



## City of Albert Lea - HF 450

Capital Investment Request: \$37 million

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) : \$75-80 million

[cityofalbertlea.org/wwtp/](http://cityofalbertlea.org/wwtp/)

### Infrastructure Project

- Phase 1 - Preliminary Treatment through grit removal is under construction.
- *Full completion is \$75-80M project but can be phased into 3 more sections.*
- **Phase 2 (\$25M)- Final design, tertiary treatment and control building construction. This will be UV lights, filtering, septic receiving station and testing.**
- Phase 3 (\$30M) - Liquid Phase improvements for biological nitrogen and phosphorus removal.
- Phase 4 (\$25M) - Biosolid processing and drying. This improvement meets future PFAS regulations and increased biosolid load from phosphorus removal.
- Additional Improvements - a solar field is being installed in April 2025 to meet base energy demands. The cost of battery storage and limited energy buy back limited the project scope.

### State requiring significant phosphorus reduction

- To meet more strict state limits on phosphorus pollution, the City needs to remove 48 tons of phosphorus a year from its effluent to the Shell Rock River.
- The requirement for phosphorus removal has doubled the cost of the WWTP project.
- The effluent impacts water quality downstream as the Shell Rock discharges to the Cedar River, then the Iowa River and finally the Mississippi River.

### Sewer rates will double even with state funding

- The WWTP serves 20,000 residents in Albert Lea and Manchester.
- The median household income in Freeborn County is \$59,862.
- Without state funding, sewer rates will triple for residents, from \$40/month to \$120/month on average.
- With state funding, sewer rates will double for residents.

**11.5%** of Freeborn County  
residents live below poverty level

**23.3%** are age 65 or older

### Jobs depend on affordable rates

- Wastewater from 10 companies make up the bulk of the WWTP influent.
- These companies employ 1,600 people with annual wages totaling \$85 million. Higher sewer rates could prompt companies to relocate to nearby Iowa or other states.

**1,600 jobs**

**\$25,000 funding per job**

**\$40 million state investment**

**\$40 million local investment**

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### For more information

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