



Distilled biosolids and residuals news from New England and Eastern Canada

## NEWEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE -- Lots of PFAS, Something for Everyone

"Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act... A Job Well Done," was the theme of the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA)'s annual conference and trade show held in Boston in January. But there was also a lot of focus on work that still needs to be done. The numbers of attendees and exhibitors approached pre-COVID numbers -- over 2,000 people and 190 exhibitors -- and there was a lot of energy and excitement throughout the conference. Once again, North East Biosolids & Residuals Association members came out in force, with members making presentations, moderating sessions, exhibiting their equipment and services, and helping to make the conference a great success.

There was a lot of educational content for biosolids/residuals managers at the NEWEA conference including two technical sessions dedicated to residuals, two technical sessions dedicated to contaminants of emerging concerns (CECs) -- with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) being top of the list -- two Government Affairs Committee sessions on regulatory efforts throughout New England, and a session on the Innovation Pavilion featuring biosolids-related technologies such as those being perfected by Bioforcetech Corporation and C-Green (both of which will be featured in NEBRA Lunch & Learn lineup for 2023). There were also numerous graduate and undergraduate student papers looking at various aspects of the PFAS problem.



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## NEBRA Members Garner Numerous NEWEA Awards

As part of the annual conference, NEWEA hosts an awards ceremony to recognize the best of the business of clean water in New England. This year's award ceremony, held on January 25th, was emceed by NEBRA Executive Director and former NEWEA President Janine Burke-Wells. She read off the names of a lot of NEBRA members!

**Karla Sangrey**, the long-time Director of the Upper Blackstone Clean Water (UBCW) facility in Millbury, Massachusetts, took home the **Biosolids Management Award** for her commitment to sustainably and cost-effectively manage the large UBCW's regional biosolids processing facility. Karla, a professional engineer and certified wastewater operator, is engaged on biosolids management issues in Massachusetts and regionally, advocating for science-based policy and regulations -- "Stewardship Through Science" as it says on the UBCW website ([UBCW.\(ubcleanwater.org\)](http://UBCW.(ubcleanwater.org))).



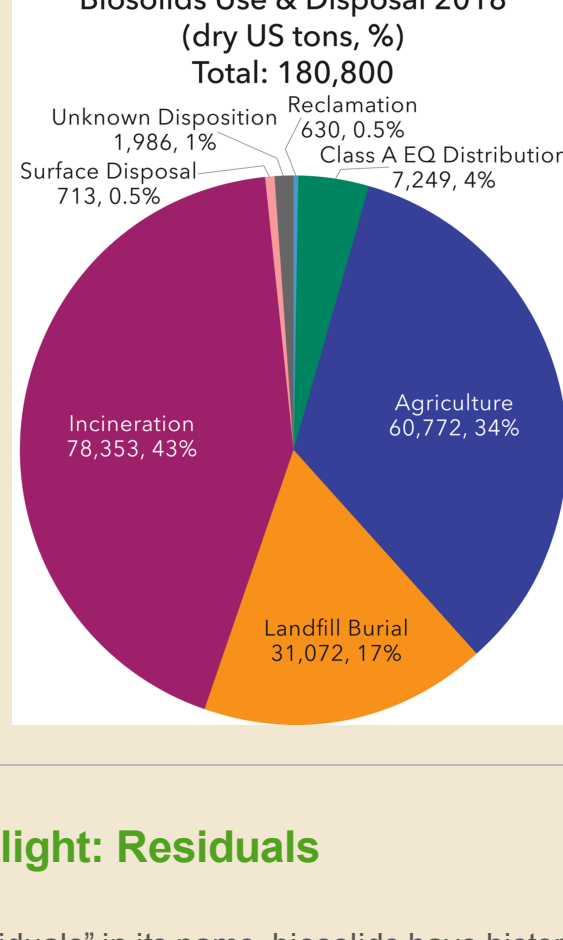
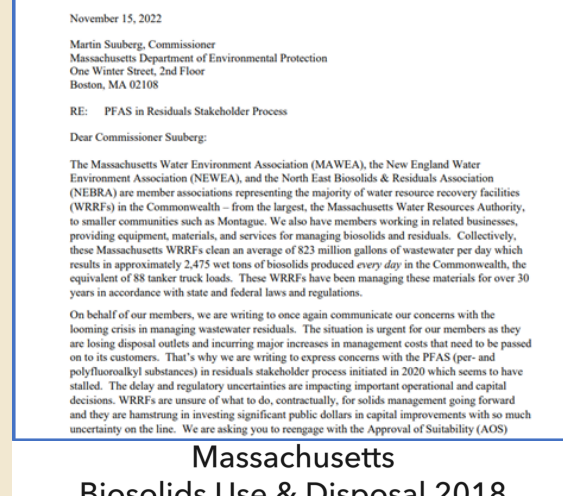
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## MAWEA Collaborates with NEBRA, NEWEA to Advocate for Biosolids Management Options

The Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA), working together with the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA) and the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA), has started a conversation with state regulators about the best ways to manage the 2,475 wet tons of wastewater sludges that need to be managed every day in Massachusetts -- that's the equivalent of 88 tanker trucks bringing biosolids somewhere every day -- in light of concerns about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

According to [Massachusetts -- National Biosolids Data Project](#) data collected by NEIWPCC in collaboration with NEBRA's nation-wide study, Massachusetts disposes/uses more biosolids by far than the other Northeast states, with the exception of New York. Currently, the ultimate end uses of biosolids generated in the Commonwealth are pretty evenly distributed between incineration, landfilling and recycling. However, the state is vulnerable to upsets due to high reliance on out of state outlets. According to MAWEA's [Mickey Nowak](#), who went through each and every annual biosolids report entry into EPA's [Enforcement and Compliance History Online](#), 70% of Massachusetts biosolids are heading out of state. "This is somewhat of a moral issue and we should not be relying on other states to take our biosolids," he said. Nowak fears major impacts on water resource recovery facilities (WRRF)'s options for managing these materials which could result in operational and water quality impacts, not to mention major cost increases.

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## NEBRA Committee Spotlight: Residuals

Although NEBRA has the word "residuals" in its name, biosolids have historically been the focus of most of NEBRA's efforts. That is until May of 2021, when NEBRA Vice President **Lise LeBlanc** decided it was time to focus on non-biosolids residuals, especially as end markets are growing with focus on reducing the climate impacts of farming practices. The committee's charge is to identify opportunities to expand NEBRA's role in providing expert advice and information in support of programs reusing or recycling waste and by-products. The goal is to make NEBRA the go-to organization for residual opportunities across North America. What the committee has found so far is that there aren't other member organizations out there focused on recycling waste residuals.

Currently, the Residuals Committee has a good core group of members and the first thing they tackled was researching residuals regulations across states and provinces in North America. With so many residuals materials out there, the group focused its efforts on five:

1. Wood ash
2. Pulp and paper
3. Food and beverage
4. Inorganics
5. Hydrosolids (or drinking water residuals)

[Read more...](#)

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT for the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Summer Symposium! Abstracts shall be no longer than 1,000 words. One additional page may be submitted with tables and/or graphics. Abstracts should be sent via email to [Mary.Firestone](mailto:Mary.Firestone) no later than **8 p.m. ET, Wednesday, February 15, 2023**.

## En Bref -- In Brief

### Annual Sludge/Biosolids Reports Due to EPA by Tuesday, February 21st

It's that time of the year! The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s annual electronic reports on biosolids are due annually on February 19th. This year, wastewater utilities have an extra couple of days to report since the 19th is a Sunday and the 20th is President's Day, a federal holiday. The reports are for biosolids managed during the calendar year 2022. For additional information and resources, go the [Compliance and Annual Biosolids Reporting | US EPA](#)

**LP Consulting Teams Up With RO Carbon Labs to Launch Carbon Credit Program for Halifax Farmers**  
NEBRA member **LP Consulting** (Nova Scotia, Canada) in collaboration with **RO Carbon Labs** has announced a new program for farmers, two years in the making. According to a press release, each farm will follow a verification process, resulting in premium priced carbon credits rather than the lower priced calculated/estimated carbon credits. The 10-year program includes two opportunities for farmers including structural projects (solar panels, heat recovery, etc.) and soil health -- which is expected to require a lot of sustainable residuals products to improve soil health and sequester carbon. The LP/RO team is working with the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, putting together the toolbox for carbon sequestration and nitrogen loss reduction to be able to tailor it to each farm. Eventually, there will be up to 50 farmers in the program, but the plan is to expand beyond the Maritimes. For more information, check out this [video](#) about the project benefits.

### ECOS Survey of State Regulators on PFAS in Biosolids Completed

From Emily Rimmel, **National Association of Clean Water Agencies**  
The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), an association representing state environmental regulatory agencies, released a [new report](#) on January 27 outlining various state policies, testing, research gaps, and risk communication challenges relating to PFAS in biosolids. The report is a culmination of survey responses from 34 participating states and highlights how states are reacting (or not) to the challenges associated with managing municipal biosolids that may be contaminated with PFAS. Until more research is conducted, states agree that they do "not currently recommend a nationwide ban on land application or any such universal restriction." The report identifies states as needing "improved and unified risk communication, source control" and "more research on challenges such as fate and transport" of PFAS in biosolids. States were also asked to provide specific feedback on "pressing research gaps" on PFAS in biosolids. States also are looking for more information on fingerprinting and distinguishing PFAS sources, especially determining the concentrations found in biosolids that come from a "typical" residential household as compared to an industrial source. Read the full report for more details: [PFAS-in-Biosolids-A-Review-of-Residential-Efforts-and-Opportunities-for-Action.pdf \(ecos.org\)](#).

### PFAS Education and Outreach Materials for NEBRA Members

NEBRA has been creating and compiling various documents to help its members communicate with various stakeholders around PFAS including template letters, [InfoGraphics](#), and [bill stuffers](#) (in collaboration with NEWEA). We have collected resources for the public and elected official from the North East Biosolids Improvement Project, the Green Mountain Water Environment Association, and other NEBRA partners which are available on the [Member-Only](#) webpage and especially the [Reg-Leg Committee](#) webpage. NEBRA can help you customize the materials! If you have something that works for you, please share ([info@nebiosolids.org](mailto:info@nebiosolids.org))! Now is the time to start the conversation! It's also a good time to revisit the NEBRA webinar on [Talking to Farmers About PFAS](#).

## CHECK IT OUT!!

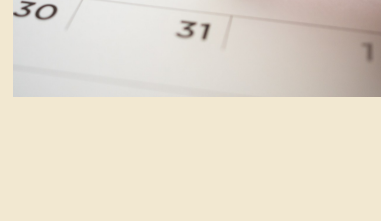
Reminisce as [School House Rock turns 50!](#)

Biobased [3D-printed homes](#) pioneered in Maine, a whole neighborhood coming!

Efforts to monitor sewage from space: [Monitoring sewage from space \(planet.com\)](#)

What do you think about this? [Filipino couple shares video of their budget-friendly gender reveal in a toilet \(yahoo.com\)](#) You have to check it out!

Social Media for Sewers: if you haven't already, check out the [Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District \(NEORD\)'s Twitter account](#) and recent announcement that [not everybody needs a podcast, in related news, we have a podcast \(substack.com\)](#)



## Upcoming Events

**February 16:** Water Research Foundation [webinar](#) on Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Water Sector

**February 24:** Lunch & Learn about [Hydrothermal Liquefaction](#)

**March 8:** New Hampshire Waer Pollution Control Association's [Legislative Breakfast](#)

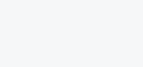
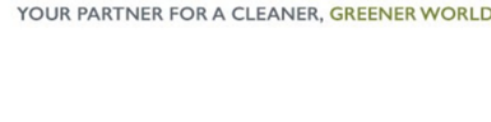
**March 14:** EPA ECHO Biosolids Facility Searches and Reports [Training](#)

**March 24:** Lunch & Learn about [Hydrothermal Carbonization](#)

**April 14:** [North East Digestion Roundtable](#) on Food Waste Digestion Trends in the Northeast with Nora Goldstein of BioCycle magazine.

For a complete listing of Events, go to [www.nebiosolids.org/events](http://www.nebiosolids.org/events).

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