

**Subject:** So much news! NEBRAMail - May 2014

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**From:** NEBRA

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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

**May 29, 2014**

**N.E. Biosolids Conference**

**October 22 - 23 - So. Portland**

Abstracts due June 13. [Details.](#)

**A ONCE-A-DECADE EVENT!**

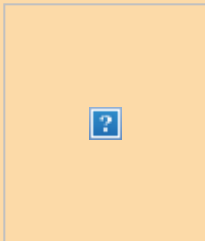
**Soil in the City Conference**

**June 29 - July 2, 2014 - Chicago**

*The* every-10-year residuals science conference by the USDA W-2170 Research Committee on Soil-Based Use of Residuals, Wastewater, and Reclaimed Water. [Details.](#)

**Don't miss out!**

**Use It Or Lose It**



Currently, about 30% of wastewater solids produced in the U.S. are landfilled, and maybe half of the 15% of the solids that are incinerated are not managed for energy recovery. If the 2.4 million dry metric tons / year were treated with full resource recovery in mind – via anaerobic digestion and beneficial use on soils – we could annually avoid use of:

- 510 million cubic meters of natural gas (.07% of U. S. annual consumption)
- 73,000 metric tons of commercial nitrogen fertilizer
- 36,000 metric tons of commercial phosphorus fertilizer (as P2O5)

These are estimates in "Maximizing Biosolids Benefits to Soils," a presentation by NEBRA President Andrew Carpenter to the WEF Residuals & Biosolids Conference in Austin May 20, 2014. In clear and concise terms, the presentation highlighted how significant a resource biosolids are. Comparing his calculations to national data, 0.07% of U. S. consumption of natural gas and 0.7% of nitrogen fertilizer could be saved.

And there are numerous other demonstrated benefits Carpenter summarized:

[More...](#)

NEBRA members: [contact the NEBRA office](#) for more information from the WEF conference (see the final [program here](#)).



### Success - Vermont Water Quality Day - May 23rd - Media Coverage

NEBRA worked with GMWEA to produce this event...

#### Announcing WQ Day:

- [Brattleboro Reformer article](#)
- [Burlington Free Press article](#)
- [Vermont Edition on VPR](#)

#### Follow-up coverage:

- [Brattleboro Reformer article](#)

And, presumably, it will be in the [Northfield News](#) later this week.

*Tim Grover, Chief Operator at the Burlington Main Treatment Facility welcomed guests at Water Quality Day, May 23, 2014.*



## EVENTS

- **June 5 - 6, 2014: 7th Canadian Biosolids and Residuals Conference**, Vancouver. BC Canada. [Details.](#)
- **June 17 - Quebec biosolids health and safety workshop**, Quebec City.

### Biosolids on VT Farm - Biosolids Land Application - Part of VT Water Quality Day

The Essex Junction, VT wastewater treatment facility is pushing sustainability with land application of liquid biosolids on a local farm.



As demonstrated during Vermont's first "Water Quality Day" on May 23rd, the local wastewater solids (sludge) are injected into the soil, making for low-odor application and preserving the nitrogen content for the crops grown on this land. The biosolids fertilize a multi-year rotation of corn and alfalfa/grass hay that is used to the farm's dairy herd.

[More...](#)

*Fun Fact: The tractor and applicator used for this biosolids program, pictured below during the May 23rd open house, appears in a recent Vermont TV public service announcement that encourages drivers to be aware of farm machinery on roads.*



### In Brief / en bref....

**WEF just published two spiffy fact sheets on Thermal Oxidation and Drying.** These and other useful fact sheets are available on the newly organized [WEF / National Biosolids Partnership website](#).



### USGS researchers found trace chemicals from biosolids

**in deeper soil**, suggesting that some may migrate more than assumed. The research conducted 5 years ago, gained media attention when it was published this May ([EHN Sci. American](#)). The publicity generated provided little context about the potential risk to human health (likely miniscule); exposure through product uses and daily living are much greater than ever possible through any biosolids exposure route. For example, triclosan was noted as being at a relatively high concentration in soil: 156 parts per billion. Context: 1 part per billion = 1 second in 31.7 years. Triclosan is 0.1% - 0.45% many hand soaps; people are handling it daily at 1 to 45 parts per *thousand*. Context: part per thousand = 1 second in 16.7 minutes. NEBRA members may obtain a copy of the paper by contacting the NEBRA office.

Repeated in Longueuil June 18th.

- **June 19, 2014:** Phosphorus Recovery & Reuse Workshop - Ryerson Univ. Contact the [NEBRA office](#) for details.
- **October 22 - 23, 2014:** **NORTH EAST RESIDUALS & BIOSOLIDS CONFERENCE** - So. Portland, Maine. [Details](#).

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### CHECK IT OUT...

- **Carbon sequestration in soil** was the topic of [a Boston Globe article](#) in early May. Biosolids use can be part of that C sequestration.
- **NERC - the Northeast Recycling Coalition** - received [TV coverage](#) of its special organics management workshop in Maine in April.

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### NEWS from NEBRA

Past news stories are available on the NEBRA website "[News](#)" page.



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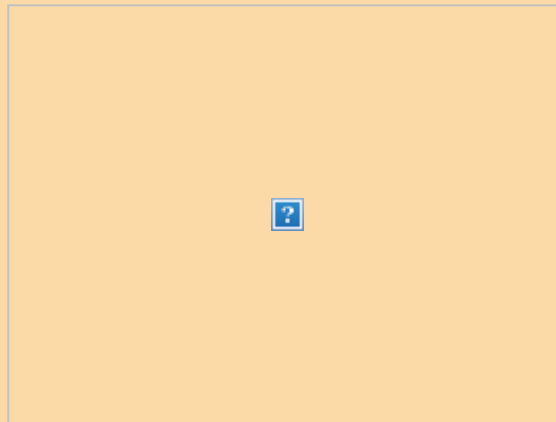
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**But because it potentially raises environmental concerns and seems to have [little efficacy](#), triclosan (TCS) - the active antimicrobial ingredient in soaps and other products - is under attack.** Minnesota just became [the first U. S. state to ban it](#). Last winter, U. S. [FDA asked manufacturers to demonstrate its efficacy and safety](#). And, as reported in *Science News* May 17th, because of direct use of TCS-containing soaps, shows up in urine, serum, and breast milk - as well as in snot. A paper in *mBio* notes that "having triclosan-containing snot could double a person's likelihood of carrying staph" (*Staphylococcus aureus*).

The concern with TCS is not new: all the way back in July 2006, the Chicago water reclamation utility [urged EPA](#) to review triclosan (and its cousin TCC), given its limited value in consumer soaps and its potential impact on biosolids programs, "undermining public confidence." ([EPA's response](#).) Biosolids are not a significant human exposure route for TCS and many other trace chemicals - but public perceptions of biosolids are still tainted by them.

**Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority (LAWPCA) has won another honor.** This time, on May 6th, LAWPCA (a NEBRA member) was presented with a Maine 2014 Environmental Excellence Award, for voluntarily going beyond regulatory requirements for innovation in environmental sustainability. LAWPCA was recognized by Governor Paul R. LePage and Maine DEP Commissioner Patricia Aho for its \$14 million anaerobic digestion and co-generation facility, which went operational in 2013.

[More...](#)



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**North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)**

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