

# A Sustainability Story: Waste to Wood

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Use one of the words from the word bank in each of the blanks in the Waste to Wood story below. Each word should only be used once. Use context clues, along with the things you learned in the MWMC Sustainability Video, to determine which word belongs in which blank.

Wastewater  
Sustainability  
Recycled  
Biosolids  
Renewable  
Wood

Farms  
Pipes  
Waste  
Microorganisms  
Harvested  
Landfill

Biocycle  
Toilet  
Poplar  
Fertilizer  
Solids  
Non-Renewable

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission cleans water for the entire Eugene-Springfield region, and strives to do so in a sustainable way. \_\_\_\_\_ is the act of taking good care of the resources we have and reducing waste. One way that the MWMC does this is turning waste into \_\_\_\_\_.

It's a simple fact, everyone pees and poops! When human waste is flushed down the \_\_\_\_\_, it's transported in wastewater underground through large \_\_\_\_\_ to the Regional \_\_\_\_\_ Treatment Plant in North Eugene. At the plant, solids are physically removed from wastewater in large tanks called primary clarifiers. The \_\_\_\_\_ settle to the bottom of the clarifiers through gravity, and then are pumped to anaerobic digesters to be treated by \_\_\_\_\_ and processed into biosolids.



After that, the \_\_\_\_\_ are pumped underground to the Biosolids Management Facility, where they decompose in large lagoons over several years. Once they're done processing, the biosolids are ready to use as a safe, nutrient-rich \_\_\_\_\_. That fertilizer is applied on the MWMC's Biocycle Farm to help our \_\_\_\_\_ trees grow. It's also applied on grass \_\_\_\_\_ to help local farmers. This is an example of sustainability in action – instead of trashing biosolids in a \_\_\_\_\_, we reuse them in a way that benefits our local environment. \_\_\_\_\_ water, or treated wastewater, is also used on the \_\_\_\_\_ Farm to irrigate the poplars.

After the poplar trees grow for about 12 years, they're \_\_\_\_\_ and turned into plywood, wood chips, and other wood products that are sold to provide a renewable resource for our community. That's what sustainability is all about – reducing \_\_\_\_\_ and producing/using \_\_\_\_\_ resources that can be easily replaced or naturally regrown rather than \_\_\_\_\_, or limited, natural resources that cannot be easily replaced.



## Metropolitan Wastewater MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



*partners in wastewater management*