



PRESS RELEASE

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Water Utilities Commended for Transformational Activities

The forward-thinking initiatives of 43 water utilities are being recognized as they reimagine partnering and engagement, watershed stewardship, and recovery of resources such as water, energy, and nutrients.

The Utility of the Future Today recognition celebrates the achievements of water utilities that transform from the traditional wastewater treatment system to a resource recovery center and leader in the overall sustainability and resilience of the communities they serve.

Utility of the Future Today was launched in 2016 by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), the Water Environment Federation (WEF), The Water Research Foundation (WRF) and the WaterReuse Association, with input from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A total of 118 utilities have been recognized since the program started.

The Utility of the Future concept is being promoted as water systems around the world are transforming operations through innovation and technology. The 43 utilities recognized this year are recovering resources from wastewater, engaging in their community, forming unique partnerships, and building an internal culture of innovation.

"Each of the Utility of the Future Today honorees represent a transformational approach to utility management that results in a ripple effect of benefits," said WEF Executive Director Eileen O'Neill. "We are delighted to celebrate their impact and proud to recognize their leadership in water sector innovation."

These utilities are being recognized for the first time:

- Broward County Water and Wastewater Operations – North Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (Pompano Beach, Fla.)
- Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Martinez, Calif.)
- City of Dallas Water Utilities (Dallas, Texas)
- City of El Dorado Wetlands and Water Reclamation Facility (El Dorado, Kan.)
- City of Pompano Beach Utilities Department (Pompano Beach, Fla.)
- City of Rio Rancho Utilities (Rio Rancho, N.M.)
- **City of Wichita Falls (Wichita Falls, Texas)**
- Flagstaff Water Services (Flagstaff, Ariz.)
- Genesee County District # 3 Linden Water Resource Recovery Facility (Linden, Mich.)
- Greensboro Water Resources Department (Greensboro, N.C.)
- Orange County Water District (Fountain Valley, Calif.)

- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (Pittsburgh, Pa.)
- Watercare Services Limited (Auckland, New Zealand)

Honorees will be recognized during an awards ceremony at WEFTEC 2019 – WEF’s 92nd annual technical exhibition and conference – this September in Chicago.

To learn more, visit <https://www.wef.org/utility-of-the-future> or contact UtilityRecognition@wef.org.

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About WEF

The Water Environment Federation is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 35,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals, enrich the expertise of water professionals, increase the awareness of the impact and value of water, and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.

About NACWA

For nearly 50 years, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has been the nation’s recognized leader in legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy on the full spectrum of clean water issues. NACWA represents public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all sizes nationwide. Our unique and growing network strengthens the advocacy voice for all member utilities, and ensures they have the tools necessary to provide affordable and sustainable clean water for all. Our vision is to represent every utility as a NACWA member, helping to build a strong and sustainable clean water future. For more information, visit us at www.nacwa.org.

About WRF

The Water Research Foundation (WRF) is the world’s leading research organization advancing the science of all water to meet the evolving needs of its subscribers and the water sector. WRF is a nonprofit, educational organization that funds, manages, and publishes research on the technology, operation, and management of drinking water, wastewater, reuse, and stormwater systems—all in pursuit of protection of public health and the environment. WRF represents approximately 1,200 subscribers, hosts an online research library of more than 2,300 completed projects valued at \$700 million, manages an innovation platform (LIFT Link) with a database of more than 1,100 innovative technologies, and supports the world’s largest body of stormwater best practice data. Learn more at www.werf.org or www.waterrf.org.

About the WateReuse Association

The WateReuse Association is the nation’s only trade association solely dedicated to advancing laws, policy, funding, and public acceptance of recycled water. The WateReuse Association represents a coalition of utilities that recycle water, businesses that support the development of recycled water projects, and users of recycled water. Our members are incorporating water reuse into their water management strategies as a proven method for ensuring a safe, reliable, locally controlled water supply. To learn more, visit www.watereuse.org.

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