

Hands on Education



In celebration of Earth Day, DEP joined Trout Unlimited and 40 students from South Bronx Head Start to release juvenile brown trout into the Cross River where it passes through the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Westchester County. Since 2002, DEP and Trout Unlimited have partnered to educate students in New York City and watershed communities

about the connections between trout, water quality, the environment and steps they can take to improve the ecological health of the New York City watershed. This year more than 2,000 students from schools in New York City and the upstate watersheds raised trout in their classrooms and will release them into watershed streams for three weeks during April and May.

Spotlight on Safety

Forklift Safety

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that accidents involving forklifts cause about 85 fatalities each year and nearly 35,000 serious injuries. In addition, DEP audits frequently find forklift safety violations. OSHA regulations require that all employees receive training before operating a forklift and that the forklift is inspected before being placed into service. To ensure employee safety, DEP requires that an inspection checklist be completed before a forklift can be placed into operation. If any defect is found, it should be reported immediately and the forklift removed from service until it is corrected. DEP also requires that operators use approved restraint devices,

including seatbelts. OSHA regulations prohibit employers from removing seatbelts from forklifts.

DEP's daily inspection checklist includes:

- Ensuring that tires are not cut
- Verifying that the brakes work when the forklift operates in reverse
- Checking that the propane tank hose is not damaged
- Confirming that the seatbelts work
- Ensuring there is no hesitation of load handling attachments when hoisting or lowering the forks

For more information on Forklift Safety, visit [OSHA'S eTool](#) or view [DEP'S Forklift Policy](#).

Commissioner's Corner

To mark the 45th annual celebration of Earth Day, I joined Mayor Bill de Blasio, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and Council Member Donovan Richards today to announce the most sweeping update to New York City's Air Pollution Control Code since 1975. The proposed revisions, a goal of the City's PlaNYC sustainability blueprint, will update emission standards and focus on pollution sources that currently have little or no emission control requirements. Tomorrow, I will testify about the proposed revisions to the Air Code before the New York City Council Committee on Environmental Protection, chaired by Council Member Richards.

The revisions of the Code over the last 43 years have been limited in scope and focused primarily on the reduction of particulate matter from large sources, including residential and commercial buildings, as well as diesel emissions. For example, in 2011, more than 5,200 buildings burned No. 6 heating oil, the dirtiest grade of oil, which emits significant amounts of PM2.5, sulfur dioxide, nickel and other pollutants. A rule that took effect that same year required that all buildings convert from No. 6 heating oil to a cleaner burning fuel by July of 2015. Thus far, more than 3,000 buildings have made the conversion and no longer burn No. 6.

The new revisions to the Air Code focus on smaller, localized emission sources throughout the City, which, viewed as a whole, emit a significant amount of particulate matter. These smaller sources include commercial char broilers, coal and wood-fired

ovens, and fireplaces. Focusing on these sources will reduce particulate matter emissions, and ultimately save lives. For example, commercial char broilers throughout the five boroughs emit an estimated 1,400 tons of particulate matter per year. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene estimates that those emissions contributed to more than 12 percent of particulate matter-attributable premature deaths annually in 2005 to 2007—or 400 deaths per year in that period. If all commercial char broilers had the control technology the new code will require installed, the reduction in ambient particulate matter concentrations could have prevented nearly 350 of these premature deaths each year.

To simplify compliance the proposed revisions to the Code will also eliminate outdated elements, reduce work permit turnaround time, and provide for online permitting. The changes will also integrate the work permit and Certificate of Operations process and equip inspectors with mobile hand-held devices in the field to speed inspections.

The quality of the air we breathe is an issue for every New Yorker and we have worked with community and environmental groups, scientists, engineers, businesses, and industry stakeholders to draft common sense updates to the City's Air Code. Passing this important piece of legislation will allow DEP to address localized sources of pollution that currently have little or no emission control requirements, and will prevent hundreds of New Yorkers from getting sick or dying from air pollution related illnesses.



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. 🐼

Focus on the Field



Rain Barrel giveaways, drafted scripts for marketing efforts and developed items such as door hangers.

"The great thing about working in public affairs is that I get to learn about all the different initiatives the department is involved in and work to promote them in the public realm," said Hussain. "In addition, my colleagues have become like family over the years and I really do enjoy coming to the office every day and working together with them to resolve community concerns and ensure the public and elected officials are accurately informed about DEP's programs."

Most recently, Hussain has been assisting with the bureau's government relations work. This includes providing information to elected officials, community groups and other agencies on DEP activities and working with vendors to secure items for the HEAT, Water-On-the-Go and Clean Streets/Clean Beaches programs.

"From helping to provide information to elected officials, to working with vendors, to representing the department at special events, Shanaz has taken on many important responsibilities within Public Affairs over the years," said Associate Commissioner **Matt Mahoney**. "She is a valuable member of our team because she is always willing and eager to pitch in and support all the work of the bureau."

Outside of the office Hussain enjoys cooking and her colleagues attest to the tastiness of her Guyanese chicken chow mein. She also likes to visit with her three nephews, spend time with friends and shop for the latest fashions.

DEP's Bureau of Public Affairs (BPA) fulfills many roles for the department, including inter-governmental relations, press and communications, marketing, and education. Over the last twenty years, Staff Analyst **Shanaz Hussain** has made valuable contributions to all of these units.

Hussain was born in Georgetown, Guyana and she and her family emigrated to the U.S. in 1988. They settled in Astoria and she attended Long Island City High School. During her junior year she also started working in DEP's Education Unit as a Co-op Student. After graduation she was hired full-time and helped to coordinate special programs and major agency events and conferences, such as the annual Art and Poetry program.

After 10 years with the Education team, Hussain transferred to the Bureau of Customer Services where she reviewed customer accounts for accuracy, prepared correspondence in response to customer inquiries and maintained and updated records to reflect ownership changes, billing methods and property descriptions. However, it was not more than a year before she was called back to BPA to join the marketing team. In this role she helped to coordinate new programs including the

Did You Know...

City employees are eligible for discounted tickets to Yankees games, Cirque du Soleil and many Broadway shows? For more information and a full list of promotions and offers visit [City Share](#).

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

These Waters Run Deep



For the last few weeks, DEP has been dredging portions of Newtown Creek. This work, in combination with the arrival of the department's newest sludge boat, which runs shallower than the older models, will allow the boats to navigate the Creek and dock alongside the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Whale Creek. Once the dredging is completed and the dock is fully constructed, DEP will tear down the existing sludge tank on the Greenpoint waterfront where the sludge boats currently dock.

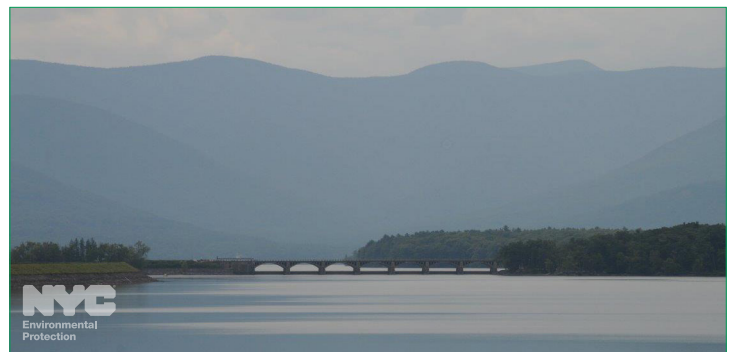
Save the Date!

On Thursday, April 24, DEP will participate in NYC's "Take Our Children to Work Day" at Lefrak headquarters as well as at the Gramsville, Kingston and Valhalla offices. Children between the ages of 8 and 18 are eligible to participate.

There is also a field trip planned for Saturday, April 26, to the Visitor's Center at Newtown Creek. Parents and children who are not able to participate in Thursday's planned activities, or who are assigned to field locations, will be given first preference to attend this tour. (Important Note: All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.)

For more information and to register for activities go to the [Source](#).

Upstate Water Conservation



Last week, DEP and the Water Research Foundation hosted a water conservation workshop for the dozens of upstate communities that get their water from the City's supply system. The workshop featured experts from as far away as California and Canada, who talked about designing and implementing a successful water conservation plan and encouraging public participation. The workshop was the first in a series of DEP programs that will promote water conservation to the more than 70 communities and institutions that use 110 million total gallons of water from the City's supply system every day. It was also an extension of DEP's water demand management program in the city, which is installing low flow fixtures in public school bathrooms and educating the public about identifying and fixing residential water leaks.