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Special Assignment: Sustainability Project

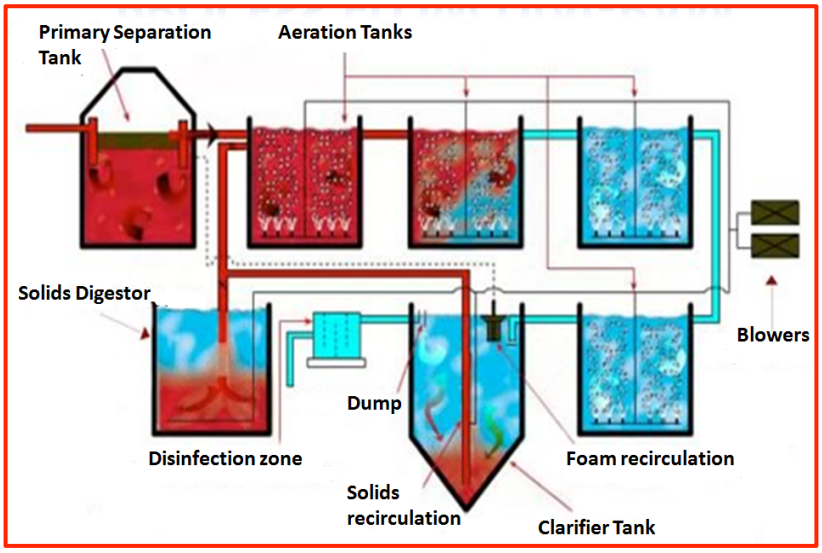
Campus Wastewater treating plant.

Our campus is located in the north east side of Mexico, an arid zone where water can easily go scarce. It is of special interest of our campus to properly treat all the water that we use and try to reuse as much of it as possible. One of the most important projects towards water sustainability in our campus is the wastewater treating plant.

This plant treats over 70% of the total water that exits the campus. When it was initially built in 1992 it started using a physical-chemical process, then the process was changed to be fully biological. Waste water from the campus and the residences area is conducted to a general collector in the internal sewage system; it is then taken to the wastewater collecting pit where any solids in the water are removed by the use of a special grid. Once in this pit, water is pumped into the main wastewater biological treatment plant. After the water is cleaned it is mainly used to water the Campus´s extensive gardens and other more industrial processes carried out inside campus like cooling or heating.

Water quality as it exits the plant is evaluated by the National Water Commission (CONAGUA) and the Municipal Ecology Secretariat to see that it agrees with the Official National Norm: NOM-ECOL-003-1997.

General process that takes place once wastewater enters the plant:



93.3% of the campus gardens are watered with treated water

Source: http://campus-sostenible.mty.itesm.mx/centro/como_funciona.html?ruta=agua