



Environmental Protection

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

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Sworn to Protect



Photo Credit: Kristen Artz

Last week, 30 new Environmental Police Officers graduated from DEP's Environmental Police Academy and were sworn in by Commissioner **Carter Strickland** at the Ulster Performing Arts Center in Kingston, NY. The new officers will immediately be deployed to protect a 2,000 square mile watershed and

critical infrastructure across nine counties that supply roughly half of New York State's population with reliable, high-quality drinking water. Originally from the United States, China, and India, and fluent in seven different languages, the new class brings cultural diversity and essential skills to the DEP Police force, which now includes 211 sworn members.

Spotlight on Safety

Hazard Analysis—Breaking Down the Job

A Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) is a tool used to appropriately protect workers from dangers they are likely to encounter when performing certain tasks. A JHA breaks down a job, step-by-step, in order to identify potential hazards. After each hazard is identified, control methods are put into place to eliminate or reduce the hazard. JHAs are likely to result in fewer worker injuries and illnesses, safer and more effective work methods, and increased worker productivity. JHAs can be conducted for many types of work, but priority should go to the following:

- Jobs with the highest injury or illness rates;
- Jobs with the potential to cause severe or disabling injuries or illness;
- Jobs in which one simple human error could lead to a severe accident or injury;
- Jobs that are new to your operation or that have undergone changes in procedures

See [OSHA's Job Hazard Analysis](#) for more information.

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. 🐣

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

Angela Licata, Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

Last Thursday, Commissioner Strickland joined **Mayor Bloomberg**, Deputy Mayor **Cas Holloway**, Health Commissioner **Tom Farley**, and Director of the Office for Long-Term Planning and Sustainability **Sergej Mahnovski** at a Climate Week event where they announced that the quality of the air in New York City is cleaner than it has been in 50 years. Since 2008, sulfur dioxide levels in the air have dropped by 69 percent—and since 2007, the level of soot pollution (PM2.5) has dropped by 23 percent. The largest contributor to the reductions is PlaNYC's Clean Heat Program—a collaborative effort between DEP and the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability—that phased out use of the most heavily polluting heating oils in New York City and accelerated boiler conversions. Today the cleaner air enjoyed by New Yorkers is preventing 800 deaths and 2,000 pollution related emergency room visits and hospitalizations annually, compared to 2008.

Only three years ago, nearly 10,000 buildings in the city burned Numbers 4 and 6 heating oil, which emit significant amounts of PM2.5, sulfur dioxide, nickel and other dangerous pollutants. Since the Clean Heat Program launched, more than 2,700 buildings have converted to cleaner fuels and 2,500 more are actively pursuing conversions. The City has also achieved emission reductions thanks to State rules that reduced the sulfur content of #2 heating oil by 99 percent, and DEP rules that have reduced the sulfur content of #4 heating oil by 50 percent. Finally, the expansion of the regional natural gas supply has kept prices low, encouraging buildings to save money and reduce emissions by converting to the cleaner burning fuel.



As Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, this is exciting news, and I would like to acknowledge some of the members of my team who helped the City achieve this important milestone. Thanks to the efforts of **Chung Chan** and **Wei Yu** in our Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis, and **Gerry Kelpin** and **Alyssa Preston** in our Bureau of Environmental Compliance (BEC) we were able to demonstrate, through careful analysis, that we could achieve significant air quality improvements through smart regulations without burdening building owners with unmanageable costs. In addition, in BEC **Mike Gilsenan**, **Krish Radhakrishnan**, **Patel Chandrak**, **Kit Liang** and **Angel Narvaez** have overseen the conversions and ensured that building owners are complying with the new regulations.

To build upon the progress we have made and achieve the goal of having the cleanest air of any large city in the country, DEP recently sent a proposed update of New York City's Air Code to the City Council. If it is enacted, it will be the first major revision of the code in 38 years, simplify compliance requirements, and streamline the permitting process. As more buildings convert to cleaner burning fuels, and as we continue to enact smart changes to our air code, we anticipate that the quality of the air we all breathe will continue to improve and we will achieve the goal of having the cleanest air of any big city in the United States.

Focus on the Field



The next time you tear off a form from a pad to submit an idea to the Employee Suggestion Program, you should think of **William Brand** and his colleagues in the DEP print shop. Brand and the Print Shop team glued the forms together and attached them to the color posters, which they also printed and laminated. PAA II Brand oversees DEP's print shop, located at LeFrak headquarters, which is part of the Administrative Services unit, led by Director **Terry Pupillo**.

Brand has been with DEP for more than 33 years. He started as an Office Aide in 1980, became an Office Associate in 1983, was promoted to PAA 1 in 1987, and moved to his current position in 2007.

Part of the Facilities Management and Construction division (FMC), Administrative Services is one of the many areas managed by **Sue Dennis**. FMC is also responsible for the agency's asbestos task force, construction services, real estate management, and facility EHS.

The print shop is a temperature-controlled environment to ensure that the machines do not overheat. Measuring 20 feet long and able to print 144 copies a minute, the workhorse of the print shop is the Nuvera 144, a state-of-the-art photocopier. It is not uncommon for it to handle jobs with a

run of 20,000 sheets. Another machine, the 860, can produce exact copies of maps. Brochures are also produced at the shop and folded. The shop's array of tools includes cutters, binders, folding machines, color copiers, assemblers, and presses.

Trouble shooting is another area he handles. "A large part of my job is assisting staff in the operation of the machines," notes Brand. "Print and copying services go beyond pressing the green start button. Paper and supplies for the machines must be ordered and inventoried and the machines need to be maintained."

The print shop also provides supplies. "I serve our customers with copy paper and we distribute paper, garbage bags, envelopes, batteries, and other items," said Brand. "I like the variety of tasks I am involved in and that every new copy job has some different element to it."

Before his career at DEP, Brand graduated from Ulster Community College and worked as a stock clerk for more than six years.

"Bill is an asset to this organization and his dependability and professionalism ensure that print jobs are handled in a timely manner and in a cost-effective way," said Terry Pupillo. "He is a true diamond in the rough. Even during the most horrific weather conditions, he makes his way from the far end of Staten Island to LeFrak and ensures that the Print Shop is able to serve its customers."

Born in Manhattan, Brand now makes the Tottenville area of Staten Island his home base. In his spare time he enjoys many activities including walking, sight-seeing, dining out, and visiting relatives.

Ashokan Youth Fishing Day



Last month, DEP hosted a youth fishing day at Ashokan Reservoir and 79 anglers came out to try their luck at catching some of the smallmouth and largemouth bass, yellow and white perch, yellow and brown bullhead, sunfish, and trout that call Ashokan home. The event was co-sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which supplied fishing poles and bait to those who needed them. As part of the "I Fish NY Program," the New York State fishing license requirement was waived for adults. The event was part of Ulster County Creek Week, which encourages the enjoyment of water and watersheds throughout the county. Thanks to **Tom Baudanza**, **Paul Lenz**, **Lydia Lewis**, and **Meredith Taylor** for their work to organize the event. Go [here](#) to see more photos.

A Day at the 'Beaches'



DEP's Office of Green Infrastructure joined with **Bette Midler** and the New York Restoration Project last week to cut a ribbon on the newly renovated Gil Hodges Community Garden in Park Slope. The 3,140-square-foot garden is located at the intersection of Carroll Street and Denton Place, just a few blocks from the Gowanus Canal. As part of the rehabilitation of the community garden, DEP funded the installation of permeable pavers, a rain garden, and a bioswale, that together will manage all the stormwater that falls on the garden, as well as runoff from Denton Place. In total, these components will keep 150,000 gallons of stormwater from reaching the city's sewer system each year and help reduce overflows into the Gowanus Canal. Pictured from left to right are: **Tetyana Klymenko**, **Kathryn Prybylski**, **Bette Midler**, **Margot Walker**, **Mikelle Adgate**, **Max Litt**, and **Magdi Farag**. See before and after photos [here](#).

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.



GOT A BRIGHT IDEA? DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF!

DEP has launched the Employee Suggestion Program to provide employees with an opportunity to submit and be recognized for creative ideas that improve efficiency at DEP. Ideas that result in tangible savings will be recognized with cash awards of up to \$1,000 after one year of evaluation. Go to the [Source](#) for more information and to submit an idea!