

Let's Get This Started



This week, a new class of 20 Environmental Police recruits began their seven month training at DEP's new facility in Kingston.

The diverse class speaks four foreign languages and hails from Bronx, Columbia, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Queens, Rockland, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester Counties. Those that graduate from the Academy will be charged with protecting the city's water supply system, which includes more than 2,000 square miles of watershed land across nine counties, hundreds of miles of tunnels and aqueducts, 14 wastewater treatment plants, laboratories, and chlorination facilities. Best of luck to the entire class!

Spotlight on Safety

Lock-Out/Tag-Out

DEP's revised Control of Hazardous Energy (Lock-Out/Tag-Out) Policy is now available on Pipeline and will officially go into effect on May 31, 2015. The purpose of a Lock-Out/Tag-Out program is to protect employees from injuries caused by the release of hazardous energy while servicing and maintaining equipment (e.g., assembling, installing, adjusting, inspecting, modifying, etc.). Energy sources including electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal or other sources in machines and equipment can be hazardous to workers. Workers servicing or maintaining machines or equipment may be seriously injured if hazardous energy is not properly controlled.

Proper Lockout/Tag-Out practices and procedures safeguard workers

from the release of hazardous energy by physically isolating machines and equipment from one or more energy sources using locks and/or other control devices. The control points (e.g. switches and valves) for the energy sources are locked and de-energization is verified.

A Lockout/Tagout program must include:

- Written energy control procedures
- Training of authorized employees
- Personal locks and tags for control energy points
- Annual program review to check effective program implementation.

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.

Commissioner's Corner

Last week, DEP hosted a series of public outreach events at select hardware stores around the city to educate New Yorkers about the high cost of residential water leaks and simple steps homeowners can take to detect leaks and repair them. The outreach events were held in recognition of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Fix a Leak Week* which is celebrated each March to remind Americans to check their household fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. At DEP's outreach events, staff distributed literature along with leak detector dye tablets designed to quickly identify leaky toilets. Hundreds of people received leak detector kits and information at the events and since last week more than 30,000 people viewed a brief *Fix a Leak Week* public service announcement DEP created on [YouTube](#).

Nationwide, household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually, equal to the annual water use of more than 11 million homes. Leaks are not only wasteful they can also be very expensive for homeowners. In New York City, a running toilet can waste between 30 and 4,000 gallons of water each day and cost homeowners up to \$50 per day. Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable and



making simple repairs can save homeowners on their water bills. For more tips on detecting leaks and making repairs [click here](#).

DEP has introduced a number of customer service initiatives aimed at helping New Yorkers manage their water use and bills and respond promptly to leaks. These programs include the completion of a network of Automated Meter Reading devices that ensure bills are based on actual consumption and that allow customers to access data about their water use in near real time and a leak notification system that has already saved customers more than \$60 million. In addition, last year DEP extended its leak forgiveness program to include maintainable fixtures such as toilets and faucets to encourage homeowners to make timely repairs.

Photos of this year's *Fix a Leak Week* events are available on [DEP's Flickr Page](#).



Command Performance



Last week, DEP announced the release of the Green Infrastructure Monitoring Report, a detailed analysis of the performance of three neighborhood-scale green infrastructure projects in New York City which demonstrates that they absorbed even more stormwater than anticipated and reduced the runoff entering the sewers by more than 20 percent. Located in the neighborhoods of Bushwick, East New York and Edenwald, the three demonstration areas were chosen because the sewers drains to a single pipe where flow meters were installed to measure the amount of stormwater both before, and after, construction of the green infrastructure. Within these defined areas DEP built 70 curbside gardens, or bioswales, that are specially designed to collect and absorb stormwater from the street and sidewalk and keep it out of the combined sewer system, where it can contribute to sewer overflows into local waterways. Across the three demonstration areas, the green infrastructure managed the first inch of stormwater that fell on over 14 percent of the impervious area, which surpassed the goal of capturing the first inch that fell on 10 percent of the impervious area.

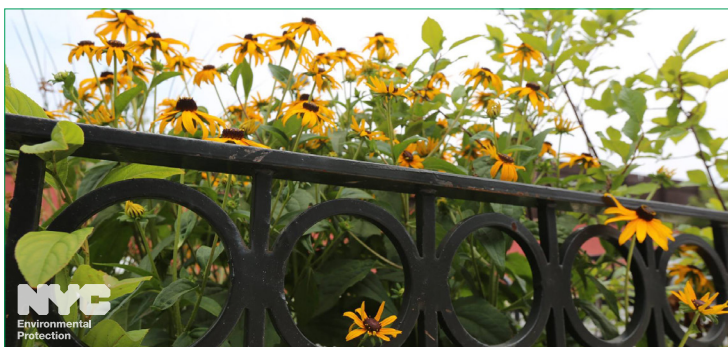
The three demonstration areas were developed in order to collect and analyze data on the volume of flow within the combined sewers both before, and after, construction of the green infrastructure. Prior to the installation of the bioswales, beginning in 2011, DEP installed depth and flow monitoring devices in the sewer pipes where they exit the demonstration areas and normal and peak flow levels were collected

continuously for up to 16 months to provide pre-construction, or baseline, flow data. Once the bioswales were built, the pre-construction findings were compared to the post-construction flow data. By taking into account the total rainfall for the area, estimates were made as to how much stormwater was being managed by the green infrastructure and never making it into the sewer system. On average, across all three demonstration areas during a typical rainstorm in New York City, the green infrastructure reduced the stormwater runoff entering the sewer system by at least 20 percent.

In addition, information was also collected on the temperature in the vicinity of each bioswale, vegetation cover and visits by pollinators and wildlife using sensors, infra-red and time-lapse cameras, as well as human observation. This data is being compiled into a report on the ancillary benefits of green infrastructure that will be made available in the coming weeks.

DEP also built on-site green infrastructure at the New York City Housing Authority's Hope Gardens Houses in Bushwick and the Seth Low Houses in East New York. Designed to manage stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces within the developments, bioretention areas, permeable pavement and subsurface detention systems collect stormwater that falls on the walkways and parking lots and keeps it out of the sewer system.

Read the full report [here](#) and see more photos [here](#).



Supporting Downstream Communities



Last week, DEP announced a proposal to further reduce flood risk in the Schoharie Valley and support downstream ecology by making regular releases of water from Schoharie Reservoir for the first time since the reservoir was put into service in 1927. The two-tiered program of downstream releases would reduce the likelihood of water spilling from Schoharie Reservoir by limiting its storage during fall, winter and early spring, and it would also support fish, bird and other natural habitats by providing a baseline flow of water in Schoharie Creek immediately below Gilboa Dam. A similar program of releases has already been implemented at four of DEP's other reservoirs in the Catskills. Extensive modeling by DEP—which analyzed the effects of future Schoharie releases by using 65 years of historic records—determined that releasing water regularly would not compromise the city's ability to reliably deliver high-quality drinking water to 9.4 million New Yorkers every day. For more information [click here](#).

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 14 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Director of Human Resources **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Samantha Negron, **Mohammed M. Rahman** and **Bryan A. Santana** with BWSO; **Umakanth Ande** and **Erika L. Jozwiak** with BEDC; **Steven M. Arcuik** with BCS; **Michele Dundi** with BWS; **Juan Formoso** with OIT; **Sara Lupson** with BEPA; **Robert Okoroji** with Budget; **Christine Settineri** with BEC; **Emily J. Spokowski** with Executive; **Nicole N. Than** with BWT; and **Sean Umland** with Fleet.

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