

## Hotel Water Conservation Challenge



Last Wednesday, DEP honored 11 of the city's premier hotels for their participation in New York City's Hotel Water Conservation Challenge. Over the last year, each of the hotels took steps to conserve water with the goal of reducing their total consumption by 5 percent. The Sheraton TriBeca achieved the best results, reducing their annual consumption by more than 20 percent. Three other hotels, The Intercontinental Barclay New York, The Ritz Carlton, and the Carlton Hotel also surpassed the 5 percent goal, each reducing their consumption by more than 10 percent. In total, the four hotels that achieved at least a five percent reduction in water consumption conserved nearly 11,300,000 gallons of water over the course of the challenge.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Eye Fatigue

Safety glasses and goggles are often used to protect the eyes from flying debris, but visually intensive tasks—such as prolonged computer use and extended reading—can cause eye fatigue and also adversely affect the eyes. There are many factors that can cause eye fatigue and they may vary depending on the work environment and job task. Symptoms can include

dryness, irritation, blurred vision, headaches and light sensitivity.

To help alleviate eye fatigue, you should reduce exposure by occasionally letting your eyes take a break. Minimizing glare and blinking more often can also relieve strain on the eyes. For more helpful tips, please visit the website for the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#).

## Commissioner's Corner

Last week, I joined **Mayor Bill de Blasio**, Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, and many of our elected leaders to launch the Community Parks Initiative—a new program to invest in under-resourced public parks. The first phase of the initiative will target 35 community parks through a \$130 million capital investment that promotes the full re-creation of the parks. The Community Parks Initiative will initially target 55 neighborhoods across the five boroughs, benefiting approximately 220,000 New Yorkers living within a 10-minute walk of the selected parks.

The Community Parks Initiative is the first phase of NYC Parks: Framework for an Equitable Future. The framework outlines NYC Parks' commitment to increasing the accessibility and quality of parks in neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs through a dynamic series of immediate steps and long-term initiatives to support sustainable, equitable park development, and implement a targeted level of service improvements across the park system.

Through our Green Infrastructure Initiative, DEP is helping in this effort. DEP has committed more than \$36 million in stormwater management funds to the Community Parks Initiative to ensure that the revitalized park spaces also manage stormwater,



keeping it out of the combined sewer system and helping to reduce combined sewage overflows that sometimes occur during heavy rainfall. Through a similar partnership with the Trust for Public Land, DEP has helped fund the reconstruction of five school yards to date, creating community playgrounds that collectively manage millions of gallons of stormwater that might otherwise pollute our waterways. In addition, eight more school yards are currently in design or under construction.

For more information on the Community Parks Initiative, click [here](#).



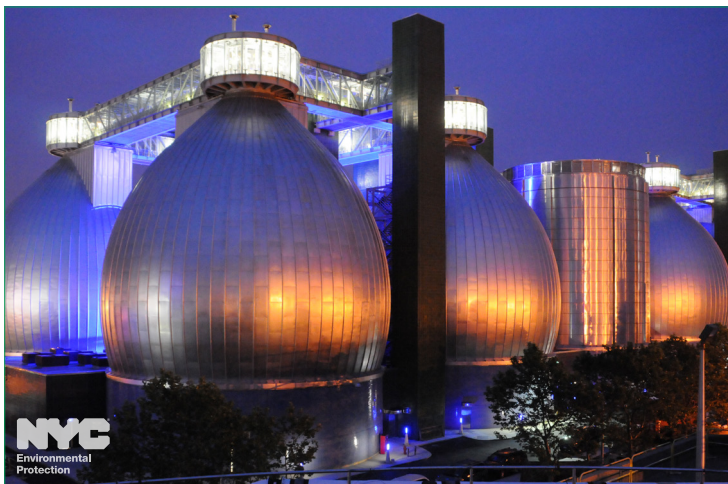
J.H.S. 162 in Bushwick, Brooklyn

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.

## Challenge Accepted

Treating the billions of gallons of wastewater created in New York City every day to federal Clean Water Act standards is essential to the protection of public health and the environment, but it also requires a tremendous amount of energy. In fact, DEP's 14 in-city wastewater treatment plants account for approximately 85 percent of the energy used by all of the department's facilities each year. And, with new energy-intensive technologies, such as nitrogen removal, being implemented, it is imperative to find ways to reduce demand for energy at the facilities to help the City achieve the ambitious goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

To help facilitate this process, the department recently initiated a five-month Energy Reduction Challenge at the 14 treatment plants. The competition will track the amount of electricity, natural gas, steam and fuel oil used at the plants and will help to identify the type of day-to-day conservation measures that are most feasible. As an added incentive, the two facilities that achieve the largest decrease in energy usage will be awarded additional expense funds in their budget. For more information on the challenge send an email [here](#).



## Milestones

Congratulations to **Ralph Riccardi** of BWS and **Lucy DiSalvo Riccardi** of BWT on the birth of their daughter **Viviana Marie Riccardi**, who was born on September 3, 2014.

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

## Connection Made



Work continues on a project to connect the Catskill and Delaware aqueducts for the first time. The two aqueducts together convey approximately one billion gallons of water each day to the city from six separate reservoirs located in the Catskills. The interconnect project at the Delaware Aqueduct Shaft 4, in the Town of Gardiner in Ulster County, will allow DEP to move as much as 365 million gallons each day from the Delaware Aqueduct into the Catskill Aqueduct, providing additional operational flexibility and another tool to reduce turbidity in the water supply system after large storms.

## Welcome Aboard!



Today, 23 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Timothy Lewis, Thomas McCaffery, Jonathan Richichi, Joseph Richichi, Christopher Rohit, Alfred Ross, MD M. Talukder and Yuxin Tang** with BWSO; **Alvin F. Chavarro, Sagirah Elson, Sylvester Kodua, Deepthi Mathew, and Nilda Mesa** with BWT; **Robb Lukes, Kent Pan, Catherine Pasion and Adriana Pepdjonovic** with Sustainability; **Taralyn Boellmann, Samuel Breidbart and Rebecca D. Chew** with BEDC; **Renee M. Alfieri** with Executive; **Purvak Mehta** with BEC; and **Anita Winchell** with BWS.