

## Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS)

### News Advisory

Release date: January 22, 2013

Contact: Barbara Shaw, Public Affairs Mgr. 694-3113 or [bshaw@mawss.com](mailto:bshaw@mawss.com)

### MAWSS Grease Recycling Program Sets New Record



Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) saw record breaking numbers in 2012 for the “It’s Easy to be Ungreasy” Cooking Grease Recycling program. A total of 27, 974 gallons of used cooking grease were recycled through the utility’s voluntary program last year, an increase of 1,337 gallons over 2011. The numbers add up to better protection for the environment as the program has helped reduce the number of grease related sewer overflows.

Grease related blockages were the major cause of sewer overflows for MAWSS when the program was started in 2006. Since then, there’s been close to a 60 percent reduction in grease related overflows that have reached area waters, down from 51 in 2006 to 21 in 2012.

Participating in the program is easy. Free containers are available in self-serve cages at a variety of locations around town. When the container is full, bring it back and get another. MAWSS also accepts other containers, including large peanut oil jugs, so long as they are sealed and not leaking.

Fats, oil and grease are found in a variety of foods including salad dressings, baked goods, gravies and dairy products. According to Public Affairs Manager Barbara Shaw, many people don’t know they are contributing to the grease problem.

“Many people have the misconception that if they run hot water while rinsing these residuals down their drain, that they’ve avoided the problem, but that’s not true,” said Shaw. “The grease goes through their

pipes, but cools in the sanitary sewer line, building into a blockage that can eventually cause a sewer backup.”

MAWSS encourages people to wipe their dishes and pans with a paper towel before washing or loading them into the dishwasher to eliminate as much fat, oil and grease as possible from going down the drain.

The grease collected by MAWSS is recycled by Birmingham Hide and Tallow into useful products including industrial lubricants, biodiesel fuel and animal feed.

“It’s Easy to be Ungreasy” recycling centers are located at both MAWSS’ offices, 207 N. Catherine St. and MAWSS Park Forest Plaza on Moffett Rd., Keep Mobile Beautiful Recycling Center on Government St., Greer’s Stores in Mobile and many Circle K stores. For a complete list of locations, go to [www.itseasytobeungreasy.com](http://www.itseasytobeungreasy.com) or call 694-3100.