



Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

October 22, 2021

### UPCOMING

#### EVENTS:

- Green Mountain Water Environment Association's [Fall Tradeshow](#), **October 28th**, in Burlington, VT.
- Water Environment Association of Ontario's [50th annual conference](#), RBC Place London, **November 7th - 9th**.
- The Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association will be hosting its [Annual Meeting](#) in Wilmington, DE, on **November 17th**.
- The New England Water Environment Association's [2022 conference](#) is scheduled for **January 23rd - 26th** in Boston, MA.

FOR MORE EVENTS, go to NEBRA's [Events Page](#).

### EPA Biosolids-Related Actions

- Seeking public comment on draft list of [Science Advisory Board](#) members for biosolids PFAS risk assessment. Due **November 3rd**.
- Issued Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding [regulation of pyrolysis and gasification](#) processes. Comments due **November 8th**.

**Call for Abstracts: WEF Residuals & Biosolids 2022 Conference**

Deadline is **November 2nd!** Go to [WEF Residuals and Biosolids Conference](#) to submit your abstract.

### CHECK IT OUT:

- (reuse/recycle edition)*
- Recycling de-inked paper sludge as plant [growing substrate](#)
- Technology converts textile waste to [plant probiotics](#)
- Turning urban waste into [graphene](#) and other useful products
- [Coconuts](#) make for better wastewater treatment
- Agricultural residues used to make [biodegradable film](#)
- Recycling ocean plastics to make [computer mouse](#)
- Packaging paper from [pine needles](#)
- Activated carbon from [rice husks](#)

## EPA Releases PFAS Roadmap

On Monday, October 18th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued its [PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#) as commissioned by EPA Administrator Michael Regan. In a nationwide stakeholders call that afternoon, Deb Szaro, EPA Region 1 Acting Administrator and co-chair of EPA's Council on PFAS, kicked off the discussion about the Roadmap. EPA's strategy is a multimedia, multipronged attack on PFAS in the environment. Szaro summarized the road map as having three major aims: research, restrict, and remediate PFAS. EPA encouraged people to ask questions and provided short answers within the time allotted. But many questions remain, of course. [Read more...](#)

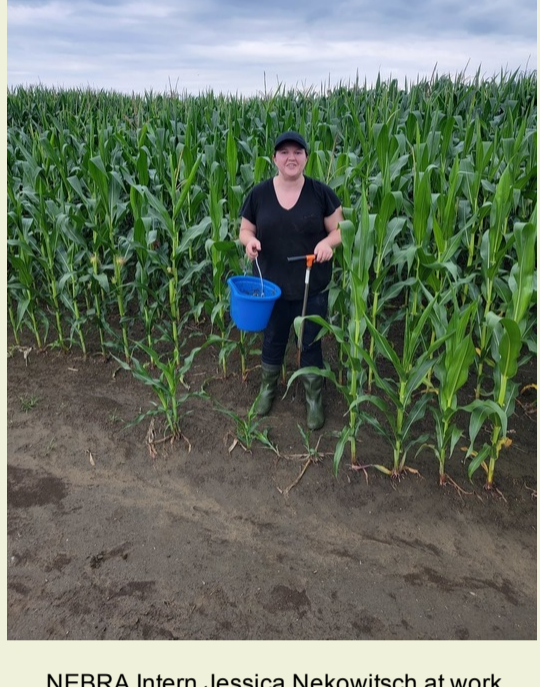


## NEBRA/NEWEA Host Successful "Hybrid" Residuals Conference

The North East Residuals & Biosolids conference was held on October 7th at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center. It was a long day in masks for attendees, although there was also a virtual option this year, but it was nice to see and get to network with everyone from the biosolids profession in the Northeast! Over 70 people registered to attend in person for the all-day event. **Resource Management, Inc.** and **DN Tanks** were the two exhibitors in attendance with booths on either side of the main room where the presentations took place. Many thanks go out to everyone involved in making this year's conference of success, especially the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) and its Residuals Management Committee! [Read more...](#)

## EPA Awards Research Grants Related to PFAS in Biosolids

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced in September that it had selected four projects for grant funding under its national priorities program to evaluate pollutants in biosolids. The EPA is providing nearly \$6 million for this research with each project getting approximately \$1.5 million. Researchers from across the country are eager to get going on this important work. Here is a quick summary of the projects being funded by EPA's Office of Research and Development. [More...](#)



NEBRA Intern Jessica Nekowitsch at work

## Summer Intern Completes Project for NEBRA Research Committee

**Jessica Nekowitsch** is going into her senior year in the environmental engineering program at the University of New Hampshire. She spent this summer working for NEBRA on a project developed by the Research Committee to study the **effects of biosolids applications on phosphorus availability and transport in agricultural soils**. The study focused on two New England farms, one in New Hampshire and one in Vermont, where Class B biosolids have been land applied for 10+ years. Jessica conducted an extensive literature review and dug into the soil data and records maintained by the farms and the treatment facilities supplying the biosolids. She also got out in the field to sample the soil at the farms in the study, learning a lot about biosolids in the process. [Read more...](#)



New NEBRA President Deb Mahoney

## In Brief / en bref...

### NEBRA Holds Annual Membership Meeting, Election of Board and Officers

NEBRA held its annual membership meeting and board elections on October 7th. It was an opportunity for board leadership to update the members on activities over the past year and plans for the future. It was an opportunity for the general membership to hear from committee leaders on important issues like the financial health of the organization, membership and industry outreach, regulatory and legislative tracking, and research. Featured were the two newest committees which are digging into residuals (non-biosolids) and nutrient/carbon trading programs.

There were four open positions for NEBRA's Board of Directors. Charlie Alix (Stantec), Isaiah Larry (Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority), and Art Simonian (The Mattabasset District) were re-elected, each for another 3-year term while newcomer Aaron Fox from the Lowell Regional Wastewater Treatment Utility was elected to fill the remaining seat on the Board, also a 3 year term. In addition, the membership elected the following officers to lead NEBRA in 2022: Deb Mahoney (Brown & Caldwell), President; Lise LeBlanc (LP Consulting LLC), Vice President; Art Simonian, The Mattabasset District, Treasurer; and Isaiah Larry (LAWPCA) was re-elected as Secretary. Thanks to outgoing Board member Josh Tyler from Chittenden Solid Waste District for his service to NEBRA.

### News from the Water Environment Federation's Residuals & Biosolids Committee

#### NEBRA's Natalie Sierra is Incoming Vice Chair

Earlier in the month, the WEF Residuals & Biosolids Committee announced that Natalie Sierra of Brown & Caldwell would be assuming the role of incoming Vice Chair and it was made official at WEFTEC 2021. In addition to a dozen years as a member of WEF's RBC and a stint as Chair of the Biosolids Products Use and Communication Subcommittee, Natalie is on numerous NEBRA committees including the Reg-Leg and Membership Committees. She is a past chair of the New England Water Environment Association's Residuals Management Committee. She has made numerous contributions to the advancement of sustainable biosolids management practices in the Northeast and across the country. Her day job is the Solids and Energy Practice Leader working out of Brown & Caldwell's Andover, Massachusetts office. Congrats and Good Luck Natalie!

#### Seeking Authors

WEF is in the process of updating its Manual of Practice No. 8 (MOP 8) for Design of Water Resource Recovery Facilities and is seeking authors to assist with reviewing and updating the Solids-related chapters. The new edition will be upgraded with features like reference text appropriate for undergraduate instruction and a separate handbook focused on critical design standards/parameters for practitioners. WEF could use volunteers to work on topics including Solids Management, Storage and Transport, Chemical Conditioning, Solids Thickening, Dewatering, Stabilization, and Thermal Processing. If interested, please contact Lorna Ernst, Senior Director of Publishing, at [lernst@wef.org](mailto:lernst@wef.org) as soon as possible.

#### Latest NE Digestion Roundtable: Conversation with EREF

The North East Digestion Roundtable (NEDR) met for the 20th time on October 8th. This quarter, the group heard from Suzie Boxman, PhD, with the Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF). EREF is a non-member, non-lobbying organization focused entirely on research and education about research. Most recently, EREF has been conducting a survey of anaerobic digestion capacity in the U.S. EREF has completed a study on the state of practice of [composting in Canada](#) with plans to look at the U.S. If you are interested in hearing more about EREF's work, check out the [NEDR webpage](#). EREF sponsors a "science session" webinar series with [upcoming sessions](#) all about PFAS. There's also a great [PFAS resources](#) page on EREF's website.

#### LP Consulting Opens New Office, Brings on Mike Lishman as Agriculture & Industry Project Lead

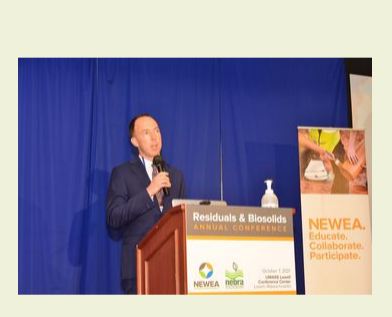
As NEBRA member LP Consulting, LLC (Nova Scotia, Canada) continues to grow, it has hired Mike Lishman to open its new Ontario office and to serve as its leader for agriculture and industry projects. In its press release welcoming Mike to the LP family in mid-September, LP said "Mike is an excellent fit with our belief that "Working the Land is not just a Living. It's a Life, a Passion, a Business." In addition to being a farmer (Arlington Farms located in Jarvis Ontario, recipient of the "Premiers Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence for Haldeman County"), Mike is a sought-after speaker for composting workshops. Most importantly, he was ahead of his time in recognizing that improving soil health will improve crop production *and* combat climate change! Mike previously worked for Englobe, another NEBRA member, and is an active member of NEBRA's new Residuals Committee.

### SPONSORS of [www.nebiosolids.org](http://www.nebiosolids.org)



## Thank You!

Conference photos by **Charlie Tyler**



Bill Brower Presents



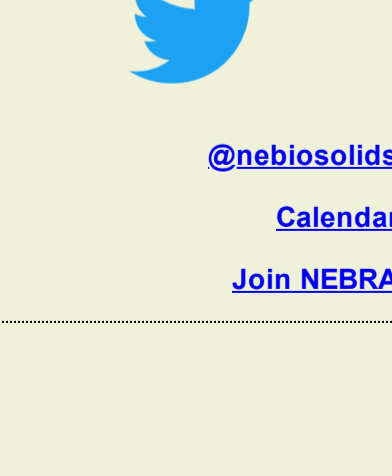
Mac Asks A Question

### Looking for Content

NEBRA is always looking for good content -- like **stories for NEBRAMail and topics for webinars**. We welcome articles from and presentations by members on a topic you are passionate and knowledgeable about. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact the [NEBRA office](#).



SUBSCRIBE and get NEBRAMail direct to your inbox!



[@nebiosolids](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Join NEBRA](#)

