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## **Ribbon-Cutting and Tours at Dubuque's Water & Resource Recovery Center**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, to celebrate the completion of the Water & Resource Recovery Center. Tours of the facility will follow the ceremony until 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and participate in the tours.

The facility, formerly known as the Water Pollution Control Plant, is located at 795 Julien Dubuque Drive and underwent a three-year, \$65 million upgrade and was renamed the Water & Resource Recovery Center (W&RRC). This is the largest capital improvement project in the City's history. The new facility features anaerobic digestion for wastewater sludge stabilization and energy recovery in the form of methane, which forms the cornerstone of the City's sustainability and energy-reduction goals at the plant. Under current conditions, the plant will have the ability to generate approximately 50 percent of the electrical demand on-site using the methane from digestion. In the future, the plant's methane production should be sufficient to generate all of its electrical needs on-site.

Other sustainable improvements include improved efficiency in the aeration system to reduce energy use, ultraviolet light disinfection to replace chemical disinfection with chlorine, low- and no- maintenance landscaping, rain gardens for on-site stormwater management, and implementation of Energy Star design guidelines for the numerous buildings on site to reduce lighting and HVAC energy requirements. In addition, the 9,000-sq. ft. administration building is heated and cooled year-round with the plant's treated water prior to discharge to the Mississippi River.

The Water & Resource Recovery Center serves nearly 23,000 households and commercial and industrial customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The facility treats nearly 10 million gallons of wastewater daily.

Parking for the Oct. 3 event will be on the south side of Julien Dubuque Drive. Overflow parking will be available in the Dubuque Girls Independent Softball Complex parking lot with shuttle service to and from the W&RRC.

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