

Subject: NEBRAMail - Includes Best of 2018!

Date: Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 5:04:57 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: NEBRA

To: info@nebiosolids.org

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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada



December 20, 2018

Joyeuses fêtes!

Enjoy the holidays!

We appreciate what you do for residuals management & your involvement with NEBRA.

Wishing you and yours all the best this holiday season.

Happy New Year!

Bonne année!

Value NEBRA? As you make year-end gifts, consider a tax-deductible gift to NEBRA. We don't ask often, and we are here for stakeholders (member or not). But it costs to do what we do. Please [donate](#). Thank you.

Best of 2018!

best biosolids public outreach (& videos):

[Region of Waterloo](#)

[Biosolids Strategy](#) (one example: the poster at right)

WEF biosolids [podcasts](#) (#37, #42, & #45) & [talking](#)

[points](#) (thanks to Travis Loop, WEF)

best biosolids news *en français pour Québec*:

[MRF Actualités](#)



Help Wanted...

NEBRA Seeks New Executive Director

Current ED, Ned Beecher, will stay on as Projects Lead. [Details...](#)

EVENTS...

NE Digestion Roundtable

January 4, 2019

12 Noon EST

Eat lunch. Digest.

Topic: Technical Optimization of AD - Some perspective from MI.

[Details...](#) [More events...](#)

CHECK IT OUT...

Talking 'bout co-digestion:

See [TPO's recent report](#) from the NSF-sponsored WRF co-digestion industry workshop: what makes for success.

ABC [notes that biogas renewable energy & organics management has a role to play](#) as climate concerns increase.

NEBRA has [more anaerobic digestion info & links here](#).

A reminder that the Clean Water Act & WRRFs make a difference - [the Boston Harbor story...](#)

Resource Recovery Data: WEF has issued a [baseline](#)

best biosolids graphics:

[NW Biosolids food loop](#)

best biosolids brochures:

NW Biosolids new fact sheets ([Agriculture](#), [Forestry](#), [Landscapes & Gardens](#), [Soil Improvement / Reclaim](#))

VA Biosolids brochure: "[Healthy Crops. Knowledgeable Neighbors.](#)"

best biosolids blogging:

Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association's Bill Toffey: [Biosolids Classroom](#)

best endorsement:

of [Bloom Soil by Dr. Frank Gouin](#) (1938 - 2018), compost guru, Univ. of Maryland

best environmentally sound pending biosolids project doggedly addressing community concerns: [Slate Belt Heat Recovery Project](#)

best biosolids conference: [The Biosolids Cycle](#)

best biosolids regulatory advances: California (led by [CASA](#)), where biosolids are part of addressing climate change actions, waste diversion, and healthy soil solutions

best technical biosolids research webinars: [Virginia Tech](#) - biosolids soils (left & middle) outperform control (right):

Results: Soybean Bioassay



BM1x - TM1x - Fertilizer 1x

BSS1x - TSS1x - Fertilizer 1x

LAWPCA Compost Facility Closing

This month, the facility is ceasing operations for the foreseeable future.

[data report](#) on recovery & use from U. S. WRRFs of biosolids, nutrients, and cleaned water.

Webinar: PFAS & Compost - "Teflon in My Compost?"

Recorded on Dec. 8th; [watch here](#). Thanks to [Composting Collaborative](#).

Biochar research: University Laval in Quebec research showed 15% maple wood biochar in a soil mix reduced N leaching 90+% and water consumption 50% while increasing tomato yields 28% and pepper yields 20%. The hypothesis is that increased microbial activity is the benefit stimulated by the biochar.

Tours & open houses are your best public outreach!

Nice advice from TPO here: [Think like a realtor!](#)



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Thank you.

NEWS from NEBRA

[Read more....](#)

In Brief / en bref...

Slate Belt Heat Recovery Project: [It's time for a positive local vote](#) on this energy-efficient Class A facility, based on facts (not just a [newspaper's poll](#))... **EPA proposes prohibitions on flushing pharmaceuticals** (see also [NACWA article](#))... **Australia health guidance for biosolids workers** published in 2018 (which is similar to [U. S. NIOSH guidance](#))... **NH DES setting PFAS MCLs for drinking water; comments posted**... **MassDEP responding to CLF/TOC petition for treatment technique standards for PFAS in drinking water**...hearing set for Jan. 16.... **NY State Drinking Water Quality Council [recommends 10 ppt MCLs](#)** for PFOA & PFOS...

The emerging contaminants challenge: An expert perspective, ~10 years back



"Many of the 'new and emerging' compounds that are now being touted as potential threats to public health and the environment due to their presence or potential presence in biosolids consist of pharmaceuticals and their metabolites, personal care products, and surfactants that have been tested and found to be safe and effective for use by intentional direct ingestion or skin contact by the intended population. It amazes me that an argument can be made that their trace presence in land-applied biosolids could be a threat to human health. Even with respect to their environmental impacts, the trace amounts released to the environment from biosolids land application is insignificant compared to the amounts that are released to the aquatic environment (where their bioavailabilities are much greater) from their failure to be captured in biosolids....

"The real issue for any of these new and emerging compounds is that regulatory agencies responsible for evaluating and regulating the production and use of these compounds before they are manufactured fail to perform a life-cycle analysis on them that includes their impacts when they reach wastewater and become incorporated in biosolids. It is ludicrous for the wastewater treatment and biosolids profession to be responsible for this evaluation and control, which are the responsibility of these regulatory authorities. Synthetic chemicals should be

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developed and regulated with attention paid to full-life ("cradle-to-grave") analyses to ensure that they present no significant threat to public health, the environment, and its organisms."

--Alan B. Rubin, former U. S. EPA, 1941-2018

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THANK YOU!

North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)

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