

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Angela Licata, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

The 2017 Water Conservation Report has recently been released and I am pleased to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights. As you know, DEP values the role of water conservation and demand management in the responsible long-term manage-

ment of New York City's water supply. As a result, water demand is down more than 30 percent since the 1990s, despite consistent increases in population. With predictions of warmer temperatures and greater variability in precipitation due to climate change, however, DEP must consider this increasing uncertainty in the management of the City's water supply and the corresponding demand.

Further, the leaking Delaware Aqueduct and its planned shutdown and repair in 2022 is a known, near-term event that creates an imperative to proactively manage and explicitly reduce existing water demand to ensure adequate water supply through this period. DEP's Water Demand Management Program is in its fifth full year of implementation.

We have made significant progress in advancing water efficiency



projects in partnership with municipal agencies, including the Departments of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Education (DOE), Fire (FDNY), as well as the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

Our partnership with DOE has been very successful. Since 2012, 310 school buildings have been retrofitted, accounting for approximately 28,600 fixture replacements and we are on track to save the estimated 3.8 million gallons a day (MGD) for this initiative, as outlined in the Water Demand Management Plan.

A use of all this recycled porcelain presented itself when DEP's Office of Ecological Services was awarded a grant in January 2014 to build an artificial oyster reef in Jamaica Bay. The porcelain was crushed and washed and delivered to the Fountain Avenue Landfill in Brooklyn for storage. Between July 2015 and March 2016, roughly 6,500 fixtures were recycled, crushed, and stored. The crushed porcelain, roughly 125

cubic yards, was then transferred to a barge in Jamaica Bay and installed as part of the artificial oyster reef.

We have also advanced conservation projects at our wastewater treatment plants. In January 2017, we completed the third Commissioner's Water Challenge with three participating plants: Red Hook, Tallman Island, and Rockaway. Tallman Island won the challenge, with a consumption reduction of 11 percent, or 15,000 gallons per day. The fourth Commissioner's Water Challenge will begin this summer.

We continue to partner with DPR to reduce water consumption, specifically with spray showers in City parks and in recreational centers. The goal in the Water Demand Management Plan is to reduce consumption in parks by 1.1 MGD over five years, by retrofitting 400 spray showers and replacing inefficient fixtures at recreation centers.

Additionally, the Toilet Replacement Program is at the three-year mark and has retrofitted a total 11,581 toilets and the On-Site Water Reuse Grant Pilot Program launched, offering up to \$500,000 for properties that offset potable water use with recycled water.

All of this success marks the significant progress DEP continues to make in reducing water demand through establishing partnerships, which will ultimately lead to an impactful reduction of water consumption in the future.

I'd like to thank **Pinar Balci, Alan Cohn, Erin Morey, Ben Huff, Nigel Williams, John Brock, and Gina Behnke** for leading these efforts!

Spotlight on Safety

Workplace Fatigue

We are now in the second week of National Safety Month and this week's theme is "Recharge to Be in Charge," focusing on fatigue and worker safety. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in three adults do not get enough sleep. Getting the proper amount of rest allows us to recharge our stamina and avoid injuries at work. This is especially important for jobs that involve keeping others safe.

Supervisors should be alert for signs of excessive fatigue among workers, such as yawning, head dropping, and difficulty remembering or concentrating. Simple measures can address workplace fatigue, such as holding regular toolbox talks on prevention tips.

The National Safety Council offers the following tips for staying well rested:

- get seven to nine hours of sleep every day
- go to bed and wake up at the same time every day—even on weekends
- avoid using electronic devices before bed
- eliminate unnecessary light in the room, ensure the temperature is not too hot or too cold, and ensure pillows and bed are comfortable
- avoid eating right before bed

For more information on fatigue and worker safety, read the [Safety and Health magazine article](#).



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.

Hunts Point Tune-Up



The M/V Hunts Point sludge vessel recently underwent a series of routine repairs and retrofits at Caddell Drydock on Staten Island. Some of the work included:

- removing and reconditioning nine keel coolers from the hull
- completing a corrosion study and replacing sacrificial anodes
- installing an impressed cathodic system to provide a controlled charge to the hull to prevent premature wastage
- retrofitting the bridge controls for the bow and stern thrusters to improve functionality
- blasting and applying new paint coatings to the hull
- cleaning and inspecting the engine room bilges and all cargo tanks
- inspecting and repairing as necessary hull appendages including the propellers, tail shafts and bearings, rudders and thrusters

Overseeing the maintenance from the BWT's Marine Division were **Matt Herrington**, Port Engineer; **John Pawlowski**, Captain; and **Ray Feige**, Chief Engineer, as well as **Yousif Ayoub**, Assistant Marine Engineer, and **Jonathan Miller**, Mariner.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 14 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources **Zoe Ann Campbell** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Eliot Nagele and **Chengfeng Wu** with BEPA; **Michael K. DeLoach** and **Amelia B. Williams** with BPAC; **Dominic Moronta** and **Erik J. Rider** with BWS; **Devon C. Bailey**, **Yahn Israel**, **Kenneth Lum**, **John Mims** and **Zaquan Solomon** with BWSO; **Marielle Christie** and **Rocco Gualtieri** with BWT; and **Zubeda Bentley** with Sustainability.

Green Infrastructure Grant Workshop



DEP is encouraging non-profits, institutions and other private property owners to apply for [funding that is available for stormwater management projects](#) through the Green Infrastructure Grant Program. DEP is engaged in a city-wide effort to soften the impervious urban landscape and help absorb stormwater that would otherwise drain into the combined sewer system and contribute to sewer overflows into local waterways. The Grant Program provides funding for stormwater management projects, also called green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, permeable pavements, and green roofs on private property in the combined sewer areas of the city. More information and the application can be found on the [DEP website](#). DEP will host a workshop on June 14 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Civic Hall, located at 118 West 22nd Street in Manhattan (12th Floor), to explain the eligibility requirements and the application process. Over the last several years, DEP has committed more than \$15 million to fund 34 different projects with private property owners, who have contributed nearly \$6 million in matching funds. To arrange a meeting with DEP engineers to discuss proposal specifics in advance of submitting an application, email gigrantprogram@dep.nyc.gov.

New Sewage Treatment Workers



Last Wednesday, 28 new Sewage Treatment Workers (STW) attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Raul Blanco, **Thomas Blasso**, **Thomas Celifarco**, **Vincent Cittadino**, **Roman Danilyan**, **Joseph Giarraffa**, **Thomas Hand**, **Steven Hoyer**, **Anthony P. Hronich**, **Joseph Intervallo**, **Yevgeniy Kuksa**, **Carlos Lebron**, **Jose E. Lopez**, **Raymond Marullo**, **Salvatore Marullo**, **John McCaul**, **Guillermo Medina**, **Vincent Mingrone**, **Dimitrios Mousouras**, **Nicholas Palma**, **Anthony Palmeri**, **Kenneth Patti**, **Joseph M. Prior, Jr.**, **Francis Rooney**, **Ranga J. Samathuwa Wasam**, **Carmine Valente**, **Paolo Vitucci** and **Anthony White**.

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