



Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

The Northeast Residuals & Biosolids Conference

Don't miss out. Be in Springfield, MA Oct. 16 -18. There's still time to register!

[More...](#)

September 27, 2019



EVENTS...

The **American Biogas Council** is offering a 3-day training in North Andover, Massachusetts on [digester operations](#), October 1st through 3rd.

The **North East Recycling Council** is sponsoring a [webinar on using compost](#) in erosion control and infrastructure projects on October 1st.

The next quarterly [North East Digestion Roundtable](#) will be October 4th at Noon featuring research by UMass professors into anaerobic digestion microbes.

The Water Environment Federation has called for abstracts for the **2020 Residuals & Biosolids Conference**, March 31st through April 3rd, in Minneapolis, MN. Abstract deadline is [October 1st](#).

[More events...](#)



Compost Key to Sequestering Carbon in Soil According to UC-Davis Study

Researchers at the University of California at Davis recently published the results of a 19-year study into the carbon storing potential of conventional soils versus cover-cropped and compost-added soils. Unlike previous studies, UC-Davis scientists dug down 6 feet to measure carbon content, not just 12-inches as with conventional soil studies. The study was published in the journal *Global Change Biology*.

[More...](#)

PFAS and Biosolids Update

PFAS issue continues to expand in New England and across the US. In the summer, NEBRAMail reported on regulatory actions taken in New Hampshire and Maine that directly impacted wastewater and biosolids programs. The ripple effects from those actions continue to propagate. Meanwhile, actions in a few other states are also raising concerns for water quality professionals, and municipalities and wastewater utilities and their biosolids programs are facing uncertainties related to potential liability and significant unforeseen costs.

[More \(including state and regulatory updates\)...](#)

CHECK IT OUT...

NEBRA's Ned Beecher was interviewed by [Treatment Plant Operator](#) (TPO) magazine about the impacts of PFAS on wastewater biosolids programs.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) provided [comments](#) on EPA's proposed PFAS analytical method.

Waste 360 [comments](#) on EPA's Notice of Advanced Rule Making to add PFAS to the Toxic Release Inventory and other steps under its PFAS Action Plan.

Schenectady, New York, has teamed up with Schenectady-based Biowaste Pyrolysis Solutions (BPS) on a waste-to-energy [demonstration project](#) at the City's former composting facility located at the wastewater treatment facility.

The toilet continues to evolve thanks to Bill and Melinda Gate's **Reinvented Toilet Challenge**. Check out this [new design](#) that may just revolutionize wastewater treatment.

PFAS mania is sure to increase following the release of the new movie **Dark Waters** starring Mark Ruffalo, Anne Hathaway and Tim Robbins, due out in November. Check out the [trailer](#).

NEBRA's Plans for PFAS Work in 2020

Over the past two years, NEBRA has been a national leader on PFAS related to biosolids and residuals management (and wastewater to some extent), hosting bi-monthly updates for the water quality profession, tracking research and policy in New England and other states, and commenting on legislation and regulations. NEBRA's efforts have helped spur engagement on the PFAS issue by numerous state, regional, and national water quality groups. Many of those organizations, including CASA in California and NACWA and WEF at the national level, have taken leadership on the issue now.

[More on NEBRA's plans](#) and other news. . .

Metropolitan District Commission Sues State - PFAS Becoming an Issue in Connecticut

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), a municipal corporation created by the State of Connecticut in 1929 to provide water and sewer service to communities in the greater Hartford area, has sued the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The MDC alleges that DEEP is responsible for PFAS contamination of the leachate from the Hartford landfill, now closed, which flows to MDC's Poquonock wastewater treatment facility.

[More...](#)

Sludge Hubs

Irish Water, Ireland's National water utility, is seeking public input on siting numerous "Regional Sludge Hub Centres". Irish Water is moving to centralize its sludge management operations. In a report on Cork Live News, Irish Water Program Manager Paul Fallon was quoted as saying "We are doing this because the current method of treating sludge is in a very dispersed, inefficient and unsustainable manner. The creation of sludge hubs will ensure that sludge can be treated with the highest quality and standard."

[More...](#)

In Brief / en bref...

WEF Urges Members to Contact Legislators on PFAS

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is asking all its members to contact their legislators regarding proposed federal legislation to list PFAS under CERCLA (the Superfund law) and open up water and wastewater utilities to Superfund liability. Specifically, the amendment by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) would mandate additional PFAS regulation for water under CERCLA. This has the potential to be very problematic for wastewater utilities. Biosolids management, in particular, could be made subject to the Superfund law, which could place PFAS remediation costs on utilities and ratepayers. PFAS industrial producers and industrial users should be responsible for remediating it in the environment, but CERCLA's strict and retroactive liability requirements could place the burden on PFAS receivers, such as wastewater and drinking water agencies, which do not introduce PFAS into wastewater and biosolids, but only receive it from the myriad sources in modern society. If you are a WEF member, go to the [Water Advocates](#) website where WEF has made it easy to contact your legislator on this important issue.

Northwest Biosolids Association Wrapping Up Development Campaign for Biosolids Greenhouse Gas Calculator

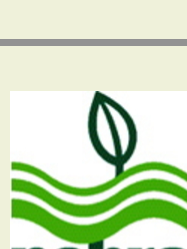
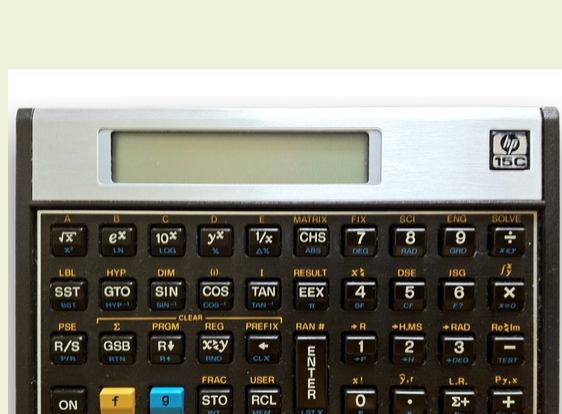
Help Bring Biosolids GHG Calculator to Life! News from the Northwest Biosolids Association (Seattle, WA).

What would your first stop be if you were asked to present your wastewater and biosolids management program's carbon footprint? BEAM spreadsheet to start calculating. Others may contract this task out to a service provider well-versed in calculating emissions. The Biosolids Greenhouse Gas Calculator (BGGC) was created for utilities seeking another option for your program. An option that would offer a:

- cost-share model for a lower price entry
- shared data set that improves over time
- standardized and verified data
- database with advanced visual report
- evolving and current models

The inspiration for the BGGC was to create an accessible and affordable tool where you can evaluate biosolids and wastewater treatment processes and share your utility's carbon footprint.

The BGGC project organizers are offering free access to the tool for sponsors and partners once it is launched starting at 2 free years for \$5,000. [Pledge your support](#) today to help NWBA reach the fundraising goal of \$100,000 by October 31, 2019.



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