

Subject: News & Fun Not to Miss - NEBRAMail March/April

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Distilled biosolids and residuals news for New England and eastern Canada

April 25, 2014

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Vermont Celebrates Water Quality Day - May 23rd

You're invited! Open houses at wastewater treatment facilities around VT. From 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Friday, May 23rd, facilities around the Green Mountain State will be open for visitors, giving away free posters, providing refreshments, giving tours. We hope NEBRA members and contacts will turn out to support this outreach effort. Please mark your calendar! And spread the word - let your clients and friends know! Sponsored by Green Mountain Water Environment Association, Chittenden Solid Waste District, and NEBRA.

The list of participating facilities and other details will be posted next week at www.gmwea.org and www.nebiosolids.org.

Montreal Round Table: What to Do with Organics?

In February, a [round table](#) convened by the Regional Environmental Council of Montreal (CRE) and the Center for Sustainable Development advanced the conversation on how best to manage organic residuals from Quebec's

largest city. For the first time in this kind of public forum, the discussion of organic residuals management included biosolids in the same conversation with food waste. Currently, Montreal biosolids are incinerated; they constitute about 1/3 of the total of organic residuals generated in the metropolitan area. [More....](#)



NEBRA Says "Farewell" to...

.....**Maggie Finn**, Administrative & Project Assistant at NEBRA for the past 2 years. Fortunately, Maggie continues her work in the field, in a full-time position at Casella Organics in Concord, NH.**Ginny Grace**, Past President of NEBRA and a long-time Board member. She has taken a job in North Carolina.

We wish them well!

And Congratulations to....

Shelagh Connelly, President of Resource Management Inc., for receiving the Alfred E. Peloquin Award for NH from NEWEA....

Janice Moran of the NEWEA staff won the same award for MA.

And **Nora Goldstein**, Editor of *BioCycle* and extraordinary advocate for organics recycling, was given the 2014 Hi Kellogg Award by the U. S. Composting Council. [Details](#).

Kudos!

EVENTS

- **May 14, 2014:** EPA air quality regulations for stationary engines at WWTPs - [webinar](#).
- **May 18 - 21, 2014 WEF Residuals and Biosolids - Sustainability Made Simple: Facilitating Resource Recovery**, Austin, TX. [Details](#).
- **June 5 - 6, 2014: 7th Canadian Biosolids and Residuals Conference**, Vancouver. BC Canada.

EPA Sewage Sludge Incinerator Regulation Update

In March, the CA Association of Sanitation Agency Biosolids Program met with U. S. EPA and received the following updates from Amy Hambrick of the EPA Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards. The update includes information on the ongoing litigation and how the Agency is addressing gasification and use of biosolids as a fuel source.

[More....](#)

NEBRA Responds to Proposed MA Fertilizer Regulations

The NEBRA Regulatory & Legislative Committee and NEBRA Board responded quickly in late March to draft regulations proposed by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MADAR). NEBRA joined the MA Farm Bureau and many others in criticizing the proposed regulations. "Our members are heavily involved in helping the Commonwealth and MassDEP advance its goals of diverting organics from landfills and incineration and helping move our communities toward sustainability," wrote NEBRA. "The proposed regulations would have a chilling effect on these efforts

NEBRA's comments (available [here](#)) applauded MADAR for its efforts to control non-point-source nutrient pollution, but urged the agency to work with stakeholders and MassDEP to come up with balanced fertilizer regulations that won't impede organics recycling efforts. [More....](#)

In Brief / en bref....

Facility Superintendent Greg Lewis of the Stowe, Vermont Wastewater Treatment Facility (NEBRA member) and its Class A biosolids land application program made it on the cover of *Treatment Plant Operator* in March. "'We generate a beautiful Class A biosolids,' Lewis says. 'The people who use it love it.' Read the full article, including details of the Stowe facility's treatment process and biosolids management program [here](#).

Monadnock Paper Mills (NEBRA member) was [highlighted in Forbes](#) magazine!

Biosolids land application has seen some debate in western New York over the past year. quasar energy group of Cleveland, Ohio, a developer of anaerobic digester renewable energy facilities, is stepping up public outreach and involvement in response to concerns raised regarding storage and land application of its biosolids products in New York's Niagara and Erie Counties. The company started up two new facilities in the area last year. As a NEBRA member, quasar has had NEBRA assistance in furthering communications with the communities ([Niagara Frontier Publications coverage](#), [quasar op-ed](#)). The New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation has permitted the facilities and several land application sites and provides [useful information on the DEC website](#).



[Details.](#)

- **June 17 - Quebec biosolids health and safety workshop**, Quebec City. Repeated in Longueuil June 18th.
- **June 29 - July 2, 2014: Soil in the City Conference**, Chicago. *The* every-10-year science conference by the USDA W-2170 Research Committee on Soil-Based Use of Residuals, Wastewater, and Reclaimed Water. [Details.](#)
- **October 22 - 23, 2014: NORTH EAST RESIDUALS & BIOSOLIDS CONFERENCE** - Portland, Maine. Details soon!

CHECK IT OUT...

- **Halifax Water's Biosolids Program** was highlighted in an [Earth Day story on CBC](#), including quotes by NEBRA Board member Lise Leblanc.
- **NERC - the Northeast Recycling Council** - is working hard on organic residuals, with an informative [March newsletter](#) (scroll down for various organics news) and a 2-day workshop in April. NEBRA is pleased to work with NERC.
- **AD & co-digestion** were featured in this [NPR story](#) about the Newtown Creek WWTF in New York, NY.

Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority (NEBRA member) received accolades for their new anaerobic digestion and energy production facility from Maine two Senators, Susan Collins and Angus King. Read the [Senators' letter](#) to U. S. EPA, USDA, and DOE.

Sierra Club postings about biosolids appeared recently in online news tracking

This happened because Doris Cellarius, one of the lead authors of Sierra Club's 2008 negative [policy](#) on biosolids (along with Caroline Snyder of NH), posted a few select research reports to the Club's grassroots network pages - a sort of wiki for members. A few other concerned citizens have joined the page.

Sierra Club continues its negative biosolids policy, despite repeated requests over the years for further discussion on the topic from various biosolids management professionals, some of whom are Sierra Club members. The Sierra Club Board and most committees actually seem to have little knowledge or interest in the topic, and the topic does not generate many hits from a search of the Sierra Club website. Contact NEBRA for documents rebutting those posted on the new grassroots network web page and the Club policy.

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) and American Biogas Council (ABC)

announced a new formal collaboration between the two organizations, "that will help accelerate organics recycling by jointly promoting the value of resource recovery, specifically the use of energy and products produced from biogas systems at wastewater treatment facilities." [Details.](#)

Rolf Halden, PhD, and his team at Arizona State University continue to study trace contaminants in biosolids. Halden was one of the first to identify the presence of flame retardants and other chemicals in biosolids, when he was at Johns Hopkins. His team's [latest paper](#) reports on levels of nitrosamines - mostly in parts per billion - in biosolids. The finding is not surprising, and, as with other trace chemicals, presence does not necessarily mean risk. Human exposures to these potentially-cancer-causing substances has been [discussed for decades](#) and is far greater through common food and stomach acid conversion of nitrogen compounds than through the biosolids - soil crop-or-water-or-animal food chain.

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THANK YOU:

- CDM Smith

- **Pee-cycling** - the program of the Rich Earth Institute in Brattleboro, VT, was [featured](#) in *National Geographic* !
- **Organic Gardening** has generally been negative on the land application of biosolids (biosolids are not approved for use in growing USDA-certified organic crops); but, its February/March edition included a [fairly balanced article](#).
- **Birding at wastewater treatment facilities** is common. Check out this Austin, TX [birding hotspot video](#).
- **Composting and protecting the environment** are the focus of a new ad by Ford, intended to contrast with Cadillac's driven-rich-guy ad. [Interesting](#).
- **There's growing competition for use of biosolids on soils:** [make meat out of it?](#)

NEWS from NEBRA

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

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