

Commissioner's Corner



Earlier today DEP announced that 30 of the city's restaurants have joined the New York City Water Conservation Challenge. As part of the challenge, each restaurant will work to reduce their annual water consumption by 5 percent and thereby save approximately 3 million gallons of water each year. Restaurants represent a significant opportunity for conservation because they consume a lot of water and have not been targeted in past conservation efforts, such as the

toilet replacement program that focused on residential buildings.

Participating restaurants are equipped with water meters and Automated Meter Reading devices that track water consumption in near real time. The restaurants will use 12 months of water consumption data to establish a baseline profile and track their progress in reducing water consumption and DEP will develop a toolkit of resources to help them meet their targets efficiently. Water

reduction strategies may include good housekeeping techniques, such as finding and repairing leaks quickly, and developing literature that encourages customers to practice water conserving behavior. Physical upgrades will also be explored, such as the replacement of inefficient plumbing fixtures and the adoption of new technologies that use water minimally, or reuse it to the extent possible.

DEP is in the midst of an initiative to reduce citywide water consumption by five percent as work progresses on an effort to repair leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct. The tunnel supplies roughly half of the city's daily drinking water from upstate reservoirs and, in order to complete the repairs, the tunnel must be temporarily shut down between 2022 and 2023.

As part of the larger water conservation initiative, DEP developed the Municipal Water Efficiency Program to identify opportunities to conserve water at City-owned properties. As part of the program, we have partnered with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to install activation buttons on spray showers at 400 playgrounds around the city that will save 1.5 million gallons of water a day. More than 40,000 bathroom fixtures in 500 public school buildings are also being updated. These retrofits will conserve approximately 4 million gallons of water each school day.

Last year DEP honored eleven of the city's premier hotels for their participation in New York City's Hotel Water Conservation Challenge. 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 conserved nearly 11,300,000 gallons of water over the course of the challenge. DEP also introduced the [Hotel Manager's Guide to Water Efficiency](#) which provides tips on conserving water in guest rooms, common areas, food service, laundry and pool operations, and how to detect leaks.

To encourage water conservation in private properties, DEP also recently launched a voucher-based program to replace roughly 800,000 outdated residential toilets with high efficiency models. The new toilet rebate program will build on the success of a similar rebate program that ran from 1994 to 1997 and replaced 1.3 million toilets and reduced citywide water consumption by 90 million gallons per day.

To learn more about New York City's Water Conservation Challenge and to see a list of participating restaurants, [click here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Waste Less - Recycle More

As DEP employees we have the responsibility of doing all we can to protect the environment and recycling plays a critical role in this effort. To this end, DEP has rolled out new recycling and waste centers to improve our compliance with NYC Department of Sanitation regulations. The new recycling and waste centers have eliminated the use of individual waste containers at employees' desks, and instead consist of clearly designated bins that are placed at centralized locations within each office space:

- blue for metal, glass and plastic
- green for paper and cardboard
- beige for trash/landfill waste

This allows for easier and less time consuming waste pick-up, as well as clearly indicating how recyclables should be sorted. What and how to recycle can vary for residents, agencies and businesses. For more information, visit [DEP's Recycling Program](#) and [DSNY's NYC Recycles website](#).

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.



Kudos Corner



Last week, the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) held its 87th annual meeting and a number of DEP employees from the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment were recognized for their accomplishments. Pictured from left to right with Acting Deputy Commissioner **John Petito** (second from right) are Senior Stationary Engineer Electric **Courtney Anderson**, **Chris Laudando**, **Zainool Ali** and **John McCabe**.

Anderson took home the prestigious Wastewater Facilities Operations Hatfield Award, which recognizes an Operator's Outstanding Performance and is presented by NYWEA's parent organization, the Water Environment Federation; Laudando was awarded the Collection System Operator Award; and Ali and McCabe were recognized with the Uhl T. Mann Award for Maintenance and Operations, respectively. Kudos to all of the awardees for their hard work and for proudly representing DEP!

Snow is a Good Thing...



While New York City was mostly spared in the latest winter storm, the watersheds that surround the City's upstate reservoirs were hit with significant snowfall for the third consecutive Monday. That's good news for our water supply, which depends on melting snow and spring rains to refill the reservoirs each year. Before this past weekend's storm, there were approximately 71.3 billion gallons of water in the snowpack throughout the watershed, which is much higher than the historic average of 54.7 billion gallons for this time of year. A snow survey later this week will likely push that number higher, as roughly 2 feet of snow has piled up across most of the watershed.

Donations Needed



The recent inclement weather has led to a mass cancellation of blood drives across the region with more than 3,000 scheduled donations lost — the largest single loss since Hurricane Sandy. The New York City Blood Program has always depended on City workers to help maintain the area's blood supply, including nearly 42,000 life-saving donations made in 2014.

Donating blood takes less than one hour and has the potential to save up to three lives! Employees with O-negative blood type, or "universal donors," are especially encouraged to donate as this blood type can be used in emergencies. The NYC Employee Blood Program holds blood drives almost every day at City agencies throughout the five boroughs. Visit [city locations](#) to see a list of drives taking place over the next couple weeks. Or call (800) 933-BLOOD (2566) or visit nybloodcenter.org. Thank you for your support of this vital cause.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 20 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Alison S. Clarke, **Shanna Davis**, **Bowen R. Liu**, **Tyieast Lloyd**, **Alyson H. Rohan** and **Sarah A. Taylor** with BEDC; **Taylor Evans**, **Omid Khalapari**, **Kareem Rolland** and **Christopher Saluto** with BWT; **Leland Alexander**, **Jennae Andrews-Simpson** and **Nicole Pappalardo** with BWSO; **Nyamekye Irving**, **Tiffany Oxley** and **Ebony L. Sutton** with BCS; **Samantha Eanes** and **Patrick C. Love** with Sustainability; **Imran Aslam** with BWS; and **Ronald H. Vaughn** with BEC.

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