



# Ohio River CSO's-Good News/Bad News and Green News

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## The good news:

- Ohio River cities all have been making significant progress implementing long term CSO control plans
- Most have consent decrees or enforceable agreements and schedules
- Pittsburgh, Huntington, Cincinnati, NKY San #1, Louisville- Major main stem CSO cities in lead both regionally and nationally
- Major trib cities with CSO's also engaged-Indianapolis/Columbus/Lexington
- Enforcement extended to smaller cities in recent years- KY has actions with Ashland/Maysville/Owensboro/Frankfurt/Paducah/Henderson and others
- Long Term Control Plans being submitted and implemented
- Most have early action projects and Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPS)
- Most (but not all) have formal public participation programs and decent if not great public access to wet weather program info on websites

# the bad news

- Adverse economic conditions
- Unrealistic and underestimated plans
- Inadequate State and Federal resources-lack of wet weather experts and support
- Public engagement mechanisms ineffective or struggling
- Watershed considerations/approaches not supported (Exceptions)

# The energy cost escalation is affecting everything

- Construction costs escalated-LTCP estimates invalid
- Political support for rate increases lacking even with consent decrees
- Other system needs may not have been considered in LTCP
- Affordability issues must be confronted

*Net result- Most CSO LTCP's obsolete for current conditions and either are or must be renegotiated/revise.*

# Cont trends and energy

## the green news

- At long green technologies and integrated wastewater/stormwater/watershed adaptive management approaches are getting serious consideration
- Leading cities like Portland, Or and Philadelphia see up to 50% of CSO reductions from green stormwater technologies (LID-Low Impact Development)

For watershed advocates it means new opportunities to influence CSO LTCP's and balance "grey/green" approaches



# Wastewater utilities learning(slowly) to speak green and understand softer green approaches.

“It is difficult to walk the walk if you  
can’t talk the talk!”



# Going Green is in-[www.treehugger.com](http://www.treehugger.com)

## How to green:

- Your home
- Your office
- Your wedding
- Your pets
- Your coffee and tea
- Your water
- Your wardrobe
- Your meals
- Your kitchen
- Your travel
- Your sex life
- Your community
- Your baby
- Your furniture
- Your car
- Your gifts
- Your dishwasher
- Your electronics
- Your cleaning
- Your kids toys
- Your summer vacation
- Your funeral

## And the answer is:

- Non-toxic sex toys
- Bamboo sheets
- Order the Greenpeace sex guide
- The rest you will have to find out on your own!!

# And do you know your “carbon footprint” ...

- [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)

Everybody and every thing has one nowadays!!!

I'll show you mine if you will show me yours!!



**The time is right for greener wastewater and wet weather/CSO solutions based on watershed goals, meaningful public participation and regulatory sanity!!**

**The Ohio River is the midwestern testing ground led by Cincinnati, Louisville and NKY San#1.**

**Alcosan/3Rivers focusing on green this year.**

# Green solutions partners-making a real difference

## Our Green Infrastructure Partnership

**NACWA**

A Clear Commitment to America's Waters



The Low Impact  
Development Center, Inc.



# Cities taking the lead in green implementation

- The “green surge “ is for real
- Big ideas are being explored
- Links to climate change initiatives and commitments in over 800 US cities
- “Out of pipe thinking”
- Real opportunities to link “small is beautiful” to big solutions

*Wastewater utilities will be expected to do their “share” to reduce carbon footprints. Water advocates must engage in footprints dialog.*

# Wastewater Utilities not a direct target for greenhouse gas reductions but ...

- WWTP's show up on city inventories
- Energy use is significant and secondary measurements of ghg can become targeted
- Expansion and new facilities may be required to assess GHG impacts
- Water/wastewater energy use projected to continue to increase...
- CSO LTCP's will be affected

Some cities beginning to do carbon footprint assessments of LTCP alternatives.

## Ron Sims-King County Executive on the new standard for every new public works project or activity:

- “ Will it increase the region’s ghg emissions or reduce them?”
- In Massachusetts, the state demands that developers calculate and disclose the climate impact of their projects
  - Conoco-Phillips paid the state of California \$10,000,000 to expand an existing refinery!!

# A new kind of environmental decision making process is evolving and needed

- Way beyond watersheds!!!!
- Footprints and community values
- Local/National/Global environmental costs and benefits may not be aligned
- Not driven by the CWA

*Doing the right thing may mean looking outside the current regulatory framework- CSO LTCP approaches will change*

High levels of treatment required by current or proposed standards or “hydraulically” focused CSO plans may:

- Damage the environment (in certain cases)
- Require unnecessary treatment

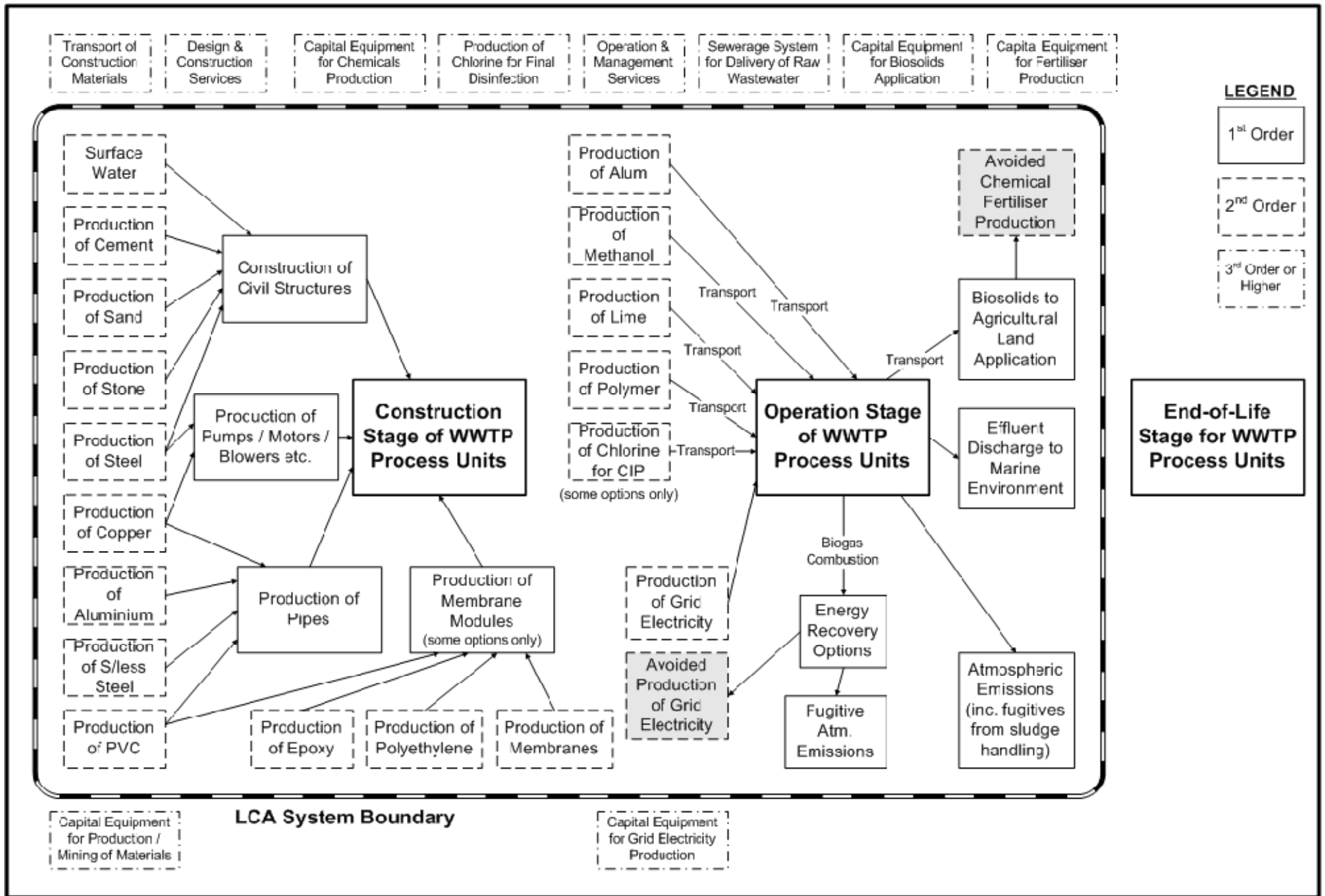
*We must be open to new solutions and comprehensive reevaluation of CSO LTCP projects*

## And with respect to current carbon footprint assessments

*“The lack of rigorous and accepted protocols could lead to the wrong conclusion and the wrong decision.”*

# WWTP Sustainability Assessment Tool (24x7 matrix assessment)

- Energy
- Water
- Materials
- Ecosystem impacts
- Biosolids ghg
- Social
- Economic



# Sidebar issues for Ohio River Advocates

- Energy footprint impacts and unequal challenges
- Water footprints
- GHG/stormwater/wastewater credits-allowable???

# GHG Metric ton/MWh

- Vermont-.008
- Oregon-.080
- Washington-.083
- California-.138
- New Jersey-.257
- Wyoming-.995
- North Dakota-.993
- New Mexico-.952
- Colorado-.929
- Kentucky-.901



# Water footprints coming??

- Carbon footprint- 4,160,000 hits
- Water footprint- 6,330,000
- **140 litres= 1 cup of coffee**

*Water conservation and water use limits have not been an Ohio River consideration!*

[www.waterfootprint.org](http://www.waterfootprint.org)

# Trading and credits

- Controversial
- Limited science and study
- Essential tool in the toolbox or partisan ploy
- Big issue with nutrient limits
- Potentially big with stormwater and CSO solutions (AAOV issue)

# Ohio River CSO Future

- The future is already here- nutrient limits and carbon footprints not going away and must be considered in CSO LTCP's
- Utilities and advocates need to get ahead and stay ahead of climate change /carbon footprint curve for Ohio river issues
- Technical leadership and science must guide decisions and support positions taken- ORSANCO role critical given depleted state and federal resources
- Green CSO control can only happen with environmental advocate's support and participation



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