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WACO FACILITIES WIN TWO OF THE STATE'S TOP ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Commitment to environmental efficiency and education has earned two City of Waco projects Texas Environmental Excellence Awards.

The Waco Metropolitan Area Regional Sewerage System reduced energy usage by 35 percent per year, reduced system-clogging greases by 90 percent and solids by 50 percent by installing an anaerobic digester system to produce and burn methane gas. The remaining solids are now treated and turned into fertilizer rather than going to the landfill.

The Lake Waco Wetlands project serves as a living laboratory for area students from sixth grade through graduate school. More than 10,000 volunteers have planted, harvested, or maintained aquatic life while learning about sensitive wetlands habitats.

This commitment has earned these projects Texas Environmental Excellence Awards, the state's highest environmental honors. The Lake Waco Wetlands project and the Waco Metropolitan Area Regional Sewerage System are two of nine winners statewide to be recognized with an award, presented by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The TCEQ annually presents the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards to environmental projects across the state that demonstrate excellence in resource conservation, waste reduction and pollution prevention. The award-winning programs reflect the goals of the TCEQ: to protect Texas' human and natural resources and ensure clean air, clean water and the safe management of waste.

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