

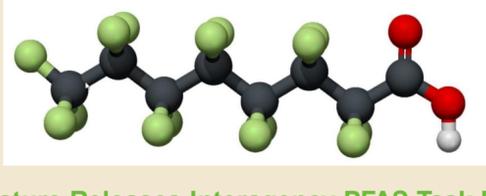


April-May 2022

## Maine Bans Land Application and Distribution of Biosolids-Based Products

On Wednesday, April 20th, Governor Janet Mills quietly signed [LD 1911](#), "An Act To Prevent the Further Contamination of the Soils and Waters of the State with So-called Forever Chemicals," which bans the land application, sale and distribution of biosolids-based soil amendments. The law will be effective in late July, ninety days from the end of the legislative session. The new law also establishes PFAS effluent testing requirements for Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs) but repeals the \$10 per ton handling fee on septage and sludge enacted in 2021.

[Read more...](#)



## Massachusetts Legislature Releases Interagency PFAS Task Force Report

On April 20, 2022, the Massachusetts Interagency Task Force held its final public meeting and voted unanimously to approve "PFAS in the Commonwealth: Final Report of the PFAS Interagency Task Force". The report provides a policy framework with a total of 30 recommendations broken into eight broad "measures" aiming to address PFAS contamination in Massachusetts. Those measures include:

1. Fund PFAS Detection and Remediation
2. Support Environmental Justice Communities
3. Phase Out PFAS In Consumer Products
4. Expand PFAS Regulation
5. Encourage Private Well PFAS Testing and Remediation
6. Support Firefighters and Local Fire Departments
7. Address PFAS Contamination Accountability
8. Enhance Public Awareness of PFAS

[Read more](#)

## NEWMOA Science of PFAS Conference Looks at All Sides of "An Outsized Problem"



After almost two years of delay due COVID, the North East Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA) hosted a two day in-person conference, April 5th and 6th in Marlborough, Massachusetts, on all aspects of PFAS - health/science, sources, regulation, removal, and destruction technologies and more. There were over 500 attendees from 26 states including California, North Carolina, and Michigan as well as British Columbia, Canada. The conference attracted a very diverse crowd of attendees including researchers, regulators, practitioners, and environmental advocates focused on various aspects of the problem: PFAS in solid wastes, drinking water, wastewater, residuals, and in the air.

Following a welcome by NEWMOA's Executive Director, Terri Goldberg, the current chair of NEWMOA, Michael Wimsatt of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, spoke about PFAS as "an outsized problem."

[Read more](#)



## MAWEA's Mickey Nowak Advocates for Regional Solids Planning and Solutions

Mickey Nowak, a long-time clean water professional and current Executive Director of the Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA), is on a mission to warn everyone about what he calls a "potential environmental and economic disaster that is visible on the horizon." He refers to the dwindling options for managing wastewater solids and septage in the Northeast. Mickey makes some excellent points in recent Op-Ed pieces published in [VT Digger](#) (Sewer Plants Running Out of Places to Put Biosolids) and a local Western Massachusetts paper, the [Greenfield Recorder](#).

[Read more...](#)

## En Bref -- In Brief

### Release of BEAM\*2022 Behind Schedule

The 2022 version of the Biosolids Emissions Assessment Model (BEAM), a spreadsheet calculator of greenhouse gas emissions from various biosolids management practices, will not be ready in April as originally planned. NEBRA has completed the a scientific review of the old model and there are several updates to emissions factors and calculations that need to be integrated into the new model. The website ([www.biosolidsGHGs.org](http://www.biosolidsGHGs.org)) is set up and ready to go when the spreadsheet is ready for downloading which should be in **mid-June**. To read more about the BEAM\*2022, see recent NEWEA Journal article: [Spring 2022 \(flipbuilder.com\)](#).

### EPA Presents at 22nd NEDR

On April 8th, NEBRA hosted its 22nd quarterly North East Digestion Roundtable (NEDR) featuring Nick Elger and Tom Frankiewicz with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Change Division presenting on EPA's new [Biogas Toolkit](#). The toolkit includes an Anaerobic Digestion Screening Tool and an Organics Economics Tool to help project developers. EPA is promoting anaerobic digestion and other biogas projects worldwide as part of the [Global Methane Initiative](#). Go to NEBRA's [NEDR page](#) for more information about this session. *Northeast Digestion Roundtable: Eat lunch. Digest.*

### Members Helping Members

If you are heading to the New England Water Environment Association's Spring Conference in New Hampshire, be sure to check out the presentation by Chelsey Little, the Superintendent of the Town of Montague, Massachusetts Water Resource Recovery Facility, all about the recently completed upgrades to Montague's sludge dewatering operations. She will be speaking in Session 8 on May 25th which is focused on resiliency solutions that incorporate innovation, collaboration and affordability. Helping Montague out with this project was another NEBRA member, Process Wastewater Technologies LLC (PWTech), that supplied the new volute dewatering press. For more in depth coverage, check out this article in the [Greenfield Recorder](#) ([The Recorder - Five-year sludge buildup resolved with new dewatering press at Montague wastewater plant](#)) and this article [Treatment facility meets EPA regulations with new sludge handling process - Water Finance & Management \(waterfm.com\)](#) in Water Finance & Management magazine.

### GMWEA Facilitates Legislative Outreach on Water Utility Perspectives

The Green Mountain Water Environment Association (GMWEA)'s Government Affairs Committee is doing some great work on educating legislators and the public about PFAS. There are several workgroups that have been busy this legislative session, including one on PFAS and emerging contaminants and one focused on residuals, co-chaired by NEBRA's Janine Burke-Wells and Eamon Twohig from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC). In particular, GMWEA has developed a [one-pager on PFAS](#) and some great videos which they are encouraging their members to share with elected officials. Check out these short YouTube videos:

- Sludge, Septage, and Biosolids Management in Vermont - [Part 1](#): Featuring Eamon Twohig, VTDEC
- Sludge, Septage, and Biosolids Management in Vermont - [Part 2](#): Featuring Chelsea Mandigo, Essex Junction
- Sludge, Septage, and Biosolids Management in Vermont - [Part 3](#): Featuring Chris Cox, Montpelier

### Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association Issues Press Release on PFAS

HARRISBURG, March 17, 2022 - The Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA), today announced an appeal to the regions' communities and stakeholders related to recent concerns regarding PFAS contaminants and their potentially harmful effects to citizens. "We believe that the 'polluter pays' principle that guides many environmental protections in Pennsylvania, and across the Mid-Atlantic region, should be applied to reducing human and environmental risks from PFAS," said Anne Marek, MABA president, "And that principle relies on the idea that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment." [Full MABA PFAS Press Release \(memberclicks.net\)](#)

## CHECK IT OUT!!

Virginia Biosolids Council's new webpage: <https://www.virginiabiosolids.com/>

"Wasteland", a 4-part docuseries about wastewater issues in the US: [Wasteland | Official Trailer | Paramount+](#)

Two articles from Lina Zeldovich, the author of the [The Other Dark Matter: The Science and Business of Turning Waste into Wealth and Health](#):

[How the Ancient Romans Went to the Bathroom](#)

[5 Surprising Uses for Recycled Poop](#)

Join the movement: the [Poop Project](#) (People's Own Organic Power)!

Burger King to introduce [poop emoji ice cream](#) to promote its artificial-free ingredients



## Upcoming Events

- May 1 - 7:** International [Compost Week](#)
- May 17:** Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association [webinar](#) on Hydrothermal Treatment of Biosolids
- May 20:** Lunch & Learn about WRF Project #5111 (Studying the fate of PFAS through Sewage Sludge Incinerators)
- May 22 - 25:** New England Water Environment Association's [Spring Meeting](#) in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire
- May 24 - 27:** WEF [Residuals & Biosolids Conference](#), Columbus, Ohio
- May 27-28:** [NEBRA Conference](#), Marlborough, Massachusetts
- May 26:** GMWEA [Spring Conference](#), Killington Grand Resort

For a complete listing of Events, go to [www.nebiosolids.org/events](http://www.nebiosolids.org/events)



New England Water Environment Association's [Green Steps Award](#) recognizes innovation and sustainability within the wastewater and stormwater industry. Nominate a project or company today!

Deadline: **May 18th**.

Sylvis is looking for a [Project Coordinator](#) to work in its Edmonton, Alberta office. Apply online at: <https://sylvis.com/our-company/careers>

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