

**VALUE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

**Special Guest** *Commissioner's Corner*



**Angela Licata**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Sustainability

Sustainability is core to DEP's DNA as we strive to maximize the economic, environmental, and social benefits (aka the triple-bottom-line) of our investments and responsibilities. From creating the first upstate reservoir system in 1842, to establishing New York City's first wastewater treatment facilities in the 1890s, to leading the nation as early adopters of air and noise quality regulations, DEP's visionary predecessors invested in policies and projects

that helped make New York the great city that it is today.

Today, DEP keeps building upon this impressive legacy. In the Bureau of Sustainability, which includes the Bureau of Environmental Compliance, the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis, and the Office of Hazardous Materials and Superfund, we work across the agency and with stakeholders to develop and expand policies, regulations, and projects that incorporate multiple co-benefits.

These policies, regulations, and projects include phasing out dirty heating oils, which reduces harmful pollutants in our



air, and encouraging responsible construction through noise mitigation plans. We also support the revitalization of our waterfront through remediation of past industrial sites.

Furthering DEP's triple-bottom-line mission is our recent Jamaica Bay Long Term Control Plan (LTCP), which was a collaboration among Sustainability, OACE, BWT, Legal, and BPAC, and was proposed to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The goal of the LTCP process is to improve water quality in NY Harbor by addressing combined sewer overflows. This plan is a first of its kind because it proposes green infrastructure, stormwater management, and habitat restoration to complement existing grey infrastructure investments. The plan will produce greater water quality benefits as compared to traditional grey options, and provides many co-benefits, including increased property values, air quality improvements, carbon emission reductions, and natural habitat enhancements.

DEP's One Water NYC Water Demand Plan is also a collaborative agency-wide effort that strives to optimize and protect precious wa-

ter resources while keeping rates affordable for all New Yorkers. DEP's water demand management projects have already reduced citywide demand by more than 10 million gallons of water per day (MGD), and our goal is to reduce demand by another 10 MGD by 2022.

Sustainable principles are core to the missions of our colleagues across the agency. These programs include BEDC's Sustainability Program, which sets key sustainability performance indicators for capital projects; the Energy Office's energy management programs and resource recovery efforts; and OD&HR's many initiatives, including the weekly farm share program and Meatless Mondays; among many others.

It truly is an exciting time to focus on sustainability at DEP because regardless of which office or bureau we work in, we know that the agency and City need and encourage thoughtful and creative triple-bottom-line approaches. I hope that in the future, our successors will look back on the work we are doing today as being just as visionary as we consider our predecessors' work to be.

*Spotlight on Safety*

**EHS Insights**



**Persis Luke**  
Assistant Commissioner  
Environmental, Health  
and Safety

At a recent safety conference, I heard a talk given by a Civil Engineer and a Certified Safety Professional about the use of safety technology in the mining and construction industries. Work itself is becoming more automated, and safety systems are no exception. There are now many high-tech warning systems that are designed to provide an extra level of safety for workers in potentially dangerous environments. An example is a warning system that alerts workers when a vehicular incursion into a work zone has occurred. The risk with these systems is they provide a false sense of

security and workers may become less attentive.

More commonly known are warning systems that are now standard equipment in vehicles. These include forward collision warning, automatic emergency braking, pedestrian detection, lane keeping assist, blind spot warning, adaptive cruise control, and others. These are assistive in nature and do not remove the responsibility for us to be responsible drivers. These technologies are effective at reducing collisions, however, they also create a false sense of security. We still need to use all of our senses and remain distraction free to reduce the chance of collisions or injuries. It is important that we understand the limitations of safety technologies and remain vigilant to anticipate hazards or the possibility that technology can and will malfunction.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [PIPELINE](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of sustainability. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by April 23 to [values@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:values@dep.nyc.gov), and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.



## NYC and Copenhagen Collaborate



New York City and the City of Copenhagen are at the forefront of climate change adaptation as we face the challenge of more frequent extreme weather events. The primary challenges resulting from climate change for both cities include heavier downpours (or cloudbursts), and rising temperatures and sea levels, all of which will combine to impact flooding conditions. Our cities have been collaborating since 2015 to exchange information and knowledge on the development of urban solutions to address cloudbursts and other climate change challenges. New York City extended its partnership at a signing ceremony Friday with **Commissioner Sapienza**, BEPA Director of Integrated Water Management **Alan Cohn**, Director of the Mayor's Office of Resiliency **Jaimey Bavishi**, and Director of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability **Mark Chambers**.

## \$62M Bergen Beach Sewer Project



A [\\$62 million project](#) has begun in the Bergen Beach section of Brooklyn that will upgrade infrastructure, resolve local street flooding, and add curbs and sidewalks to several local streets for the first time. The project, which is being managed by the Department of Design and Construction for DEP and the Department of Transportation, is scheduled to be completed in summer 2023. The project will involve work on 40 blocks in the neighborhood, which is located next to Paerdegat Basin between Ralph Avenue and the Belt Parkway. More than four miles (21,143 feet) of existing 8- and 12-inch water mains plus 50 existing fire hydrants will be replaced, while another 20 new fire hydrants will be installed throughout the neighborhood. More than one mile (5,599 feet) of existing storm sewers will be replaced, in many cases with larger pipes ranging from 12 to 54 inches in diameter. Drainage will be enhanced with 67 new catch basins, while catch basins at 132 existing locations will be replaced with new ones.

## DEP Projects Earn Design Awards



The Public Design Commission announced Monday the Annual Awards for Excellence in Design winning projects, which include two high-profile DEP projects—the Gowanus Combined Sewer Overflow Facility and Open Space in Brooklyn and the Bluebelt Program. Congratulations to all those involved, especially **Kevin Clarke** and **Lindsay Degueldre** from BEDC and **Charles Olson's** team in BWSO. The Commission praised these projects, and others, as examples of “hard work and innovative designs [that] have helped provide welcoming public spaces, programs, and services for New Yorkers in every borough.” And, a special thanks to **Alicia West**, Director of Public Design Outreach for the Bureau of Public Affairs & Communications, for her efforts in advocating for design excellence, liaising with the Public Design Commission, and informing impacted communities, elected officials, and stakeholders about DEP's capital projects throughout the design process. This year's Design Awards event will be held on June 4 at the Ford Foundation and will include a special program called Women-Designed NYC that recognizes women who have shaped the public realm in New York City.

## DEP Hosts Fix A Leak Week Events



During national *Fix a Leak Week*, observed last week, DEP encouraged New Yorkers to identify and fix residential water leaks. DEP staff were on hand at Home Depot stores in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island offering information on how to detect leaky pipes and toilets including [leak detection tablets](#) and a [Home Water Savings Kit](#) that can help residents conduct a do-it-yourself water audit in less than an hour. DEP has also created a brief public service announcement about detecting leaky toilets that can be viewed [here](#).

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**