

Bill de Blasio, Mayor Vincent Sapienza, P.E., Commissioner

WEEKLY

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costly damage to private plumbing

and the City's wastewater system.

The campaign's new website

fatbergfree.nyc includes a "Trash

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Michael DeLoach Public Affairs and Comminications

Last week, DEP successfully launched the "Trash It. Don't Flush It." public awareness campaign spread the message that improperly disposing of grease,

wipes, and other trash can cloq pipes, lead to sewer backups, and cause flooding and costly damage. Ads reminding New Yorkers to properly dispose of their trash are featured around the city at select subway stations, bus shelters, and on trains, buses, television, and on social media. The campaign will run for the next four weeks and

aims to reduce sewer backups and

It. Don't Flush It." flyer that can be downloaded for free by businesses, building owners, and property managers who experience clogs in their internal plumbing. Commissioner Sapienza recently directed executive staff to have the flyer posted in all DEP restrooms, and DEP is partnering with City agencies to have it posted in their public restrooms as well. DEP spends nearly \$19 million annually to clean clogged sewers, dispose of wipes and repair damaged machinery. It can cost a property owner more than \$10,000 to repair household plumbing damaged by grease and wipes.

Over time, grease and improperly flushed items-including wipes, feminine products, make-up applicators, condoms, and cat litterbuild up within the sewers causing "fatbergs." The word fatberg combines the word "fat" and "iceberg" to describe large masses that clog sewers and impair operations. The problem of fatbergs is affecting municipalities across the country and around the world, including London, where a 210-foot long, 130-ton fatberg was found blocking a sewer.

This campaign will help to raise awareness of this important issue and remind New Yorkers to dispose of trash where it belongs-in a trash can. To that end, I really want to encourage New Yorkers, and



DEP staffers as well, to help spread the message:

- Take a photo whenever you see the ad and post it on social media with #fatbergfreenyc
- Follow @nycwater and retweet our #fatbergfreenyc posts

Send out your own message with one of our handy taglines:

- Fatbergs form when grease, wipes, and other stuff get flushed, clogging pipes and draining wallets. Trash it. Don't Flush it. @nycwater #fatbergfreenyc
- You know what? "Flushable" wipes aren't flushable. Trash it. Don't Flush it. @nycwater #fatbergfreenyc

I'd like to thank the team for their efforts in getting this campaign off the ground and successfully launched citywide.



Spotlight on Safety

Noise Control

DEP has implemented a Hearing Conservation Program whenever workers are exposed to a time weighted average noise level of 85 dBA or higher over an 8-hour work shift. DEP is also required to provide free annual hearing exams, hearing protection, and training. There are several ways to control and reduce worker exposure to noise in the workplace:

 Engineering controls-Involve modifying or replacing equipment to reduce noise level.

- Administrative controls— Include changes in the workplace that reduce or eliminate the worker exposure to noise. (e.g. limiting the amount of time a person spends at a noise source).
- · Hearing protection devicessuch as earmuffs plugs when engineering or administrative controls aren't feasible.

For more information, consult OSHA's Occupational Noise Exposure site and DEP's Hearing Conservation Policy.

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.



Commissioner Sapienza gave CBS 2 News a tour of the Newtown Creek WRRF to show how wipes and other items damage equipment.

Focus on the Field: Value Ambassadors for Service

This month, Weekly Pipeline celebrated DEP's core value of Service with the Value Ambassador program. As part of the program, we are highlighting five DEP employees nominated by their peers who, through their work, best represent Service at DEP. Over the next few months, Weekly Pipeline will continue to showcase DEP's core values.







December: Support



January: Diversity



February: Service



March: Integrity



April: Sustainability



May: Transparency

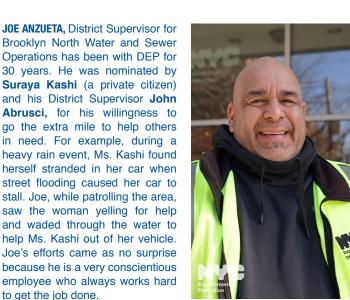


June: Safety

WEI YU, Assistant Director of Sustainability's Hazardous Materials and Superfund Planning & Analysis unit, provides efficient and critical expertise to internal staff and other City agencies on a wide variety of hazardous materials investigations and remediation issues as they relate to the City Environmental Quality Review process. Wei provides excellent service to the city by his interpretation of policies, legislation, regulations, and standards. Wei Yu was nominated by Ron Weissbard.



MARY ANN WRIGHT has been with DEP for five years as Principal Administrative Associate in Water Treatment Operations-North for the Bureau of Water Supply. Mary Ann supports the Division with a range of critical services, such as research and procurement of needed assets or services, coordination of facility tours and luncheons, and everything in between. Because of her diligent, prompt and courteous attitude, Mary Ann is a big part of the reason why facilities in this Division are able to operate so smoothly. Mary Ann was nominated by Douglass Walton.







KIAH MILLER of BWT is the Plant Chief at DEP's North River Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility and an employee at DEP for 27 years. As plant chief, Kiah embraces a community-focused approach, regularly attending the local Community Board meetings and professionally representing DEP on sensitive issues. In addition, he optimized the facility odor control systems to significantly reduce odors, and successfully had zero odor complaints over one year. Kiah has also worked closely with the Lions Soccer Club and Riverbank State Park officials to ensure the community's ability to use the these recreational facilities. Kiah was nominated by Robert LaGrotta and Artie Spangel.

