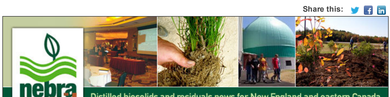

nebra mail

Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

August 5, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Waste Conversion Technology Conference & Trade Show, **August 16th - 18th** in San Diego, CA.

Lunch & Learn about Water Research Foundation Project #5307 (Evaluation of Source Separated Organics Feedstock Pretreatment & Management Practices) on **August 27th**.

Rhode Island Clean Water Association Trade Show, **September 2nd**.

Connecticut Water Environment Association Trade Show, **September 9th**.

Northwest Biosolids Association will host it annual Biofest virtually, **September 15 & 16th, 20th & 21st**.

Maine Water Environment Association's Fall Convention is **September 16th and 17th**.

Lunch & Learn about the new biosolids gasification facility in Linden, NJ on **September 24th**.

New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association Trade Show, **October 1st**.

International Perspectives on PFAS Science, **October 3 - 7** in Providence, RI.

NORTHEAST RESIDUALS & BIOSOLIDS CONFERENCE, **October 7th**, UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center.

FOR MORE EVENTS, go to NEBRA's Events Page.

Help ensure funding for PFAS treatment is included in any infrastructure funding bill!
WEF is encouraging its members to outreach their federal representatives on this issue and have made it easy: Go to WEF Water Advocates.

CHECK IT OUT:

The medals for the Tokyo Olympics were made from recycled cell phones!

Designers make high fashion from ocean trash.

According to one professor, you can even make diamonds from residual waste!

Fish sludge is getting turned into plant food.

Struvite can be recycled into a fire retardent to help supress forest fires.

NPR's Marketplace recently did a feature on D.C. Water's Bloom biosolids!

Is it time to rethink sewer infrastructure? Bloomberg CityLab thinks so.

NASA's $23 million toilet for the International Space Station.

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CASELLA ORGANICS

Northern Tilth

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Thank You!

Looking for Content

NEBRA is always looking for good content – like **stories for NEBRAMail and topics for webinars**. We welcome articles from and presentations by members. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact the NEBRA office.

SUBSCRIBE and get *NEBRAMail* direct to your inbox!

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Calendar

Join NEBRA

NEBRA Member LP Consulting to Lead New Brunswick's Soil Productivity and Sustainability Residual Project

The Canadian Province of New Brunswick is helping to support the regenerative agriculture movement with a new project designed to help NB farmers access affordable waste residuals for beneficial reuse. The program – known as the Soil Productivity and Sustainable Residual project -- is expected to save money and improve soil health and crop productivity. Read more. . .

Action in 117th Congress to Support Sustainable Agriculture and Reduce Food Waste

Several bills have been proposed in the U.S. Congress that would go a long way in supporting agricultural practices that are sustainable and address climate change concerns. In the House, Representatives Ann McLane Kuster (New Hampshire) and Chellie Pingree (Maine) joined Representative Julia Brownley (California) in introducing the Cultivating Organic Matter through the Promotion of Sustainable Techniques (COMPOST) Act. A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Cory Booker (New Jersey). More. . .

Vermont DEC Focused on Preventing PFAS From Getting to Treatment Facilities

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) has received two grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help reduce the amount of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) entering wastewater collection and treatment systems in Vermont. Since treatment facilities are not designed to remove PFAS or other Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs), some of the PFAS coming in ends up going out with the effluent and the rest ends up in the solids which must be managed. Vermont has no biosolids incineration facilities; only landfilling and beneficial reuse options are available. Concerns about high levels of PFAS in biosolids could impact both those management methods so VTDEC is being proactive with its pollution prevention approach. More. . .

Vermont's Rich Earth Institute Aims to "Pee the Change"

At July's Lunch & Learn webinar, members of the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA) got to learn about the exciting work and ongoing research into Urine Diversion (UD) and its conversion to farm fertilizer by the Rich Earth Institute (REI). With a research center and "urine depot" in Brattleboro, Vermont, REI's vision is "A world with clean water and fertile soil achieved by reclaiming the nutrients from our bodies as elements in a life sustaining cycle."

Did you know that urine contains most of the nutrients and half the pharmaceuticals in domestic wastewater although it is only a tiny percentage of the total wastewater volume? Read more. . .

Federal and State PFAS Legislative Updates

On July 21st, the U.S. House of Representatives passed The PFAS Action Act (H.R. 2467) with 241 votes in favor and 183 opposed. The house bill was sent to the Senate where it was referred to the Committee on the Environment and Public Works. The legislation directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) – in this case PFOA and PFOS were specified to start – as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the Superfund law. Read more. . .

In Brief / en bref...

Grants Available for Anaerobic Digestion

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced grant funding for "Supporting Anaerobic Digestion in Communities" for projects to divert food wastes from landfills to anaerobic digesters (ADs). EPA has $2 million in funding for this grant program and anticipated individual project funding in the range of $50,000 to $200,000. Applications are due by **October 7, 2021**. For more information about this grant opportunity, go to: Sustainable Materials Management 2021 Anaerobic Digestion Funding Opportunity | US EPA.

EPA Biosolids Updates

The U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) continues to engage regularly with biosolids management professionals and other stakeholders. EPA has been meeting monthly with staff from the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the North East, Northwest, and Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Associations and others. EPA also initiated bi-monthly meetings with WEF's Residuals & Biosolids Committee's ABBA Subcommittee (a loose Association of Biosolids and Byproducts Associations). These meetings have been very helpful in keeping everyone informed of the progress of EPA's PFAS risk assessment work, analytical methods development, and EPA research grants related to biosolids. In July, EPA prepared a very helpful 1-pager with PFAS in biosolids updates and links for more detailed information. NEBRA members can access the summary here: Federal actions & key documents — NEBRA (nebiosolids.org).

Biosolids PFAS Research Continues in NH

Research into the fate-and-transport of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) through water resource recovery facilities (WRRF) continues to be a priority in New Hampshire. University of New Hampshire researchers recently published the results of several PFAS WRRF studies in Environmental Science with one study finding that only about 10% of PFAS in Great Bay waters is coming from WRRFs. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is wrapping up Phase I of its project with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to determine how PFAS leaches from soils to groundwater (see 2/22 NEBRAMail for full story). Phase I involved sampling and analysis for PFAS in soils across the state. NHDES/USGS selected sampling sites with no known PFAS contamination and are finding background concentrations in New Hampshire soils similar to what had been found in Vermont shallow soils. In Phase 2 of the project, the NHDES team will be sampling soils at sites with PFAS groundwater contamination in order to determine the soil adsorption coefficient (Kd) value which is a key parameter in fate-and-transport models. Phase 3 will involve field validation of the model at biosolids land application sites. The project is expected to wrap up in 2022.

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