

Napa Sanitation District Defends Their Digester from Trash-laden FOG Receiving



“When we saw the STRAINPRESS® pilot at the nearby Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility, we knew that we wanted to implement it. Instead of HUBER taking the pilot component back to its headquarters, we simply had them bring to our site. Since day one, the HUBER STRAINPRESS® has done a wonderful job.”
- Dusty Maynard, Operator III

Napa Sanitation District struggled for a long time with a bucket type strainer as the screening technology for their Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) receiving and injection system. Not only was trash passed through the bucket an issue for efficiency, it was a safety hazard. According to Dusty Maynard, Operator III, adding the STRAINPRESS® completely transformed their operational experience, giving them results that optimized their FOG receiving program.

FOG is a win-win.

Because FOG injection enhances digester performance, a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) receiving and injection system is a desirable one to implement. The increased production of methane gas ultimately increases the amount of energy the process can produce. In the end, this internally produced methane gas generates energy that offsets operations costs and creates new revenue in the sale of excess methane gas.

“While the FOG system is a tremendous asset to us, it can create issues for us if the screening technology used with it doesn’t adequately perform. And that is what we were struggling with in using the manual bucket type debris strainers as the screening component of our FOG system.”

- Dusty Maynard, Operator III

The big issue with FOG receiving, though, is the never knowing what kind of trash is mixed in the haul. Grease traps are notorious for collecting all types of debris, some of which can be very hazardous.

From dinner forks to dishwasher gloves.

“HUBER’s STRAINPRESS® stops all the debris. We don’t see debris beyond it so we can be confident that clean flow is entering the digester.”

- Dusty Maynard, Operator III

Napa saw all sorts of debris land in their FOG bucket strainer, but not all of it was getting screened out before the FOG moved into the digester.

“Basically, we must make sure that the flow into the digester is clear of debris. The more efficiently we can do that process, the better off we are in respect to cost and safety.”

- Dusty Maynard, Operator III



Non-digestible debris was showing up downstream of the strainer which isn’t acceptable if the FOG system is expected to work efficiently. The stream must be cleaned out ahead of reaching the digester because it takes up valuable space, and it also has the potential it has to cause damage.

“I got a sharp stick in the hand from a sewing needle when clearing out the clogged bucket strainer. It’s a huge safety risk because of the environment you’re working in – with all sorts of waste, including heavy restaurant waste and waste from a chicken processing plant entering the stream. Each time we must clear out the bucket, we risk an injury and infection.”

- Dusty Maynard, Operator III

Problems Solved by the STRAINPRESS®

Problems with Manual Straining Buckets	Solutions delivered by the STRAINPRESS®
Debris observed downstream	Eliminated downstream debris
Clean out is pain-staking and time-consuming	STRAINPRESS® operates automatically.
Injury incidents put employee safety at risk	Reduced risk to employee safety

Facing risky manual processes.

The bucket strainer clogged frequently causing a halt in the process that allowed operators to manually unplug it. This is nasty, hazardous work. The odor is persistent and lasting and the waste stains and ruins clothing. It's truly a foul experience.

"Anytime we must stop everything for a fix, it costs us. Even though the FOG system generates revenue in the end, it makes no sense to burn up the valuable time of our operators on clearing out clogs."

- Dusty Maynard, Operator III



generating asset. The HUBER STRAINPRESS® integrates perfectly into the FOG system to be an integral part of its success.

Plugged strainers cost man hours.

Stopping the process to unplug the strainer is time-consuming. Two to three times a day, operators must manually get the strainer back into working order. This adds up to approximately eight man hours per week. Those are eight man hours that operators could spend on more productive activities.

"The HUBER STRAINPRESS® has processed a huge amount of waste without a single hitch. Because there are no clogs to manually clear, we never have to touch the waste and avoid any safety risks from doing so. And the bonus is that we also avoid mess and odor!"

- Dusty Maynard, Operator III

The perfect choice for FOG system.

The HUBER STRAINPRESS® has helped Napa Sanitation District maximize its investment in its FOG receiving system by improving operations, ensuring the protection of downstream components and enhancing the production of a valuable, revenue

Ready to get started?

HUBER can provide ready-built STRAINPRESS® units to defend your digester, in stock today. All you need is FOG and an electrical power supply. Get in touch with us at 704-949-1010 for more information.



HUBER serves the municipal and industrial wastewater treatment market with high quality liquid-solid separation technology. HUBER Technology offers the complete chain of screening, grit and sludge handling processes. The company is an original source manufacturer specializing in stainless steel fabrication of technologies for water and wastewater with proven experience and expertise with over 40,000 installations worldwide.