



Design-Build Water/Wastewater Fact Sheet

Design-build is the most efficient and effective approach for planning and completing water/wastewater infrastructure projects because one firm assumes responsibility for design, construction and commissioning—streamlining the process. Twenty to 30 percent of all U.S. water and wastewater projects already use the design-build method, and this percentage is growing every year.

There is an increasing urgency in updating inadequate facilities because aging water infrastructure threatens public health and safety. For example, contaminated water makes more than 7 million people sick every year. Also, more than 20 percent of drinking water and 1.2 trillion gallons of storm water are lost each year due to leaks and breaks.

Top reasons to use design-build for water/wastewater projects:

First, for every new job added for local water and sewer facilities, an estimated 3.68 jobs are created. (Source: U.S. Department of Commerce)

Design-Build for Water/Wastewater Fast Facts

Market share: 20-30%
Cost savings: 43%
Project schedule reduction: 33%

In addition, using design-build in water/wastewater treatment projects is financially favorable, resulting in cost savings of up to 43 percent. Design-build also reduces project schedules by as much as 33 percent when compared to the conventional design-bid-build approach.

Finally, overall project quality is improved, as confirmed by a survey and analysis of more than 300 design-bid-build and design-build projects. This study found that project owners feel design-build provides significantly higher quality in the finished projects.

Notable Projects:

There are several notable design-build water/wastewater projects, such as the Johns Creek Environmental Campus in Alpharetta, Ga., and the Cecil Commerce Center Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Jacksonville, Fla.

Winner of the 2010 DBIA National Design-Build Award, Johns Creek Environmental Campus, located on the Chattahoochee River at the City of Roswell's eastern gateway, was completed by Archer Western Contractors, Ltd. on-time and on-budget. It employs cutting-edge membrane bioreactor (MBR) technology to treat wastewater to levels suitable for reuse water distribution.

The Cecil Commerce Center WTP, completed by the Haskell Company, is the first design-build effort for a greenfield facility by JEA, the nation's eighth largest community-owned utility. Delivered on a fast-track schedule, this facility provides service to the Cecil Commerce Center industrial park with provisions for future expansion to three times its current size.

For more information, visit www.dbia.org or call Susan Hines at 202-682-0110.