

Subject: NE Biosolids news - NEBRAMail - August 2016
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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

August 29, 2016

[Calendar:](#)

NEBRA offerings:

- **Sep. 21: "Make the Best Biosolids"** - an Atlantic Canada biosolids [workshop](#), Moncton, NB
- **Oct. 12 & 13: The Annual NE Residuals & Biosolids Conference**, Cromwell, CT. (See right.)
- **Nov. 2: Managing Phosphorus in Organic Residuals Applied to Soil** - a [symposium](#) by UMass Extension, Marlborough, MA

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CHECK IT OUT...

Connecticut[★] Biosolids

still revolutionary

The Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference

October 12 & 13, 2016

Hotel Radisson

Cromwell, Connecticut



Someday, wastewater historians may look back on 2016 as a harbinger of a revolution in biosolids management in the Northeast. And Connecticut – the “still revolutionary” state – is the epicenter.

NEWEA's Residuals Management Committee and NEBRA, with support from Connecticut's Minutemen (state associations & operators), bring you revolutionary presentations from near and far, highlighting the latest advances in thermal processing, composting, and anaerobic digestion - and a keynote on California greenhouse gas mitigation and the healthy soils initiative.

Muster, you Minutemen (operators, managers, engineers, agriculturists, regulators, vendors) from local, state, federal, and private interests, and gather for networking & learning! “On to Cromwell!”

[Details, program, & registration...](#)

The White House is calling for [action to protect soil](#) and

"welcomes efforts to develop or deploy solutions or incentives [to] achieve the following: (1) rapidly generating healthy soil or restoring degraded or contaminated soil; (2) increasing soil carbon content and sequestration; and (3) reducing pressure on agricultural soil that is particularly vulnerable to erosion." Biosolids does all these things!

Biosolids quality guidance from Washington State University:

WSU continues its series of key biosolids guidance documents - built on WSU and others' research. This [Guide to Biosolids Quality](#) summarizes the benefits of biosolids and current research understanding of the low risk of trace contaminants in biosolids. See [WSU announcement of the new guide](#).

"Compost! Healthy Soil, Healthy Food" is the theme of the International Compost Awareness Week May 7 - 13, 2017, according to a U. S. Composting Council Research & Education Foundation announcement. [Details...](#)

Cars powered by fuel cells using hydrogen from wastewater-derived biogas are on the road in Japan, [according to autoevolution.com](#).

Other research and development on [extracting energy from wastewater](#) is being carried out by NEBRA member Lawrence Pratt, PhD, City University of New York.

A review of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions protocols for wastewater treatment appeared in a recent *Water Environment Research*; see [Willis et al., 2016](#), which is available by open access.



In Brief / en bref...

In an [Op-Ed to major news outlets](#), four Canadian biosolids researchers (e.g. Lynda McCarthy, Ryerson University, left) responded an open letter that had raised fears about biosolids, especially with regards to trace chemicals in biosolids. The Op-Ed states: "By focusing exclusively on the occurrence of trace chemicals in biosolids, Rayn

al.... have equated chemical presence, at any level, with unacceptable risk. This correlation is truly unscientific, and frankly, irresponsible.... As in any exposure scenario the mere presence of a chemical is not the end of the story and most certainly should be the basis for decision-making in society.... As scientists, we encourage a civil and informed discussion on biosolids management; one that incorporates fact and weight-of-evidence in an honest national discourse rather than the use of inappropriate catch phrases and misleading information to instill undue fear in a trusting public."

The New York Solid Waste Regulations are being revised, and comments are due by 5:00 pm, September 13th, [according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation](#). NEBRA is developing and will submit comments.

Maryland is considering backing off on or delaying its very restrictive regulation of phosphorus applied to soils in manures and biosolids, according to articles in *Bay Journal* [June 30th](#) and [July 6th](#).

The Montague, MA Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) has, for several years operated a novel process that has reportedly consumed solids to the extent that the WPCF was able to stop sending solids to off-site disposal and actually began to take in outside solids that were then also consumed in the process. Now, however, the state regulatory agency, MassDEP, and others are seeking further documentation of Montague's novel sludge minimization process, and the Town is responding to a MassDEP consent order and has decided to stop taking in outside solids, dismayed about 25 small area treatment facilities that had recently come to rely on this disposal option. Read articles from *The Recorder* [here](#) and [here](#).

WEF will announce, at WEFTEC 2017 in September, the first annual "Utility of the Future Today" awards for wastewater treatment facilities that have shown exceptional performance in adopting sustainable principles and operations.

Congratulations to Narragansett Bay Commission (helped by NEBRA member Barbara Wenskowicz), which was the one New England award winner! Other New England facilities - including several with progressive biosolids recycling programs - are considering going after this award in 2017. [Details...](#)

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- Lystek

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THANK YOU!

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