building a sustainable future for Nassau County, NY

Nassau County relies on three municipal sewer facilities to manage their waste. However, ongoing economic challenges and damage caused by Hurricane Sandy has pushed these facilities to the limit. Now, together with SUEZ, Nassau County is upgrading their system to build state-of-the-art, resilient public services that their residents can rely on for years to come.

why SUEZ?
92 million water customers worldwide
34 million wastewater service customers
99.9% compliant with environmental regulations

ready for the resource revolution
Bordered by coastline to the north and south, communities in Long Island’s Nassau County depend on water for their way of life. But the health of the county’s Western Bays had deteriorated as the area’s population swelled over the years.

That’s when Nassau County turned to SUEZ. In a bold move to protect and raise its environmental standards, Nassau County in 2015 selected SUEZ in a historic 20-year public-private partnership to operate and manage the county’s sewage treatment plants and collection system. Using knowledge gained around the globe, SUEZ made system-wide improvements that reduced the facilities’ carbon footprint and helped restore the waterways in and around Nassau County. This initiative gained support from county officials and environmental groups in the area, and it exceeded the guaranteed $10 million in first-year savings.

The unique ecosystem had been crippled by lethal levels of nitrogen which fuel massive algal blooms, choking the bays of oxygen and killing fish, shellfish and plant life. The main culprit for the degradation of the area is the outfall for the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant, responsible for the treatment of 50 million gallons of wastewater every day. For decades the plant was poorly managed and maintained, resulting in dozens of violations. A bad situation was made worse in 2012 when Superstorm Sandy rendered the plant inoperable. It was then that Nassau County officials made the decision to move forward with a public-private partnership to manage the vast wastewater system of the county.

Local environmental groups were involved very early on in the negotiation process with the county and SUEZ. This enabled all parties to be assured that SUEZ was committed to protecting the environment and the employees at all costs.

During only its first year of operation, SUEZ wastewater operations in Nassau County was recognized in 2015 by the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships with an Award for Innovation. This contract is the largest public-private partnership for water or wastewater services in U.S. history.

With the first year of operations in the books, SUEZ is looking to bring its Nassau County project to the highest levels. Many more capital investment and equipment upgrades are planned and SUEZ will keep on working in partnership with Nassau County and the non-governmental organizations in the years to come to restore these facilities and the surrounding bays to full health.