


Subject: Regulatory Roundtable, events & other news - It's NEBRAMail! Oct. 2016
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nebra mail Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

October 31, 2016

Upcoming...

Managing Phosphorus in Organic Residuals, Nov. 2
[Details & Registration...](#)

Biosolids: Strategies for Optimizing Resource Recovery, Nov. 15 - 16
a MABA Annual Symposium.
[Details...](#)

Operating Anaerobic Digestion & Biogas Systems, Nov. 16, training class.
Franklin, NH. [Details...](#)

MDAR Hears Comments Re Plant Nutrient Regulations

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) held a public hearing October 27th regarding proposed revisions to the state's [Plant Nutrient Regulations](#) (330 CMR 31.00). MDAR's proposed revisions come about a year after the current regulations went into effect. [More...](#)

In a related effort, NEBRA is now focused on the upcoming UMass Extension symposium on "[Managing Phosphorus in Organic Residuals](#)," Wednesday, Nov. 2nd in Marlborough, MA. This symposium has the potential to inform UMass Extension guidelines that are repeatedly referenced in the Plant Nutrient regulations. Data developed for the symposium indicate that a large proportion of home gardens and organic farm soils will no longer be able to use composts, digestates, and other organic residuals containing phosphorus, unless stipulations are incorporated into guidelines pertaining to use of the appropriate testing for environmentally relevant phosphorus.

And MDAR is also updating its on-farm composting regulations. At an October 20, 2016 public hearing, most of those commenting were neighbors opposed to farms taking in off-site wastes (e.g. food scraps), possibly generating odors and other nuisances. There is a strong push - which might include legislation soon to be introduced - to impose greater local health committee control over such operations, a move that could



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CHECK IT OUT...

See what NEBRA is talking about!

The latest presentations & reports from NEBRA are [here](#).... including a recent *NEWEA Journal* article on the solids management market crunch in southern New England: "You Have to Take My Sludge!"

U. S. EPA Launches [New AD Website!](#)

Congratulations to Lystek for opening its first U. S. operation, [in California.](#)

The UK is fighting food waste too. See [Love Food, Hate Waste.](#)

Sally Brown, PhD, University of WA, explains biosolids use clearly in this [online Food Flow interview.](#)

NEWS from NEBRA

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



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significantly reduce options for increasing the capacity for processing organic residuals diverted from landfills in accordance with Mass Dept. of Environmental Protection requirements.

Biosolids Revolution in the Air

News from a Muster at Cromwell, The Northeast Conference

– New York City is reassessing its biosolids management program, with the possibility of moving away from landfill disposal to greater energy production through digestion and co-digestion and other beneficial uses.

– Meanwhile, California is focusing on using biosolids as tools to address climate change.

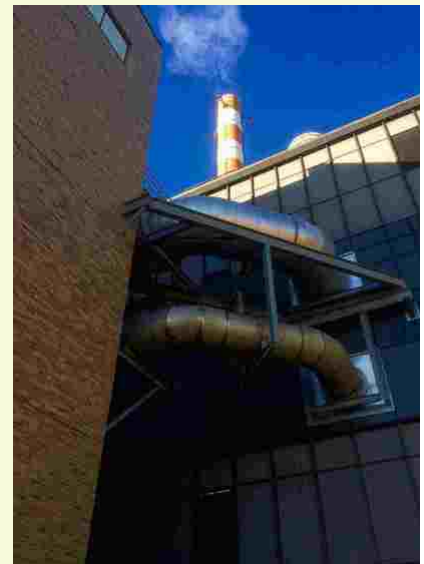
– Hartford MDC is realizing >\$1.3 million in electricity costs annually through energy recovery from its sewage sludge incinerators (photo).

– Biosolids composting is BIG - and growing. But it has also worked fine for decades for the small coastal town of Fairfield CT.

– Co-digestion continues to hold great promise & show some success around the Northeast.

– And what is the secret to success? Pay attention to the technical details: air emission regulations, optimizing AD performance (temperature, mixing), careful consideration options for stabilization, and keeping soil health in mind.

Those were just a few of the insights gleaned at the Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference October 12 & 13 in Cromwell, CT. Presentations from the conference are available on the [NEBRA conference page.](#)



Regulation Roundtable

What's Happening With Biosolids & Residuals in the States & Provinces

Prince Edward Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire environmental agencies sent representatives to The Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference for the biennial Northeast "Regulation Roundtable." "We thank these agencies and individuals for showing up and communicating with biosolids managers and others in the regulated community," said Ned

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THANK YOU!

Beecher of NEBRA. "Regular interactions ensure ongoing mutual understanding and respect in dealing with biosolids and organic residuals in this region."

This year, the conference Roundtable was moderated by Ben Smith, the new Residuals Workgroup coordinator for NEIWPC. [Here's what we learned...](#)

North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA)

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