

Commissioner's Corner



DEP's mission is to deliver clean, safe drinking water to more than nine million New Yorkers every day and ensure the near and long term resiliency of our water supply system for

generations to come. As water utilities across the nation—and around the world—grapple with the consequences of climate change, we must continue to identify opportunities to ensure the resiliency and reliability of our water supply system.

I am pleased to share [One Water NYC: 2018 Water Demand Management Plan](#) for New York City's water supply. The plan outlines recent conservation efforts that have resulted in a savings of 10 million gallons of water per day, as well as plans to conserve an additional 10 million gallons per day over the next five years. Through a number



of strategic initiatives, DEP has been able to reduce per capita water demand in New York City from its peak of 213 gallons a day per person in 1979 to 115 gallons a day per person in 2017, a 46 percent reduction.

While conservation programs have helped to drive down demand for water, they have also helped to cut greenhouse gas emissions related to operating the water and wastewater systems by 68 metric tons annually, as well as limit sewer overflows into local waterways during rain events. Importantly, the reduction in demand for water will also help to facilitate critical water system upgrades in the coming years, including the temporary shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct.

Conservation projects include:

- The installation of timers on 400 spray showers in Parks Department playgrounds; saving 1.1 million gallons per day (MGD) during the summer months.
- Upgrade of 30,000 inefficient bathroom fixtures in New York City public schools; saving 3.3 MGD.
- Upgrades and modification of treatment procedures at DEP's 14 wastewater treatment plants; saving 1.7 MGD.
- The installation of 500 efficient toilets and 280 urinals in 10 City University of New York

buildings; saving 40,000 gallons of water per day.

- Construction of a water reuse facility at the New York City Fire Department's Randall's Island Training Facility; saving 30,000 gallons of water per day.
- Replacement of more than 12,600 inefficient toilets in private residences; saving 500,000 gallons of water per day.
- Distribution of nearly 100,000 home water savings kits to promote conservation; saving 400,000 gallons of water per day.

The plan also outlines future in-city conservation projects, steps being taken to reduce water use by 10 of DEP's upstate wholesale customers, optimization of the water distribution system and management of the water supply during times of water shortage.

I'd like to thank the Integrated Water Management team in BEPA for leading this initiative, and the hard work of staff in BEDC, BWS, BCS and BWT for their essential contributions. This program would also not be possible without support from our partners at the Department of Education, NYC Parks, New York City Fire Department, City University of New York, New York City Housing Authority, our wholesale customers, Water Challenge participants, and other city agencies and non-profit organizations.

Spotlight on Safety

EHS Insights



Persis Luke
Assistant Commissioner
Environmental Health
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Greetings!

I am happy to announce that OEHS will be hosting DEP's very first Safety Week from June 25th to June 29th! The theme is "Leading with Safety", and we will be focusing on safety in the workplace, both on the road and at home. As you may know, June is National Safety Month and OEHS will be communicating safety-related information and educational opportunities, in addition to offering fun contests throughout the month. We will culminate National Safety Month with several events throughout the last week in June, including one in Downsville on Tuesday,

June 26th and one at Lefrak on Friday, June 29th. We will also be hosting a leadership forum on Wednesday, June 27th for Senior and EHS Leadership.

Individual Bureaus will also be hosting Safety Week activities, so be on the lookout for announcements and postings that are pertinent to your place of work.

DEP's overarching goal is to build a strong agency-wide EHS culture, which is why all employees are welcome to participate in Safety Week events, whether you work in the office or in the field. So join me in some of the events and take a few moments to stop and learn more about how each one of us can be a stronger safety leader in the midst of our day to day work.

Visit OEHS' new [SharePoint page](#) for more information on Safety Week.

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.

Two New 'Green' Playgrounds



DEP joined NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, FAICP, Council Member **Debi Rose**, Staten Island Deputy Borough President **Ed Burke**, and community members on Friday to cut the ribbons on the newly reconstructed Austin J. McDonald and Levy playgrounds. McDonald and Levy playgrounds, respectively, are the third and fourth Community Parks Initiative (CPI) sites to open on Staten Island after undergoing a combined \$7.9 million reconstruction. To manage stormwater runoff, green infrastructure has been added throughout both parks. For McDonald Playground, DEP contributed more than \$970,000 to install new rain gardens, permeable pavers, a dry well and synthetic turf. This green infrastructure will contribute to a runoff reduction of more than 1.2 million gallons each year. At Levy Playground, DEP provided \$675,000 to construct new rain gardens that will contribute to a runoff reduction of nearly 564,000 gallons each year. DEP has committed approximately \$50 million in funding for green infrastructure installations at CPI sites throughout the city, helping to reduce sewer overflows that sometimes occur during heavy rainfall, improve air quality and lower summertime temperatures.



Press Box



DEP was featured in NYWEA's Clear Waters magazine this Spring. The article, by **Commissioner Sapienza**, details how we protect public health and the environment in New York City by balancing competing needs for both fiscal sustainability and capital upgrades, broadening our scope by using Green Infrastructure, and improving energy efficiency at our facilities to reduce greenhouse gases. To read the full article, click [here](#).

Donors Needed for Blood Drive



DEP is partnering with the New York Blood Centers to help maintain the community's blood supply. Donors with an O-negative blood type, or "universal donors," are especially urged to give because their blood can be transferred to anyone. Remember to eat and hydrate before you donate.

Blood drives will be taking place at the below locations and times:

- **Lefrak:** 6th Floor Training Rooms, 6/6 and 6/7, 7:45am to 1:45pm
- **Kingston/Catskill Area:** 51 Albany Avenue, 6/6, 1pm to 6pm;
- **Kensico/Highland Regions-Sutton Park Area:** Sutton Park, 2nd Floor Training Room, 6/14, 8:30am to 2:30pm
- **Downsville Region Area:** Downsville Fire Hall, 6/6, 9am to 2pm
- **Grahamsville Region Area:** Grahamsville Fire House, 6/27, 10am to 3pm.

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