

# News



from the Alexandria Sanitation Authority

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## **STUDENTS TOUR ALEXANDRIA SANITATION AUTHORITY TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WATER GOES DOWN THE DRAIN**

This summer, the Alexandria Sanitation Authority hosted dozens of local students and young people to explain what happens after water goes down the drain.

In July, over 50 students from the Alexandria Public School Summer Program toured ASA's facility, learning how ASA filters and disinfects wastewater without using chlorine. They also learned how solid wastes are processed and pasteurized in a process not unlike what's used for milk and orange juice. The result is exceptional quality, pathogen-free matter used like compost by Virginia farmers and others to help meet ASA's efforts to benefit the community through sustainability.

In August, about a dozen teens and young adults from Alexandria toured ASA as part of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's "Green Awareness" program. Sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice, Joblink, and the school system, the program focused on water issues, including shortages and pollution. In addition to touring ASA, the group built a water filtration and irrigation system for the Green Roof at T.C. Williams High School.

And later this month, ASA will host science teachers from the Alexandria City School District with a tour and presentation.

"We welcome hundreds of students from both public and private schools to tour ASA each year," said Karen Pallansch, General Manager of ASA. "This state-of-art water resource facility can process 54 million gallons of water each day, producing the highest quality 'recycled' water back to the environment. We show visitors real world sustainability practices on a large scale. Those practices benefit our community and help improve the Bay."

She added, "It is exciting to see the city fulfill its mission to become more sustainable through its Alexandria Eco-City Environmental Action Plan," said Ms. Pallansch. "ASA is pleased to be part of this community-wide effort."

Students are not the only ones who tour ASA. Each year, representatives of governments and municipalities around the world visit ASA as an award-winning water treatment model. This year, ASA hosted official visitors from Chile, Israel, Japan and Romania to tour the facility.

To plan a tour, contact George Floyd at 703-549-3382, extension 2237.

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