

CHALLENGE

Industry is obliged to secure waste and waste water management according to the best available methods, technologies, knowledge and resources. This involves complex skills beyond know-how and experience of particular industries. Therefore, it should involve dialogue, consultation, and collaboration with stakeholders. Dialogue with the local authorities and local municipal WWTP is especially needed when a company wants to fulfill the requirements of environmental permits for wastewater discharge.

SOLUTION – COOPERATION AND JOINT MEETINGS

The collaboration offers the opportunity to bring together experts from a variety of different disciplines and arenas to find solutions that can go beyond the limited perspectives of the individual stakeholders.

COOPERATION ADVANTAGES

A dialogue creates numerous advantages not only for industry, but also for the WWTP as well as the authorities:

- Inviting all concerned stakeholders to discuss the discharge of waste water to the municipal waste water treatment plant leads to a better overall **understanding** of the differing sectoral circumstances, obligations and challenges needed to be taken into consideration
- The dialogue also provides an opportunity to discuss the opportunities and needs for pre-treatment and develop a **beneficial business model**
- It also provides an opportunity for **exchange of information** and deliberation on problems and goals, which is especially important at the stage when the industrial waste water contract is being prepared. This way proper limit values of waste water discharge are assured.
- Long-term plans regarding future cooperation and expectations can be drawn up, and therefore some **risks are minimized**. In general, mutual adjustment can prevent overlap and create synergy!

INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

1. Establish an open dialogue and mutual trust between the industry, WWTP and authorities
2. Define the strengths and weaknesses of potential cooperation
3. Identify common interests and objectives
4. Find possible synergies in such interaction
5. Maintain continuous communication through regular meetings and visits

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN EFFECTIVE MEETING

- The **invitation and agenda** should go out to **all interested parties**: authorities-municipal WWTP-industry:
- Negotiating skills are important
- Compact information materials should be handed out before the meeting – prepare any comprehensive but not overwhelming documents needed for a fruitful discussion
- Important to remember - maintain a **friendly atmosphere** for comfortable all parties
- The meeting should be guided by a **common goal** – i.e. protecting the environment
- It should be kept in mind that critical elements for collaboration are:
 - stakeholders must value diverse membership and ideas,
 - each stakeholder has expertise,
 - stakeholders must have a common purpose,
 - stakeholders need to trust one another,
 - trust allows meeting members to share in decision-making and responsibility.
- The **minutes of the meeting** should be shared with all, and these should outline clear groups of tasks. It helps the group plan ahead with a focus on the goal and checkpoints along the way.
- Use the example of the **recommended cooperation meeting agenda** available in tools „Meetings between WWTP and industry and WWTP and environmental authorities” (Project BEST).

