

Subject: Key biosolids/residuals news - NEBRAMail - November 2014
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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

November 13, 2014

EVENTS...

- **Nov. 18 - Baltimore. High Quality Biosolids,** a MABA seminar focused on technologies & processes to make better products. [Details](#).
- **Nov. 18, 1:30 pm Eastern. Webinar:** Land Application of Biosolids, offered by Virginia Tech. [Details](#).
- **November 20:** Energy Specialty Conference by NYWEA, Albany, NY. *An exceptional line-up:* see [program](#). Register [here](#).
- **December 2:** Residuals & Biosolids: Promoting and Understanding the



3 Significant Biosolids Court Cases

News from three ongoing biosolids court cases - in Washington state, California, and Pennsylvania...

1. *Dept. of Ecology v. Wahkiakum County, WA*

In the first week of November, the Washington state Appeals Court overturned a ban on the use of Class B biosolids that had been imposed by Wahkiakum County (see coverage by [Wahkiakum County Eagle](#), [WA Dept. of Ecology](#), and [Capital Press](#)). This case has been closely watched by those involved in biosolids management around the continent, as have two others. Read on for updates and interpretation.

[More...](#)

NEW! Member Highlights:

Ithaca Excited About Biosolids Resources!

Jim Goodreau and Dan Ramer are excited about what they create with wastewater. And they'll get you excited about it too....

Photo: Dan Ramer reflects on the new high-efficiency boilers at the



Inherent Value, a WEOO seminar, including presentations by NEBRA Board Member Lise Leblanc [Details](#).

Thanks for Playing!

The NEBRA Annual Raffle

Generous prize donors created a fine 2014 raffle. Thanks to...

Lystek
Insinkerator
Resource Management, Inc.
WeCare Organics
NEFCO
Casella Organics
Tech Environmental

Scores of conference attendees played, and there were a bunch of online sales from afar. Most winning gifts were handed out at the end of the conference, but some were mailed to winners in NH, NY, OH, & PA!

Thanks to all of you who made this once-a-year annual NEBRA fundraiser a fun success!

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THANK YOU!

Ithaca Area WWTF.



Needham & Agresource Provide Solutions for Organic Waste Ban

Several NEBRA members have long been providing composting, digestion and other support services for management of food scraps in Massachusetts. With the recent ban on disposal of some organics, they have even more of a role to play. Agresource manages and markets all sorts of composts, from yard & leaf to food scrap to biosolids; they provide the following story:

See [Member Highlights...](#)

Ebola - Update for Wastewater & Biosolids Workers

Many sectors in the U. S. and Canada have been improving protocols and preparations regarding the potential for an ebola outbreak. There have been only a few cases of ebola documented in the U. S., and all but one have been successfully treated. Currently, there is negligible risk in the U.S. However, careful consideration is appropriate, given the severity of the illness caused by the ebola virus.

The wastewater management profession has taken ebola seriously and is working with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and others to understand and address any risks to wastewater management professionals. [More...](#)

Microconstituents - There's Always More Information...

- On October 29, NEWEA held a Microconstituents specialty conference at which research scientists and policy people from around the region presented and discussed the latest findings on microconstituents in the environment. Ned Beecher of NEBRA presented a literature summary on the presence, fate, and impacts of microconstituents in biosolids (download from left side of nebiosolids.org).
- Recently, the Royal Society published a special journal edition on pharmaceuticals in the environment. Details are [here](#), including videos summarizing some of the research.
- Rolf Halden and his team at Arizona State University argue that finding microconstituents in biosolids may serve as a way to screen chemicals used in society for potential problems. [Details](#).



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In Brief / En bref...

- **North East Residuals & Biosolids Conference presentations** are available [online](#).
- **Massachusetts' ban on disposal of food scraps** in landfills has been well covered in the news. BioCycle's [October issue](#) focused on it. Also see the [Recycling Works website news page](#) for the most recent developments.
- **Sustainable food production [report](#)**, for New England, by **Conservation Law Foundation, NESAWG & American Farmland Trust** which mentions biosolids exactly once (which is a good thing!). And see [recorded webinar](#) "Organic Waste: Finding Uses for it in the Food System," featuring John Fischer (MassDEP), Max Greene (CLF), and Mike Raker (Agricultural Energy Consultants LLC). "Food scrap and organic material are resources." - Max Greene, CLF.
- **Annual conference presentations** from the Compost Council of Canada are now [online](#).
- **An agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) database** intended to address non-point water quality impacts from agriculture is being developed by WERF, Corn Growers, Soybean Board, and others. [Learn more](#). See [slide presentation](#).
- **[Fine TV coverage](#) about Los Angeles biosolids treatment and land application** in Kern County. Includes discussion of Kern County ban on biosolids use. Says Cooperative Extension's Blake Sander about Kern County farmers' perspective on biosolids: "There's probably more concern over bad press...than there is over the real science."
- **[More coverage](#) of the continuing biosolids odor issue & related debate in north Texas.**
- **2015 is the [International Year of Soil!](#)** Monthly themes have been designated by the SSSA; [check out their website](#) and plan to join the celebration. **NEBRA is developing a presentation on building soils with recycled organics**; contact the NEBRA office to arrange for the presentation in your area.

North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)

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