Let the Name Game Begin!

Why We Need to Call Ourselves Resource Recovery Facilities - by a proud WWTP worker

Apparent there are many higher-ups that think we as Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators believe people view us as unintelligent dirty slobs with no ambition. They think we should change our name so we can be viewed in a much better light by others. Forget describing what you do in clear precise terms, let’s call it something that will have appeal to people who may or may not care one bit what we do or how we feel about ourselves.

That so much time by the higher-ups has been spent worrying about how others see us must be pretty important. Why else would there be such a push to change what we and our facilities are called? We hear the reasoning that by changing our titles we will get a whole lot more funding. After all, who wouldn’t want to spend money on glamorous things as opposed to “Waste”? Well we can call a dog poop a rose, but it’s still dog poop.

We operators must be dulled by the sweet smell of sewage to think that the image of Art Carney as the sewer worker is an emblem of all we hold near and dear. If we just call ourselves something pleasant and put on fancy clothes we will get people to believe we operate some glamorous resort.

Calling yourself something pleasant to hide the truth is a sure way to have people believe that what we care most about is how we are perceived and not that we are the line of defense in protecting our nations natural resources. Resources in this case do adequately describe what they are. However, if we are changing names, maybe we should change our natural resources to something catchier like, Environmental Benefit Facilities? Then we would have less confusion about what kind of resource we are talking about. Wouldn’t want to confuse people or turn them “off” by what we call something.

Through the decades Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators have been besieged by national associations as well as by EPA and State officials to change what we call things. We have

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Open Your Minds to a Cultural Shift! by Sharon Rivard, P.E. and Ray Gordon

We, as professionals in the wastewater treatment industry, know how important the work we do is for public health and for the environment. We are all aware of the need to gain public support for operating, maintaining and replacing the valuable assets that allow us to do this work.

Without public understanding and support, we do not receive the critical funding that we need to keep these valuable wastewater treatment assets working properly! However, we are often at a loss for how to gain this support.

There is so much more to what we do than wastewater treatment. We are reclaiming valuable resources! Even if your community’s facility is NOT recovering:

· Nutrients through biosolids production and land application; or
· Heat or electric energy from influent, effluent or solids.

Your community’s facility IS recovering that ever valuable, life-sustaining resource called WATER!

As professionals in the wastewater treatment industry, we (meaning everyone working in the wastewater field) must consider the wise words of the well-known architect and philosopher, R. Buckminster Fuller, when he said, “Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we’ve been ignorant of their value.”

Buckminster Fuller’s words sum up the general public’s view of wastewater. Most people are “ignorant of the value” of the resources flushed down the drain on a daily basis. We need to educate the general public! We also need to keep the general public informed about the important work that our wastewater treatment plant operators do on a daily basis. This awareness and education will help bring the needed support for maintaining the valuable wastewater infrastructure throughout New Hampshire.

(Continued on page 2)
There’s an interesting topic in this newsletter – What do we call ourselves and why? WWTP, WWTF, WPCF, WRRF, WRF or some other acronym! One day recently I was mindlessly following my GPS and I came across a plant that was labeled WPCF on one side and WRF on the other side. WPCF looked like an original sign and WRF was quite obviously newer with a second line declaring something about “protecting the environment”. I would have loved to have stopped in and chatted to the operators about their signage but my GPS was yelling at me that I needed to “in 800 feet turn LEFT” so I figured that I had best pay attention if I wanted to actually arrive at my destination. I could probably find the place again if I just let the GPS lead the way between point A and point B, although I’m pretty darn sure that I know a better way without following the GPS directions that doesn’t take me past any treatment plants. Guess it was karma.

My opinion is that I’m willing to use any acronym that will increase my chances of getting FREE FOOD or DRINK! I’ve seen those signs for free coffee for nurses and 20% off your food tab for firefighters but nothing for us dedicated people who clean ALL the wastewater in the City! We have Earth Day and Clean Water Week but no holidays that are generally recognized as OURS by the people who give out free stuff. I got excited about going to see the play “The Toxic Avenger” because I thought that he MUST be an environmental superhero, but only sort of… There was Captain Planet and the Planeteers. Gi was the girl who summoned water but she was focused more on pollution’s effects on marine animals. So, we don’t have our own holiday or our own superhero no matter what we call ourselves… WTF?!? I’m all for getting rid of that acronym in our name.
Energy Efficiency Workshops Are Coming Your Way This Fall!

Mark Your Calendar and Tell Your Municipal Managers!

By Sharon L. Rivard, P.E. NHDES, Wastewater Engineering Bureau

I hope by now, you have heard about the exciting grant that NHDES and NHOEP received through the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE). Our partners in this effort are the NH CORE Utilities (Eversource, Liberty Utilities, Unitil and NH Electric Coop).

We are currently working on benchmarking the electric energy use of each WWTF and will be using this data to develop the workshop agendas as we see who is doing well with energy use and who could use some help in saving money through energy efficiency.

We will be holding six workshops this fall that will be open to operators, management and design engineers. Each workshop will include classroom presentations in the morning, lunch and then a tour of a nearby WWTF. We are holding these workshops throughout NH to make attendance easier for WWTF personnel and municipal leadership. We will hold these workshops at no charge for municipal staff and management.

The tentative schedule and locations are as follows:

September 20 – Lagoon Workshop – Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton with a tour at the Hopkinton WWTF

September 29 – Lagoon Workshop – Lincoln (location TBD) with a tour at the Lincoln WWTF

October 6 – Secondary Treatment Workshop – Berlin (location TBD) with a tour at the Berlin WWTF

October 12 – Secondary Treatment Workshop – NHDES offices, Concord with a tour at the Concord WWTF

October 26 – Advanced Treatment Workshop – Keene Public Library with a tour at the Keene WWTF

November 3 – Advanced Treatment Workshop – Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center, Greenland with a tour at the Newmarket WWTF

You can attend as many of the workshops as you want. We will be working with the Training and Certification folks to make sure that each workshop qualifies for PDHs/TCH/CEUs. If you have questions, comments or feedback, please feel free to contact me at (603)-271-2508, or Sharon.Rivard@des.nh.gov.

(Continued from cover)
Many times, cultural changes start with a grassroots effort with a few champions. Will the cultural change start with a simple name change or will education and outreach be the starting point? The general consensus seems to be that cultural change is needed. However, the best way to get that change started for New Hampshire needs to be determined. That name change or education program can then be the catalyst for other changes that need to be made. The following are just a few of the many reasons to consider changing the culture of wastewater treatment to a culture of water resource recovery.

- People tend to value assets and resources, not wastes. So let’s start calling water, clean or dirty, what it really is...a resource.
- The general public does not understand what we do and terms like “pollution” and “waste” are a turn-off and can be scary or intimidating. The municipal clean water industry is all about recovering the valuable resources of water, energy and nutrients.
- To maintain and operate our critical water infrastructure, we need to increase interest in the industry from high school and college students, as well as from young professionals.
- People working in the wastewater industry are professionals with an important job that maintains the high quality of life we all expect here in New Hampshire. We need to speak in terms that reflect that importance and promote the good work we do.
- “POTW”, “WWTF”, “Pollution Control Facilities” are all terms that have been used for 50 years and they reflect the priorities of the past 50 years. We all need to look ahead to identify the priorities for the next 50 years. We know we can control pollution and protect public health.
- Let’s take our efforts to the next level and recover more valuable resources!

To wrap up, the following quote from EPA summarizes where the wastewater industry is headed for the future:

“The municipal water and wastewater industries face significant challenges from aging infrastructure, a difficult funding environment, new regulatory concerns, the effects of climate change, and changing demographics. But with these challenges come tremendous opportunities to reshape our water infrastructure for the 21st century. A growing movement to recover reusable water, energy, and nutrients from our publicly owned treatment works has led to a rebranding of wastewater operations as Water Resource Recovery Facilities.” Jason Turgeon, USEPA

We need your help! NHDES wants to pull together a Task Force of wastewater professionals, including operators, engineers and regulators. This Task Force will be charged with developing a plan to address the cultural shift appropriate for New Hampshire with the goal of moving New Hampshire’s wastewater industry toward sustainability.

For more information, contact Sharon Rivard at Sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-2508 or Ray Gordon at Ray.gordon@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3571.
Treasurers Report
Every spring the association holds our annual trade fair and every year it is successful at being a money maker for the association. This year was no different. At the time that I’m writing this, the trade fair cost the association $7181 to host but brought in $14,650 in revenue, $12,505 of that being from the vendors themselves. That brings us a total profit of $7469. Thanks to all the vendors and members for making it a huge success, and to the Board members that organized it!

Trade Fair Exhibitors (Vendors)
44 - 2014
41 - 2015
46 - 2016

Trade Fair “Registered” Attendance
146 - 2014
130 - 2015
125 - 2016 (No Poster Contest Attendees)

The New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid (NHPWMA) program needs a volunteer to represent the wastewater sector.
The NH Public Works Mutual Aid program is a network of communities that assist each other during emergencies and currently has over 140 members statewide. NHPWMA represents public works, road agents, drinking water, wastewater, and building inspectors. There are many benefits to being a member such as an easy and inexpensive way to improve your emergency response capabilities (membership is only $25/ year), prompt response and access to equipment and personnel appropriate for the job, the ability to request aid for even small events that are not declared disasters and FEMA reimbursement for aid that is provided during declared disasters. The mutual aid agreement was recently changed to include new Board representation for both the drinking water and wastewater sectors. The drinking water spot has been filled however we are still looking for someone to represent wastewater. The Boards meets quarterly and the next meeting is June 9th at the NH Emergency Preparedness Conference in Manchester.

Interested volunteers can contact Johnna McKenna at (603) 271-7017 or johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov. Information about the NHPWMA program can be found at www.t2.unh.edu/ma.

Sharing our Message with NH Businesses
The NHPWCA had a strong showing at New Hampshire’s recent state-wide chamber of commerce Business and Industry Association’s annual NH Water Resources Management Conference held at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester in mid-April. Several NH environmental leaders shared the story of our state’s water. NHDES Commissioner Thomas Burack, Water Director Gene Forbes, Drinking Water Administrator Sarah Pillsbury, and Dam Bureau Administrator Jim Gallagher were among the speakers. David Webster of EPA gave an update of the new and controversial MS4 stormwater permit. NHWPCA members Andrew Sharpe and Fred McNeill both presented case studies on NH water projects. New Hampshire businesses are critical partners in promoting investment into the state’s water infrastructure. This conference was an excellent forum to share the “state of the state” of our water industry to educate our colleagues representing the business interests of New Hampshire.

27th Annual Golf Outing
Please join us on August 4th at Beaver Meadow Golf Course in Concord for NHWPCA’s 27th Annual Golf Outing. Come enjoy this historic and challenging municipal course where golf has been played continuously since 1896. The golf outing is a great opportunity to share fellowship with your professional colleagues and friends from throughout the state in a beautiful outdoor fun-filled environment. There is a continental breakfast, free use of the driving range, a tasty BBQ lunch, followed by the awards ceremony. The outing awards prizes for the lowest three team scores, closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and straightest drive. In addition, we have a putting contest that supports Operations Challenge and the NHWPCA Scholarship fund. We look forward to seeing you at the “Beave” on August 4th.

Field Trip to Deer Island
On a beautiful spring April day over 20 staff from the Manchester WWTP along with staff from Underwood Engineers, Inc. traveled down to Boston to visit the Deer Island Treatment Plant. NEWEA legend and old NHWPCA friend Charlie Tyler provided Manchester staff with a private insider tour of New England’s largest WWTP. Deer Island treats an average flow of 350 mgd and has a peak capacity of 1.31 BILLION gallons per day. Wastewater has been treated at Deer Island since the late 1800s. Our tour included a walk up to the top of their eight egg shaped digesters that are 135-feet tall, a visit to their state-of-the-art operations center, and a walk through their original steam powered pump station that was in-service from the late 1800s to the 1960s. Deer Island is truly an engineering marvel on scale that dwarfs any of New Hampshire’s wastewater facilities. For any wastewater professional, a tour of Deer Island is a “must do” in your career.
The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is often asked to evaluate health impacts from exposure to environmental odors. An odor is a chemical in the air that is “smelled” or sensed by our nose (olfactory system). Apples smell like apples due to the chemicals that create the apple odor. Odors, also called smells, can be both pleasant and unpleasant. Most humans can distinguish more than 5,000 odors.

We breathe 10,000 to 20,000 liters of air a day, mostly through our noses. The olfactory system comes in contact with a different variety and concentration of odors every day. Odors can alert people that something may be harmful, but generally, you can smell many chemicals before they are at levels that are harmful to your health. For example, we are able to smell hydrogen sulfide (H2S), which smells like rotten eggs, at very low levels; levels much lower than those at which this chemical can cause toxic health effects.

Can odors cause health problems?
Yes, certain groups of chemicals that produce odors are potentially harmful and can cause health problems. Some of these harmful chemicals are regulated by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services under the Air Toxics Program and the US Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act.

Just because something smells bad does not mean it is harmful, e.g., rotten eggs. Some harmful and/or deadly chemicals can have a mild or sweet odor like benzene, or no odor at all like carbon monoxide. Hydrogen sulfide (H2S) smells like rotten eggs. The level at which you can begin to smell H2S is approximately 1.0 microgram per cubic meter. EPA has determined that there is no health risk associated with exposure to H2S at this concentration. The level that is considered to be harmful to public health and the environment for H2S is 50 micrograms per cubic meter. What this means is you can begin to smell H2S at levels below what is considered harmful to public health and the environment.

Effects from exposure to chemical odors can be an immediate health threat, a long-term threat, or may pose no health threat at all. Getting sick from chemical odors will depend on what you are exposed to, how much you are exposed to, how long you are exposed, how often you are exposed and your individual sensitivity to the odor.

The influence of odors on the health and comfort of individuals is difficult to evaluate. Odor sensitivity and response to odors differs from person to person. For some people who are more sensitive to odors, simply smelling a small amount of a foul odor can cause headaches and nausea. Sensitive populations include young children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with chronic health problems. People with chronic health problems include individuals with asthma, emphysema and other respiratory diseases, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), depression, chemical hypersensitivity or stress-induced illness.

Conclusions
Often it is hard to draw a distinct line between a nuisance odor problem and an outright public health problem when members of a community are at risk of actually feeling sick. Unpleasant odors have often been recognized as “warning signs” of potential risks to human health rather than direct triggers of health effects. But we also know that odors from environmental sources might indeed cause health symptoms depending on the individual and specific environmental factors.

Each odor problem needs to be considered separately since they may differ widely in their nature and severity. While non-regulated chemical odors are not usually a significant public health hazard, the odors may be unpleasant and produce discomfort and temporary health symptoms. Measures to contain or eliminate unpleasant odors and prevent their migration into the community are warranted when these odors create a persistent nuisance.

For more information contact:
NH Department of Environmental Services
Environmental Health Program
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-1370
Here in Somersworth I am part of a team of five amazing people who clean ALL the wastewater in the City and return this water to the environment. One of the jobs that I do for the City is Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator. Recently I received an email from one of my new industrial users asking how his company could be expected to comply with a zero TSS limit. I immediately panicked! Had I somehow written a 0.0 mg/l limit for TSS in his permit? I had personally done the last local limits study for the City and TSS was NOT a pollutant of concern! I quickly grabbed his file and looked at the permit. The local limit for TSS was listed as “none”. I thought that it was pretty obvious that this meant there was no limit but he had interpreted it as no TSS was allowed to be discharged. Guess I’ll be needing to go over all my permit language with a fine-toothed comb now to see if there’s anything else that could be interpreted differently than what I meant. *You think?*

Switching back to lab-world, I decided that it’s about time to review the TSS method to ensure that I’m doing everything correctly. TSS stands for Total Suspended Solids, but the first thing that we read in Standard Methods is that there’s a lot of other flavors of solids out there – total, total dissolved, fixed, settleable and volatile. Since my permit only has a limit for TSS, I’m going to ignore all these other solids and focus on the total suspended ones. Hopefully they won’t feel too badly about being left out.

The general discussion section of the method talks about a well-mixed sample. That is super-important to think about when dealing with a composite sample. I’m not coordinated enough to measure a TSS sample straight from my big composite jug so I have to pour some into a smaller container. That means picking the big composite jug up and shaking it up really well before pouring. It’s also important to exclude any “large floating particles or submerged agglomerates of nonhomogeneous materials”. This is obviously referring to the STUFF that we find in our influent. It never ceases to amaze me how this STUFF can make it through the headworks screens and then through my intake strainer into my composite sample. If the sample that I’ve poured out into my smaller container has a visible chunk of something, I just toss the whole sample down the drain, re-shake my big composite jug and start over.

Some days I feel like I do nothing except handle filter papers for TSS. I don’t use the expensive pre-prepared glass fiber filters. I don’t even have a filter paper weigh-
Get to Know Your NHWPCA Board of Directors

Dustin Price
Position on Board. 2nd Director-At-Large

1. Nobody wants to grow up and work in a WWTP. How did you find yourself in this field?
   My landlord worked for a sewer district in Maine. They were looking for a mechanic/laborer and I applied. After working my way up into operations and seeing the bigger picture of what our industry does, it was the best move I ever made.

2. What is your current employer?
   The Town of Seabrook

3. How long have you been in the wastewater field?
   It will be 14 years this summer.

4. What kind of cell phone is in your pocket – Apple or Android? A slightly roughed up iPhone.

5. What’s your favorite social media – Facebook or Twitter?
   Facebook, mostly because none of my family is on Twitter.

6. What kind of computer is on your desk – Apple or Microsoft? Microsoft

7. What’s the last movie you watched in a theater?
   10 Cloverfield Lane. Great little Hitchcock-like tale. John Goodman was incredible.

8. What are your favorite books of all time?
   Stephen King’s Dark Tower series and Tom Clancy’s Rainbow Six.

9. When you’re not working, what are your hobbies?
   Golf, Karaoke night, Call of Duty and Shenanigans.

10. What is one thing about our association that you’d like to accomplish/change?
    Help get the message of water reclamation out to the public. SO many people have no clue where their water comes from or where their wastewater goes. And it’s tough to ask folks to care about things they don’t understand. We’ve got to keep doing our good work and spread awareness of our field.

David Mercier
Position on Board. Secretary

1. Nobody wants to grow up and work in a WWTP. How did you find yourself in this field?
   I always enjoyed math and science and wanted to work in a field that makes a difference in society.

2. What is your current employer?
   Underwood Engineers

3. How long have you been in the wastewater field?
   21 years (ouch)

4. What kind of cell phone is in your pocket – Apple or Android? Android; I don’t like Apple.

5. What’s your favorite social media – Facebook or Twitter?
   Neither, talking face to face avoids misinterpretation.

6. What kind of computer is on your desk – Apple or Microsoft? Microsoft

7. What’s the last movie you watched in a theater?
   Jurassic World, with my wife, 22 years after our first date to see Jurassic Park 1.

8. What are your favorite books of all time?
   My Side Of The Mountain. These days, I read Sci-Fi mostly.

9. When you’re not working, what are your hobbies?
   Bass fishing, kayaking, hiking, gardening

10. What is one thing about our association that you’d like to accomplish/change?
    I would like to see new blood on the Board and the Committees to revitalize an excellent Association of people.
Are Wipes Flushable?

In recent years, there has been an explosion in the number of wipes available for sale. There are wipes for removing makeup, polishing furniture, cleaning babies, disinfecting your bathroom, the list goes on. There are even some wipes labeled as “flushable.” These products are convenient, affordable, hygienic and can help prevent the spread of illness.

During the same period, there have been hundreds of articles about flushed wipes damaging septic systems, polluting the environment with raw sewage, causing backups into basements and clogging sewer systems. Remember the 15-ton blob of wipes and grease – called a “fatberg” – that was removed from London sewers in 2013? If you check out the back of a package of baby wipes, you should see a message telling you to NOT flush the wipe. Companies that make baby wipes, facial wipes, surface cleaning wipes, medical wipes and feminine hygiene wipes should all be using the “Do Not Flush” logo below.

Use of this logo is voluntary – there is no federal agency that can force a wipe manufacturer to use it – but it’s exciting and encouraging to see it on more and more products all the time. Even if the “Do Not Flush” logo isn’t present, the instructions should tell you not to flush them. Many organizations that help towns and utilities keep water clean are pushing hard for more manufacturers to use the logo and to put it in a place where the consumer will see it.

SO IF WIPES CAUSE CLOGS, WHY ARE SOME MARKETED AS FLUSHABLE?

“Flushable” wipes are a whole different product, and as of now, there is NO regulatory standard for the word “flushable” in the United States.

Some products labeled as flushable break down pretty well after they’re flushed, but others don’t. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission, which is responsible for truth in advertising, ruled in 2015 that many major brands of “flushable” wipes don’t satisfy this claim and should be pulled from shelves. (https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2015/05/wet-wipe-manufacturer-agrees-substantiate-flushability)

Water quality organizations, while pushing for better “Do Not Flush” logos, have also been working with wipes manufacturers to create a testing method. This work to define “flushable” is still in progress and there is no commitment from manufacturers to make the testing mandatory or share any testing results with the public.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CONSUMERS?

Because there is no mandatory test for “flushable” wipes and no mandatory “Do Not Flush” logo required on wipes that shouldn’t be flushed, it is best to err on the side of caution and put all wipes in the trash.

When in doubt, throw it out!

Otherwise, you may have sewage back up into your own residence, damage your property or require expensive repairs to your septic system or your town’s sewer system.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you use a product in your home – such as baby wipes, facial wipes, surface cleaning wipes, etc. – that doesn’t have the “Do Not Flush” logo above, you can help protect the environment by sending that company a note on social media encouraging them to update the package.

If you use wipes that say “flushable,” there is still no way for you to know if they passed the voluntary tests. Please put these used wipes in the trash instead of flushing them, since they may cause damage even if they’re labeled “flushable.”

Finally, don’t treat your toilet like a trashcan. Remember the 3 P’s: only pee, poop, and toilet paper are truly flushable.

(NHDES wants to thank Aubrey Strause, Verdant Water, PLLC as a contributing author of this article.)
CONCORD – In order to highlight state government’s efforts to improve energy efficiency, Governor Maggie Hassan presented the Governor’s Excellence in Energy Efficiency Awards at the State’s annual energy conference last week hosted by the New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services, Department of Environmental Services and the Office of Energy & Planning.

This annual conference, which brings together state agency staff involved in energy, transportation and efficiency efforts, serves to celebrate the great work being done in state government to reduce fossil-fuel energy consumption, provide information on other ways to reduce energy use, and enable staff to network with their colleagues in other agencies.

“As a state, we remain focused on diversifying our energy supply mix and investing in energy efficiency and conservation – the cleanest and cheapest approach to reducing our energy bills,” Governor Hassan said. “Because of the efforts of our dedicated and hard-working state employees, the state is conserving more energy, which is saving valuable state resources and helping to preserve our environment. Together, we must continue to innovate and move our clean energy economy forward.”

In the last ten years, the State has avoided more than $10 million in energy costs through energy efficiency measures and by switching to lower-cost fuels. The state energy manager estimates the state saved nearly $5 million on its energy costs in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 alone. Between Fiscal Year 2005 and Fiscal Year 2015, the square footage of building space used by state government increased by 11 percent while overall energy use has remained the same. This meant that the energy used per square foot of building space (i.e., the Energy Use Intensity or “EUI”) fell by 11 percent and the fossil-fuel EUI fell by nearly 21 percent.

“In order to build on our progress, we must keep pressing forward quickly and aggressively to make a new energy future a reality,” Governor Hassan said. “These award winners are helping to strengthen what makes New Hampshire unique and to maintain our status as a great place to work, live, visit and raise a family.”

The state has also been actively pursuing reductions in fuel consumption by its vehicle fleet. Since 2009, the State passenger auto and truck fleet has reduced mileage by approximately six percent, which has translated to 1.8 million fewer miles of travel, reducing costs across state government.

Awards this year were given to: Sharon Rivard of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; the New Hampshire Adjutant General’s Department and the New Hampshire Army National Guard; and the Bureau of Court Facilities, under the Department of Administrative Services.

Individual Recognition Awardee Sharon Rivard works as a Design Review Engineer in the Wastewater Engineering Bureau in the Water Division at the Office at the Department of Environmental Services. In this capacity, Sharon has woven energy consciousness into her daily work, making changes to wastewater funding programs and design criteria, which result in energy efficiency improvements in the design and construction of all wastewater facilities going forward. The work that Sharon did in this regard has been showcased by the US Environmental Protection Agency as an innovative approach that other states might follow. Further, she is collaborating with the New Hampshire Office or Energy & Planning and New Hampshire’s electric utilities on a project that will help the state’s 84 municipally-owned wastewater treatment plants reduce their energy use and avoid 10,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year, saving municipalities almost $2 million per year in electricity costs.

The New Hampshire Adjutant General’s Department and the New Hampshire Army National Guard were chosen for this year’s Model Energy Agency award recipient for dedicating staff to energy efficiency and making efficiency everyone’s job. The department and the Guard have systematically been evaluating each of its buildings in order to identify energy-saving measures that can cost-effectively be installed. The Guard has also installed smart meters on its facilities and evaluated the potential for onsite renewables. These actions have helped the Guard improve its own operations and energy performance, while also helping to lead New Hampshire forward.

The final award, the Outstanding Project or Initiative Award, was presented to the Bureau of Court Facilities. The bureau took the initiative to investigate abnormally high energy use at one of its courthouses. They hired a consultant to do an energy audit and the resulting report gave them several large efficiency measures to tackle. Once Bureau staff understood the potential opportunities around them, they began to identify their own measures and act on these observations. Many of these energy retrofit projects have payback periods of less than five years.

At the conference, Governor Hassan also unveiled new energy efficiency goals for state government, including reducing fossil fuel usage by 50 percent over 2005 levels by 2030.
“De Vaartkapoen” by Belgian artist Tom Frantzen is a humorous statue of a policeman being tripped by a man hiding in a sewer manhole. Created in 1985, the statue is located in Sint-Jans-Molenbeek, Belgium.