

## WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY UPGRADES

**STATE PROGRAM:** Maine Department of Environmental Protection

**ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT:** City of Saco

**ASSISTANCE AMOUNT:** \$52 million



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Saco's aging water resource recovery facility struggled to maintain treatment during high tides and had combined sewer overflow (CSO) events at their last remaining CSO outfall. To address this, the City decided to implement upgrades including raising portions of the site three feet above base flood elevation and converting one of the existing clarifiers to a storage tank to use in wet weather events. In addition to a new headworks and influent pump station, the upgrades also include a new biological wastewater treatment system, which will reduce nutrient levels in the effluent and increase the system's treatment capacity. All these improvements are expected to greatly reduce discharges and increase resiliency during wet weather events.

To arrive at the proposed solution, the City assembled a Community Resiliency Committee which included conservation agents, residents, business owners, and City staff to provide feedback during the design process. Additionally, the City held virtual public committee meetings to keep residents informed. As construction progresses, the City continues to provide updates to residents through a project webpage on the Saco, Maine website that includes a live camera feed of the worksite. The project is slated for completion by June 2027.

To read more about this case study, please visit [PISCES 2025 Recognition Program Compendium](#).