

Commissioner's Corner

I'd like to take the opportunity this holiday season to thank each and every one of you for the continuous dedication and hard work that you demonstrate on a daily basis to better serve New York City residents and help protect the environment and public health.

It is my sincere hope that you enjoy peace, happiness, health, and prosperity throughout 2017. On behalf of myself and the extended DEP family, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Season's Greetings!

Vincent Sapienza, Acting Commissioner
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Spotlight on Safety

DEP's Emergency Planning Policy

DEP'S revised Emergency Planning Policy has been distributed Agency-wide and officially goes into effect February 21, 2017. The policy requires every regularly-staffed facility to have a written plan or program, even if there are fewer than 10 employees. All employees must be trained on the requirements of their facility's emergency plan.

The key changes to the revised Emergency Planning policy include the following additions:

- active shooter emergency
- shelter-in-place procedure

- a new template that can be used for facilities with 10 or fewer employees

The policy is part of DEP's efforts to ensure that DEP workers know what to do, where to go, and how to keep safe when an emergency occurs. Preparation for an emergency also includes having employees participate in evacuation drills, which help workers to become familiar with the hazards involved and learn how to properly and safely evacuate during an emergency.

Click [here](#) to access the revised Emergency Planning 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.

Holiday Toy Drives



Photo Credit: New York City Mayoral Photography Office

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the holiday toy drives this year. Downstate, 590 toys were donated as part of the 8th annual Smiles of Love Gift Drive. Citywide, the Department of Youth and Community Development collected a record total of 3,002 gifts, a portion of which were distributed Saturday morning by **Mayor Bill de Blasio** at John S. Roberts Junior High in East Harlem. The remaining gifts were presented to kids at four other simultaneously held events, with the rest slated to be given out to other young people in need at Three Kings Day events in January. Upstate, in addition to all the wonderful toys and gifts collected, we also received \$225 worth of gift cards and \$325 in cash donations. Some of the cash was used to purchase more toys, while some of the money was given to Christmas Wishes Ulster County to help purchase items for families in need. "DEP employees throughout the agency generously donated hundreds of toys and we hope that these gifts bring smiles to children of all ages this holiday season," said Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**.



Stormwater Project at Bronx HS

DEP is proudly assisting students at DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx as they create a stormwater swale using crushed toilets as bedding material. The green project, located in the teacher's parking lot near the school's Clinton Garden, is being done in conjunction with DEP's Education Office under the direction of **Kim Estes-Fradis** and **Benjamin Huff** from BEPA, who arranged for the toilet pieces. The crushed toilets are part of the more than 40,000 bathroom fixtures in hundreds of public school buildings throughout the city that are being updated as part of DEP's water conservation efforts. Earlier this year, DEP used porcelain harvested from nearly 6,500 inefficient recycled toilets as the basis for oyster beds installed in Jamaica Bay to help improve water quality and protect wetlands.



Rondout Bridges Replaced



The [\\$7 million project to replace two small bridges](#) at the upper end of Rondout Reservoir in Sullivan County has been successfully completed. The project included the replacement of the Sugarloaf Bridge and Lows Corners Bridge, which were constructed more than 60 years ago, at the same time as the reservoir. Work to replace both bridges began in May. DEP owns, operates and maintains 57 bridges and 99 miles of roads throughout its upstate water supply system. The 50-foot-long Sugarloaf Bridge carries Sundown Road over the Sugarloaf Brook. During the summer and fall, DEP installed a temporary bridge at the site to allow for the complete removal and replacement of the bridge, including its footings and deck. The 150-foot-long Lows Corners Bridge carries Route 55A over Rondout Creek at the head of Rondout Reservoir. Workers replaced the superstructure of the bridge, and repairs were made to its piers. The concrete wing walls that guide water beneath the bridge were also replaced.

Volunteers Needed For Homeless Tally

On Monday, January 23, 2017, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will conduct its annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) count, as part of an ongoing effort to engage NYC's street homeless individuals. Fellow New Yorkers are being asked to help canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to estimate the number of people who are street homeless. Volunteers assist from approximately 10pm-4am. Just one night of your time will aid in collecting vital information for outreach teams to help homeless people move from the streets to a more stable, safe environment. DHS is seeking 3,000 volunteers and the participation of fellow City agency colleagues is critical. Please visit www.nyc.gov/hope or CityShare to register. Any questions can be directed to the HOPE team at hope@dhs.nyc.gov.

Organics Composting for Lefrak

DEP is launching a Composting Program on January 3, 2017 in the 3rd floor employee lounge. Marked brown bins will be placed near the sink area alongside signage indicating what lunchtime organics can and cannot be composted. Any questions or comments are welcome at composting@dep.nyc.gov.

DEP Employee Store Holiday Sale



The DEP Store is having a holiday sale while supplies last. Be sure to stop in the Lefrak low-rise lobby to check out the clearance selection of limited quantity items.

The store is open on Tuesdays, from 12-2pm, and Thursdays, from 11am-1pm, from now until Dec. 29. You can also shop online at [The Source](#).

Energy Conservation and Efficiency

The NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services has announced Round 7 of their Accelerated Conservation and Efficiency program, which funds energy and greenhouse gas reduction projects across City agencies. Interested bureaus are asked to please contact Cho Lu from the DEP Office of Energy and Performance at QLu@dep.nyc.gov for the application forms and more details.

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