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Furman Students Tour Western Carolina's Gilder Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority recently hosted a group of 22 undergraduate students from Furman University. The tour included a range of students from 11 different majors who were enrolled in an "Environment and Society" course at Furman. Western Carolina hosts multiple tours for Furman students and other various schools and organizations at their Durbin Creek, Mauldin Road, and Gilder Creek locations.

The tour focused its attention on where water, energy, and food come from, where waste goes, and how to make energy from the sun. The students were able to gain first hand knowledge from Western Carolina operators as well as be exposed to the job opportunities available in the field. Furman students were impressed by the high cost of maintaining a wastewater treatment plant as well as the professionalism of the Western Carolina employees.

Frank Powell, a Furman professor, participated in the tour for the sixth time because of his concern for the environment and the lessons that Western Carolina is teaching. "Until we remove the wraps on where our waste goes, inform people how to conserve, and take more responsibility for what we do with our waste, we will remain an undereducated society." Powell said.

The Gilder Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 2824 East Georgia Road in Simpsonville. The plant completed an upgrade from 4 MGD to 8 MGD in May of 2005 in order to accommodate for the growth in Greenville County. It is a popular venue for educational tours.

If you interested in taking a tour or would like more information, please contact Patty Buchanan at 864-299-4027 ext. 312. Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority celebrates 75 years of environmental stewardship. The organization provides wastewater treatment services to over 400,000 industrial, commercial and residential customers in Greenville County and parts of Anderson, Spartanburg and Laurens Counties. WCRSA operates and maintains 300 miles of major sewer trunk lines and 11 major wastewater treatment facilities.

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