



GREATER LAWRENCE SANITARY DISTRICT

Cheri R. Cousens P.E., *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cheri Cousens

Phone: 978-685-1612

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Greater Lawrence Sanitary District Earns 2020 Energy Management Achievement Award from New England Water Environment Association

District Recognized Two Years Running for Management Excellence

North Andover, MA – March 24, 2021 – With the steps it has taken to reduce overall energy use throughout its facility, and with its Organics to Energy operations now fully functioning, remarkably, GLSD produces enough power to more than meet its own electrical needs. In recognition of these achievements, GLSD has received yet another Management Achievement Award from the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA).

The NEWEA Energy Management Achievement Award, just announced but granted to GLSD for 2020, recognizes the accomplishments of an organization that demonstrates significant progress toward reducing the amount of energy (electricity, gas, oil, or other) used per unit of water treated. This award comes right on the heels of NEWEA's Biosolids Management Award, an award that GLSD received last year for having made significant accomplishments in development and utilization of biosolids technology.

“Professionals in the water industry work tirelessly, often without recognition, to protect, preserve, and manage New England's water environment and access to clean water,” said NEWEA Executive Director Mary Barry. “Also, as a volunteer association, so much of what we do depends on the involvement of our members and volunteers. This award gives us the opportunity to recognize all that GLSD has contributed to NEWEA and the New England water industry.”

GLSD's mission to reduce its energy demand was launched in 2007 when the District joined the Massachusetts Energy Management Pilot for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities. This program included collaboration between the Commonwealth and Federal agencies, and electric and gas utilities. It set to reduce the amount of energy that municipal facilities use in treating the water that flows through the plant by 20%, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and save money for the communities served.

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GLSD was able to accomplish these goals by:

- Improving air controls for an energy demanding process called aeration;
- Installing variable frequency drives for motors 25 hp and larger;
- Installing efficient dual fuel boilers that use biogas or natural gas for building heating;
- Replacing lighting with more efficient fixtures
- Adding solar panels to reduce reliance on the regional power grid

But even as GLSD has reduced its energy consumption overall, even more significant is the fact that the District now produces more energy than it uses, thanks to its organics to energy project completed at the end of 2019.

GLSD provides day-to-day power needs at its main facility using a renewable fuel source, biogas, produced within its anaerobic digesters during the processing of municipal biosolids and preprocessed organic food waste. Now that the facility is totally self-sufficient and no longer drawing from the grid overall, surplus energy is sent to the electrical grid and net-metered to offset energy costs at its remote pumping station.

“This took a real commitment – not only from GLSD staff but also - from our funding partners, and I couldn’t be prouder of what we have been able to accomplish. That we now produce enough energy onsite to eliminate what had been a \$3 million dollar annual energy bill we passed along to our member communities, is a testament to true partnership,” said GLSD Executive Director Cheri Cousens.

In October 2018, The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources estimated that this project alone would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an additional 20%. This is equivalent to taking more than 1000 cars off the road and recognizing fuel savings that would be equal to filling 70,000 cars every year.

The project was funded by MassDEP, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, Department of Energy Resources, National Grid, Clean Water Trust and the communities of Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Dracut, MA and Salem, NH.

NEWEA’s Awards Program annually presents awards honoring members for outstanding water industry work in a variety of categories, including safety, engineering, operations, public education, public relations, management, collection systems, laboratory expertise, and service to the organization, and recognizes awards given by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and EPA Region One.

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The Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD) is a municipal sewer district that operates a 52 million gallon per day wastewater treatment facility serving the cities of Lawrence and Methuen and the towns of Andover, North Andover and Dracut, MA and Salem, NH. For more details on the GLSD and its services, visit our website at GLSD.org