

# **2013 TEEA Winner Water Conservation Category: Dow Chemical Company, Texas Operations, Freeport**

## **Narrator**

For 70 years, Dow Chemical has relied on this complex of plants in Freeport to produce more than 5,000 of the company's products.

## **Earl Shipp, Gulf Coast Operations Vice President, Dow Chemical Company**

It's our largest manufacturing site for Dow. It's also the largest chemical complex in the world.

## **Narrator**

The critical ingredient in the production chain is water. And the 2011 drought highlighted what could be the facility's biggest threat.

## **Doug Whipple, Texas Operations Site Organizational Excellence Leader, Dow Chemical Company**

We were looking at a crisis with the drought.

## **Narrator**

Dow appointed Doug Whipple as its Water Strategy Director, who, along with Engineer Tim Finley, were tasked with the goal of immediately cutting water use by 10 percent. Their first step: reaching out to employees.

## **Tim Finley, Water/Waste Water Technology Engineer, Dow Chemical Company**

We operate a fairly complex facility, it's got sixty or so manufacturing plants, and nobody knows the water use in those plants better than the operators who run them.

## **Doug Whipple, Texas Operations Site Organizational Excellence Leader, Dow Chemical Company**

267 suggestions came to us; we pulled together people from all over the Dow world.

## **Narrator**

Dow implemented more than 100 of those suggestions. These ranged from replacing fresh water with sea water for some processes, to improving maintenance of older lines. The plant also collaborated with the City of Lake Jackson...

**Craig Nisbett, Public Works Director, City of Lake Jackson**

Just bisect a pipeline that was already in place and put the same fluid water right back in as reclaimed water into their canal system.

**Narrator**

...to re-use treated wastewater that previously was returned to the Brazos River.

**Craig Nisbett**

We're reclaiming three and a half to four million gallons of water a day.

**Narrator**

Dow met its 10 percent goal while also defining a new approach to managing the region's most precious resource.

**Earl Shipp**

It is a finite resource, it is limited, and if not managed correctly, you could run out.

**Tim Finley**

You've gotta design water supplies for drought conditions, not the condition when the rivers are full.