

2021 WateReuse Awards for Excellence & President's Awards



WaterReuse Awards for Excellence

The WaterReuse Association's Awards for Excellence recognize individuals, projects, and partnerships that have made significant contributions in advancing water reuse as a key component of water resources management. Award recipients successfully create new sources of water, develop novel approaches to solve water management challenges, and/or advance policies that support greater adoption of water recycling. WaterReuse Awards for Excellence winners demonstrate leadership and inspire others to use water recycling to create resilient and safe water supplies.

The 2021 WaterReuse Awards for Excellence recognize accomplishments for 2019 and 2020.

ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENT

The Advocacy Achievement award recognizes individuals and organizations for significant achievements in advancing policy, legislation, or regulations that facilitate greater adoption, implementation, or acceptance of recycled water.

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Dan Arnold and Damian Higham (Denver Water) and Brandi Honeycutt and Bret Icenogle (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment)

Colorado's Regulation 84 was significantly expanded in 2018 to allow dual plumbing in public buildings and creation of localized reclaimed water system requirements, and further expanded in 2019 to allow for the irrigation of edible crops with reclaimed water. Four individuals in particular drove these efforts and ensured successful rulemaking hearings. Dan Arnold and Damian Higham of Denver Water and Brandi Honeycutt and Bret Icenogle of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment worked tirelessly to engage stakeholders, resolve challenges, and collaborate to develop regulatory language.



Ground Water Protection Council

The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) is spearheading multiple initiatives to help policymakers understand the opportunities and challenges of recycling “produced water” from oil and gas operations. The 2019 report, *Regulations, Current Practices, and Research Needs*, collects the expertise of over 60 national water thought leaders. The *Aquifer Storage and Recovery – Managed Aquifer Recharge* program educates regulatory officials on the beneficial role aquifer storage and recovery have in developing state and local water reuse plans. In addition, GWPC’s *Risk Based Data Management System* provides water resource management tools for state decision makers.



Lynn Spivey (Florida Potable Reuse Commission)

As chair of the Florida Potable Reuse Commission (PRC), City of Plant City, Florida’s Utilities Director Lynn Spivey led an effort to promote potable reuse in Florida and establish rules for its implementation. The PRC included water professionals and a diverse stakeholder group that worked for 18-months to develop and release the January 2020 consensus-based report, *Framework for the Implementation of Potable Reuse in Florida*. Lynn was integral in the inclusion of potable reuse in Florida’s 2020 legislative omnibus water bill, which references the PRC work and directs rulemaking for potable reuse.



COMMUNITY WATER CHAMPION

The Community Water Champion award recognizes the accomplishments of utilities and local government entities that ensure a safe, reliable, locally-controlled water supply through the development of water recycling treatment facilities, infrastructure and/or other water reuse projects.

City of Pompano Beach Reuse Plant

Initially developed to irrigate a single golf course 30 years ago, the City of Pompano Beach, Florida now has a water reuse program that stands as an example of the multiple benefits of reuse. The OASIS (Our Alternative Water Supply Irrigation System) Reuse Plant serves 1,000 single-family residential homes and over 300 commercial and multi-family properties, and supports legislative mandates to eliminate ocean outfall. It is also the first and only water reuse system in Florida approved to irrigate salad crops that will not be peeled, skinned, cooked or thermally processed.



OneWater Nevada

OneWater Nevada, a collaborative partnership between utilities, academics, and professional practitioners, is developing new options for water resiliency in Northern Nevada. OneWater Nevada recently completed the first advanced purified water groundwater injection demonstration project in Nevada, and is developing multiple field-scale advanced water treatment demonstration projects. The multi-year initiative will provide northern Nevada the invaluable benefits of data, public education, and local design and operations expertise to utilize water reuse for the region's long-term sustainability.



Tucson Water

The Santa Cruz River Heritage Project has changed the way Tucson, Arizona residents think about recycled water. In 2019, Tucson Water began sending up to 2.8 million gallons of recycled water per day into a mostly dry riverbed that flows through downtown. The benefits of the project include development of urban riparian habitat, the return of native plant species and endangered wildlife, and recharge of the underlying aquifer through natural filtration processes. The project also creates recreational opportunities and views for bicyclists, pedestrians, equestrians, and tourists.



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

The Excellence in Action award recognizes community leaders that demonstrate a commitment to water resiliency through the innovative use of recycled water for commercial operations, watershed restoration projects, irrigation or other projects.

SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park (West Basin Municipal Water District)

SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park is the Inglewood, California home of two NFL teams, the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers, and an example of a public-private partnership that is creating water resiliency for the region. The West Basin Municipal Water District provides recycled water to irrigate all outdoor landscaping areas in the development through more than 2 ½ miles of new recycled water distribution pipeline. In total, the project is expected to offset potable water demands in the region by up to 80 acre-feet-per year (or about 26 million gallons per day).



SUEZ – Nassau County Water Reuse

Population growth on New York’s Long Island puts intense pressure on groundwater supplies. Suez is five years into a 20-year contract to manage Nassau County’s three wastewater treatment plants and has already installed water reuse systems at two of them to support plant operations. The Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant in East Rockaway uses recycled water as carrier water for sodium bisulfate used during dechlorination, saving 26.3 million gallons of groundwater annually. A larger reuse system at Cedar Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Wantagh provides water for cooling, tank washing, and other plant activities, reducing water usage by about 86%.



Vallecitos Water District/LG Sonic Technology

The Vallecitos Water District partnered with LG Sonic to use a new ultrasound technology to maintain water quality at the Stanley A. Mahr Reservoir in San Marcos, California, where the district stores up to 54 million gallons of recycled water. Because the reservoir’s location receives intense sunlight with little rain, algal blooms can occur in the nutrient-rich recycled water. The LG Sonic’s MPC-Buoy predicts and controls algae blooms by using interactive ultrasound technology with integrated water quality monitoring. The systems reduces costs and the need for harsh chemicals.



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Outreach and Education award recognizes significant success in advancing public acceptance of recycled water, including short-term campaigns, educational programs, and events.

Irvine Ranch Water District

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) in Irvine, California, took its outreach to a new level with a Recycled Water 101 campaign featuring five effective tools: a video, a speaker's series, a community workshop, a media tour, and a steady stream of print and digital articles, including social media posts. The video was the centerpiece of the campaign, featuring operations staff, scientists, and water efficiency experts. Media outreach resulted in 10 key placements for more than 1 million impressions. The tools developed continue to be used today in IRWD's remote outreach to customers.



Pinellas County Utilities

Pinellas County Utilities is committed to educating its youngest citizens as well as its future workforce on how water is being treated to be safely used again. The South Cross Bayou (SCB) Water Reclamation Facility in St. Petersburg, Florida partners with schools to provide facility tours, classroom teach-ins, teacher trainings, and educator resources for over 40,000 students each year. The program also provides career education through internships, mentorships, and volunteer opportunities. Teachers are invited to explore the facility to learn about the science and technology of water reuse.

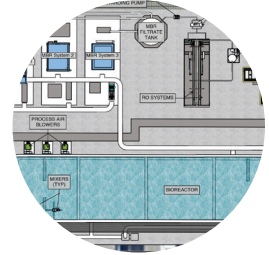


TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION

The Transformative Innovation award recognizes technological advances, research breakthroughs, and innovative practices that advance the adoption, implementation, or public acceptance of recycled water.

Hyperion Membrane Bioreactor Pilot Facility Project (City of Los Angeles, LA Sanitation)

The Hyperion Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) Pilot Facility Project represents a major step in expanding water reuse in Los Angeles to meet the objective of sourcing 70 percent of the city's water supply locally by the year 2035. The MBR pilot project includes side-by-side comparisons of three membrane separation systems to develop design criteria, validate and establish treatment goals, and obtain regulatory approval. The project is a collaboration between LA Sanitation and Environment, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and West Basin Municipal Water District.



JEA

JEA, a provider of water, sewer and energy services to the greater Jacksonville, Florida region, is leading the way for potable reuse in Florida. JEA proactively embarked on a phased project investigating potable reuse to meet future water demands. After testing multiple treatment options at two different treatment plants, JEA selected a combination of ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, and advanced oxidation processes for future phases of the program, which include demonstration-scale testing followed by full-scale implementation.



Las Virgenes - Triunfo Joint Powers Authority

The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Pure Water Demonstration Facility in Calabasas, California is paving the way for one of the first potable reuse projects using reservoir augmentation in California. Operated by the Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority, the groundbreaking demonstration facility includes a sustainability garden, a mural, the advanced treatment process mimicking the natural water cycle, and a virtual tour to make it all available during and beyond the pandemic. A future full-scale facility is expected to provide 20% of the local water supply.



UP AND COMER

The Up and Comer award recognizes a professional with less than 10 years experience in the recycled water industry for leadership in the industry and commitment to pursuing water recycling as a career path.

Lydia Peri (Truckee Meadows Water Authority)

Lydia Peri is the Emerging Resources Program Administrator at the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, a registered Professional Environmental Engineer in Nevada, and serves as the demonstration manager for the OneWater Nevada initiative. Lydia leads the advanced water treatment operations while serving as the pivotal link between agencies, operators, students, regulators, technology providers, and elected officials. She is also pursuing her PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's award recognizes individuals who have significantly contributed to the advancement of water reuse through exceptional service and leadership. This award is given at the discretion of the WateReuse Association President.

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano

First elected to Congress in 1998, Grace Napolitano (D-CA) is currently serving her twelfth term. Her Los Angeles County-based district covers several cities and communities in the San Gabriel Valley. Napolitano serves on the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure and is currently the Chairwoman on the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. Representative Napolitano also serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources and is a long-time promoter of conservation, water recycling, desalination, and groundwater management as solutions to Southern California's water needs. Representative Napolitano has been a champion for federal funding for water recycling programs throughout her career in Congress.



Mark Elsner, P.E., Water Supply Bureau Chief (South Florida Water Management District)

For over 30 years, Mark Elsner has been instrumental in growing water reuse in Florida, from development of the first comprehensive reuse regulations in the late 1980s to completion of the 2020 report, *Framework for the Implementation of Potable Reuse in Florida*. He has been an active member of the WateReuse Association, including 11 years as a Florida Section officer. He is a water resources professional whose technical knowledge is paired with public policy pragmatism, and his tireless enthusiasm for beneficial reuse has helped preserve and protect Florida's natural resources.



Paul Steinbrecher (Clay County Utility Authority)

Paul Steinbrecher has served the clean water industry for over 30 years, championing sustainable solutions to environmental and engineering problems. He spearheaded the effort to add potable reuse as a significant component of future water supply at JEA, the regional utility serving the Jacksonville, Florida region, and served as a utility advocate on the Florida Potable Reuse Commission. He recently joined the senior leadership team at Clay County Utility Authority. Paul served on the WateReuse Association Board of Directors and was a consistent voice for local water reuse projects.



Diane Taniguchi-Dennis (Clean Water Services)

Diane Taniguchi-Dennis is the Chief Executive Officer for Clean Water Services, the water resources management utility for more than 600,000 customers in urban Washington County, Oregon. Under Diane's leadership, Clean Water Services has been a leader in water recycling for environmental restoration and pioneered the practice of brewing beer with purified recycled water as a tool for education. Diane completed three terms on the WateReuse Association Board of Directors, serving on the Executive Committee as the organization's Treasurer.

