea is committed to the economic growth and the environment in order to meet a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limit for phosphorus. The city will need to update the infrastructure at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). These infrastructure updates are required to support area businesses and industries that produce food for the country in order to maintain the city's high standards for improving/maintaining the area natural resources as well as replace aging infrastructure and meet new NPDES phosphorus limits.

The Environment

Albert Lea has a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. This project provides an opportunity to continue to improve and protect the environment. As part of this project we will look for ways to improve energy efficiency, look for ways to generate green energy, and seek opportunities to provide green, sustainable improvements which will benefit the community and state.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

20,000+
Minnesota residents

Rates increase
194%+
without legislative capital investment

Rates increase
117%+
with legislative capital investment

Albert Lea media income is **65%** of state median



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Capital Investment Request



ALBERT LEA INDUSTRIES

Albert Lea
Electro Plating, Inc.

AmTech
Ingredients

Cargill

LOU-RICH
Contract Manufacturing • Engineered for Success

Mrs. Gerry's
the best in salads & sides

POET
biorefining

REG

Schipp's
Pro Power Wash
TANKERKleen

ALBERT LEA
SELECT
FOODS

Ventura Foods

Industry Impact



10
Companies



1,600
Jobs



\$85M+
Annual Wages



50
States Served



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This project is part an environmental regulatory requirement nearly doubling the costs of what would otherwise be routine facility improvements and maintenance. Phosphorus levels in the Shell Rock River, including Albert Lea Lake, are serious and the brunt of the effort to reduce phosphorus in the watershed has fallen upon the city's treatment facility, which also supports the community of Manchester.



JOB IMPACTS

Many of the jobs are entry level leading to livable wages with benefits such as health care and retirement. These are desirable jobs in an affordable community. They provide viable alternatives in the job market while avoiding student loan debt or continued income assistance. If the city were to pay for this project alone the rates necessary to cover construction costs would stifle and eventually reduce those economic opportunities in the community. The first half of this project cost will create rate increases in excess of the recommended percentage of net income for the average Albert Lea household. The full amount paid through rate increases would be damaging to the community and many struggling households. If a producer were to slow production or relocate, the problem would worsen exponentially for remaining rate payers – especially the minority/migrant population. With shared investment, the proper foundations for an environmentally sound and economically open facility can be met.

The Numbers

40 years - Life of improvements

1,600 - Jobs retained

\$21,875 - Funding per job

\$3.4B - Wages from 1,600 jobs over 40 years

\$20-25 hr - Food production wages are higher than many entry level positions

PROJECT DETAILS

- Total Cost: \$78,000,000
- City is committing over \$35 million match to the project through loans supported by increased wastewater rates
- Even with the legislative capital investment requested, residents sewer bills will greatly exceed the Public Facilities Authority's (PFA) affordability of 1.4% of the median household income by 2028
- Supports existing industries and future economic development opportunities
- Improves the environment by removing approximately 95,000 lbs (48 tons) of phosphorus per year from the Shell Rock River
- Replaces aging infrastructure to protect the environment
- Community has already invested over \$1 million in planning and preliminary design