

2023

WaterReuse Awards for Excellence & President's Awards

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WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION 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.

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.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S WATER REUSE PROGRAM

*Sharon Nappier, Rabia Chaudhry, Angela Davis,
Ashley Harper, and Justin Mattingly*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Water Reuse Program is recognized for making significant strides in implementing the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) and continuing to institutionalize water reuse across U.S. EPA's entire National Water Program. The Water Reuse Program team works creatively and collaboratively with a wide variety of water sector stakeholders to advance water reuse. In 2022, the Water Reuse Program team guided the formal launch of the Federal Water Reuse Interagency Working Group. The Working Group brings together senior representatives from more than 10 agencies across the federal government to develop and coordinate actions, tools, and resources to advance water reuse across the United States. In 2022, the Water Reuse Program team also helped lead a successful delegation to learn about water reuse innovation in Israel, and released the REUSExplorer tool to help water reuse practitioners search and understand state regulations.



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 PLANT CITY, FL, AND LYNN SPIVEY, UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Plant City is leading the region in moving potable reuse forward with a robust treatment process and communication planning, engaging the public and officials. The MacIntosh Preserve Integrated Water Management Project will ensure a safe, reliable, locally controlled water supply through the expansion of water recycling treatment facilities and current infrastructure. The project provides high-quality recycled water for environmental enhancement, groundwater replenishment, potable water supply, downstream water quality improvement, and expanded flood control. Lynn Spivey, City of Plant City's Utilities Director and WaterReuse Florida trustee, has been instrumental in championing water reuse in her community.



MIKE BRITT, CITY OF WINTER HAVEN, FL

Mike Britt is a professional engineer and planner with 35 years of experience managing water resources in Central Florida. Mike currently works as the city's One Water Project Manager. Mike's primary focus has been the long-term sustainability of Winter Haven,



including water resources. Since 2018, Mike has served as the city's project manager and champion for Winter Haven's One Water Master Plan, a comprehensive plan to enhance resiliency, sustainability, and quality of life in the Peace Creek Watershed over a 50-year planning horizon.

SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM, TX

San Antonio has a long history of beneficially using its wastewater, stretching back to acequias or irrigation canals in the 1700s. In the late 1990s, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) constructed today's recycled water distribution system to offset need for expensive new potable water sources. Over 130 miles of purple pipe now serve customers including Toyota, Microsoft, golf courses, and the grounds of the storied Alamo. The water also provides significant environmental benefits, supporting the Salado Creek linear park system and the San Antonio River. Perhaps the most important beneficiary of the system is the world-famous San Antonio River Walk. SAWS' recycled water allows the City of San Antonio to maintain the river's baseflow even in times of drought for a 15-mile reach including the urban River Walk park and Mission Reach recreational area. The River Walk is the region's most popular tourist attraction, drawing 14 million visitors per year and generating over \$3B in annual economic impact. As one of the largest in the nation, the SAWS recycled water program is a gold standard in the intersection of economic and environmental benefits.



Recover. Revitalize. Reuse.

We believe access to clean water is a basic human right. We are working hard to ensure that our communities have more resilient water supply today and in the future. We are committed to helping our clients on their journey of water resource recovery and reuse, and environmental stewardship.

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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.

EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, CA

Eastern Municipal Water District, in partnership with The Lakes at Hemet West, completed work on a recycled water retrofit and water use efficiency upgrade project at The Lakes community, including more than 21 acres of public landscaping and a nine-hole golf course with seven acres of lakes. As a result, the community is now using approximately one-third the amount of potable water for landscape purposes and has significantly reduced total water use because of improved efficiencies.



GULF COAST AUTHORITY, TX

Gulf Coast Authority (GCA) owns and operates the Odessa South Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility in Odessa, Texas, which treats municipal wastewater, trucked waste, and industrial wastewater from several power generation facilities and two organic chemical facilities. In a water scarce area like Odessa, every drop of water is important. GCA uses extensive treatment and testing to recycle water fit for industrial use and now offsets 2 million gallons per day of water demand for oil and gas exploration with recycled water from the facility.



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 & DISCOVERY CUBE ORANGE COUNTY, CA

Students in Irvine Ranch Water District's service area are immersing themselves in the recycled water process—literally—thanks to the wonders of CGI. The District's gamified Virtual Recycled Water Adventure, a joint project with Discovery Cube Orange County, allows students to explore and learn about recycled water with 360-degree video that pairs an operations staff member with a computer-generated robot named "Cleanbot". Together, they take students on an interactive adventure through IRWD's Michelson Water Recycling Plant with a series of gamified activities.



supply. The One Water Florida outreach campaign was launched in July 2021 with a goal to create unified outreach among stakeholders and increase acceptance of potable reuse as a future water supply in Florida. The campaign was a collaboration of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the state's five water management districts, WaterReuse Florida, utilities, and other stakeholders.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, & WATEREUSE FLORIDA, FL

Floridians use nearly 6.4 billion gallons of water per day. With an estimated 1,000 people moving to the state daily, residents are projected to use an additional 1 billion gallons per day by 2040. As Florida lawmakers continue to develop a regulatory framework for water reuse, an outreach campaign was necessary to reinforce the need to ensure the state's drinking water



TRANSFORMATIONAL INNOVATION

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

CITY OF SANTA MONICA, CA

The city of Santa Monica has long been a leader in promoting sustainability and implementing solutions to tackle climate change. As part of the city's overarching goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and become climate resilient, the city is implementing a \$200+ million Sustainable Water Supply Program that will leverage alternative water supplies, including stormwater, dry weather urban runoff, concentrate waste stream, impaired groundwater, and municipal wastewater to provide a diverse, sustainable, and drought-resilient local water supply. Collectively, these alternative water supplies would reduce the city's reliance on imported water supplies and meet over 90% of its water demands through local water resources.



GARVER AND CITY OF NORMAN, OK

Garver: Michael Graves, Mary Elizabeth Mach, Cole Niblett, Dr. Sean Scuras, Dr. Michael Watts, Peter Wolbach

City of Norman: Ryan Bart, Ken Giannone, Steve Hardeman, Derek Leatherman, Chris Mattingly, and many more city personnel

The city of Norman has seen significant population growth and experienced significant drought con-



ditions since 2011. Having limited existing surface and groundwater resources, the city started the process of diversifying their water portfolio with indirect potable reuse (IPR). After several studies, the city and Garver collaborated and designed a proof-of-concept for IPR using Lake Thunderbird as an environmental buffer. The 15-month pilot study is evaluating the efficacy of an advanced treatment train never before implemented in the state.

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.

ANYA KAUFMANN, P.E., TRUSSELL TECHNOLOGIES INC., CO

While only seven years into her career, Anya Kaufmann has played an outsized role advancing potable reuse across the nation. She is helping to lead cutting-edge indirect and direct potable reuse (IPR and DPR) projects, development of the country's first DPR regulations in California, and innovative onsite non-potable reuse work. Anya has been a key contributor implementing California's first two surface water augmentation projects. Anya has helped her clients develop first-of-their-kind studies working collaboratively with regulators to ensure a smooth permitting process.



SERVICE AWARDS

The WaterReuse Association would like to recognize the following individuals for their service on our Board of Directors. Their leadership and vision have helped drive the national adoption of water reuse policies and programs.



ROBERT BELTRAN
Board Member
2021-2022



ELIZABETH DAWSON
Board Member
2019-2022



ROBERT McCANDLESS
Board Member
2020-2021



JOE VESEJ
Board Member
2019-2022

2023 SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The WaterReuse Association honors the hard work of the many volunteers whose efforts made the 2023 WaterReuse Symposium possible. In particular, we recognize our Symposium committee chairs:



DENISE FUNK
Brown and Caldwell,
Planning Committee
Co-Chair



KRISTAN VANDENHEUVEL
The Water Tower,
Planning Committee
Co-Chair



VIJAY SUNDARAM
AECOM,
Technical Program
Committee Chair



B. NARAYANAN
Carollo,
Awards for Excellence
Committee Chair

WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

The President's Awards recognize 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 President.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

CINDY WALLIS-LAGE

Cindy Wallis-Lage is honored for an illustrious career in which she developed countless water reuse facilities around the world and provided thought leadership on nutrient reduction and water reuse. Wallis-Lage has given generously of her time and expertise to lift up other water professionals, nurture the water reuse professional community, and provide wise leadership to the WateReuse Association and other professional associations. Cindy's passion for water reuse as a critical part of a community's water portfolio started in the late 1980s with the Mesa Northwest Water Reclamation Plant which implemented 100% discharge to percolation ponds to groundwater recharge. Her water reuse expertise grew with the delivery of numerous projects across the US as well as in Australia and Singapore.



KAREN PALLANSCH

Karen Pallansch has led an exceptional career of service and innovation on behalf of clean water. We celebrate Karen's leadership on the WateReuse Board of Directors and Executive Committee, her guidance in launching a new WateReuse Mid-Atlantic Section, and her forward-thinking embrace of water recycling at the helm of Alexandria Renew Enterprises, Alexandria, VA. Throughout her career, Karen has been a committed mentor and inspiration to many young professionals entering the water profession and continuously contributed her time to serve the clean water community as a board member for many local, state, and national associations. Karen continues this service as chairperson of ROCKBlue, a global nonprofit working to create a world where everyone in urban areas has access to clean water and basic sanitation.





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