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## Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies

**PROBLEM:** NITROGEN AND PHOSPHOROUS, CHEMICALS FOUND IN MOST MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER, POLLUTE LAKES, RIVERS AND STREAMS—BUT DISPOSING OF THEM IS EXPENSIVE.

**SOLUTION:** TRANSFORMING THE CHEMICALS INTO SOMETHING VALUABLE: FERTILIZER.

**V**ancouver-based Ostara is turning waste into profit: Its technology can remove nitrogen and phosphorous from wastewater and convert the substances into an eco-friendly commercial fertilizer that Ostara calls Crystal Green. "We're solving two problems," says Phillip Abrary, cofounder and CEO of Ostara. "We are preventing nutrient pollution and creating a product that can offset the costs of treatment." Wastewater utilities can retrofit their plants with Ostara's system, which costs from \$3 million to \$5 million. Then Ostara returns revenues from the fertilizer sales to help defray the operating costs of the wastewater facilities. "They no longer have to treat their nutrients, so they save money that way," Abrary explains. "And we also cover the operating costs of the facility with a portion of the fertilizer revenue."



The concept for Ostara began at the University of British Columbia in 1999, but a product wasn't completed until 2005. Since then Ostara—whose board includes eco-investor Robert F. Kennedy Jr.—has grown to 40 employees. Its four operating plants in the United States produce about 1,000 tons of fertilizer a year; four new plants in Europe and North America are in the works. "We are growing rapidly," Abrary says.

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**"WE ARE PREVENTING NUTRIENT POLLUTION AND CREATING A PRODUCT THAT CAN OFFSET THE COSTS OF TREATMENT."**

*- Phillip Abrary, cofounder and CEO of Ostara*