



# MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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## **MassDEP Announces Winners of 2018 Public Water System Awards**

*Awards Ceremony Held as Part of 'National Drinking Water Week'*

BOSTON – In recognition of National Drinking Water Week, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) today announced the 71 recipients of the annual Public Water Systems Award during a ceremony at the Massachusetts State House. Each year, MassDEP honors the state's many dedicated drinking water professionals, while acknowledging certain noteworthy accomplishments that involve excellent water service to the public.

“The Commonwealth requires our water systems to deliver safe, clean drinking water, and each of the 776 systems has answered the call with exemplary service again and again,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “The Baker-Polito Administration is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of this year's select group of drinking water professionals whose accomplishments in this field rises above the already demanding work and earned this special merit.”

“Massachusetts residents and businesses are fortunate to have so many outstanding public water systems that combine to perform a vital essential service,” **said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg**. “There are many great public water systems that submit the proper reports and important test results in a timely way. But we have determined that these systems deserve special recognition and commendation today for their excellent service to the public.”

May 6-12, 2018 is “National Drinking Water Week,” a time to recognize the importance of source-water protection, water quality and conservation, as well as the value, importance and fragility of the Commonwealth's water resources. MassDEP works with drinking water utilities to make sure that the water delivered to consumers meets all federal and state standards and is clean and abundant. The tasks facing public water systems continue to be extremely challenging. The drinking water infrastructure in many communities is aging and presents daunting resource demands. The nation continues to be challenged by new and emerging drinking water contaminants associated with an industrial society.

The following 58 public water systems in the four different categories of non-transient, non-community, small community, consecutive, and medium and large community water systems all have excellent compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations. Not only do they have complete compliance with regulations for calendar year 2017, they also have had no violations in the past five years. These systems have gone beyond compliance by testing for



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secondary contaminants and by having adequate capacity. Systems that have won for three consecutive years are not eligible, but are issued a letter of commendation.

**Non-transient Non-community Systems** are non-residential water systems that serve at least 25 persons over six months or more, such as schools, factories, and office buildings from their own private wells:

**Belchertown** – PMDM Realty, LLC  
**Berlin** – Berlin Memorial School  
**Carlisle** – Assurance Technology Corp.  
**Carlisle** – Wee Forest Folk  
**Chesterfield** – New Hingham Regional Elementary School  
**Eastham** – Capeabilities  
**Freetown/Lakeville** – Freetown/Lakeville Regional School District  
**Hampden** – 2 Allen Street Professional Building  
**Mendon** – Mendon Town Hall/Police Station  
**Plymouth** – The New Testament Church  
**Plympton** – Sysco Boston, LLC  
**Sherborn** – Pine Hill Elementary School  
**Uxbridge** – BJ's Wholesale Distribution Center  
**Wellfleet** – Drummer Boy Condominiums  
**Westhampton** – Westhampton Elementary School

**Small Community Systems** serve residential communities with a population of 3,300 or less:

**Berlin** – Northbrook Village II  
**Carver** – Pine Ridge Condo at Sampson's Pond  
**Carver** – Pintree Village  
**Hampden** – Wingate at Hampden  
**Mashpee** – Beechwood Point Condos  
**Sherborn** – Woodhaven Elderly Housing Committee  
**Wrentham** – Mount St. Mary's Abbey

**Consecutive Systems** serve residential communities that receive some or all of its water from one or more wholesale public water systems:

**Beverly** – Beverly Water Department  
**Boston** – Boston Water and Sewer Commission (MWRA)  
**Dover** – Meadowbrook Water Trust  
**Framingham** – Framingham Water Department (MWRA)  
**Mattapoisett** – Mattapoisett River Valley Water District





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**Reading** – Reading Water Department (MWRA)  
**Salisbury** – Rings Island Water District  
**Swampscott** – Swampscott Water Department (MWRA)  
**Watertown** – Watertown Water Department (MWRA)  
**Weston** – Weston Water Department  
**Weymouth** – Southfield Redevelopment Authority

**Medium and Large Community Systems** serve residential communities with a population of 3,301 to 49,999 (for Medium) and more than 50,000 (for Large):

**Andover** – Andover Water Department  
**Ashburnham/Winchendon** – Ashburnham/Winchendon Joint Water System  
**Dighton** – Inima USA/Acuaria Water  
**Easton** – Easton Water Division  
**Fairhaven** – Fairhaven Water Department  
**Hingham/Hull** – Aquarian Water Company  
**Lynn** – Lynn Water and Sewer Commission  
**Mashpee** – Mashpee Water District  
**Newburyport** – Newburyport Water Department  
**Raynham** – North Raynham Water District  
**Orleans** – Orleans Water Department  
**Plymouth** – Pinehills Water Company, Inc.  
**Randolph/Holbrook** – Randolph/Holbrook Water Board  
**Salem/Beverly** – Salem and Beverly Water Supply board  
**Sandwich** – Sandwich Water District  
**Sandwich** – Upper Cape Regional Water Cooperative  
**Seekonk** – Seekonk Water District  
**Sharon** – Sharon Water Department  
**Southbridge** – Southbridge Water Department

The **Beyond Compliance** category recognizes the following six systems for their continued effort in having been an awards recipient for the past three years:

**Belmont** – Belmont Water Department (MWRA)  
**Boston** – The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)  
**Boxborough** – Applewood Community Corporation  
**Brookline** – Brookline Water and Sewer Division (MWRA)  
**Dedham/Westwood** – Dedham/Westwood Water District  
**Harwich** – Harwich Water Department



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The following 13 water systems or water professionals were also honored today:

## Regional Recognition

- **Billerica Water Works**

Billerica does a consistently good job with corrosion control. The result is the average 90th percentile lead level for the past 17 years has been 2 ppb. Billerica has also done extensive lead in schools testing over a number of years along with associated follow-up actions.

- **Hyannis Water System, Barnstable**

The Hyannis system is recognized for implementing a long-term plan to improve its water supply system, for changing plans to react to emerging contaminants such as 1,4 dioxane and perfluorinated compounds, as well as planning, financing and constructing corrective measures. The town made significant improvements to the sources, treatment, distribution, storage, and operations of the Hyannis Water System.

- **Shelburne Fall Fire District**

The SFFD prepared for and completed succession of the primary/secondary operators over a period of years and is making system improvements this coming year.

- **West Groton Water Supply District**

The 2017 sanitary survey confirmed that the system is very well run. The treatment plants are exceptionally clean and well-maintained. The District has a comprehensive valve exercise and maintenance program, and the system is in the process of replacing the original well field with a new well field and water treatment plant.

## Energy Conservation

- **Walpole Water Department**

As part of a comprehensive hydraulic and electrical performance assessment through Eversource, Walpole optimized four drinking water booster pumping stations; five centrifugal pumping systems were maximized for operating efficiency; and two pumping systems were retrofitted with new variable speed drives, pumps and motors. In total, Walpole is saving more than \$16,000 per year and reducing its annual electrical usage by over 116,000 kilowatt hours.

## Water Conservation

- The Water Conservation Award is given to those systems that achieved the following: met the average of 65 RGPCD (residential gallons per capita daily) and 10 percent unaccounted for water usage (UAW) standard; implemented at a minimum mandatory





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water-use restrictions in 2017; provided a web site showing conservation-related information; and, while not required, all three used less water in 2016 than 2015.

- **Danvers Water Department**
- **Franklin Water Department**
- **Sharon Water Department**

## STAR L Awards

- The Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead (STAR L) Award is given to systems that take action to reduce lead in school drinking water and do so with extremely encouraging results. The award is given to both the water supply system and the school district.
  - **Boston Water and Sewer Commission** and the **Boston Public School District**
  - **MWRA** - for their cooperation in testing the schools' lead samples at no charge to the schools
  - **Reading Water Department** and the **Reading School District**

## Distinguished Operators

- **Erik Mysliwy** (Reading Water Department)  
In addition to being Reading's Water Quality Supply & Safety Coordinator, Erik Mysliwy has stewarded multiple award-winning programs for water testing and quality, system performance, and safety. He makes sure the water, facilities, and school departments talk with town management to promote water quality within the town. He also partners with MassDEP and others to develop and conduct trainings on timely issues, and takes an active role in discussing issues with MassDEP that may impact operators across the water supply field.
- **Peter Thayer** (Springfield Water and Sewer Commission)  
Peter Thayer is instrumental in working with consultants to troubleshoot and improve redundant tasks; has worked to optimize filter performance through observation and analysis of the filter backwash process; has worked many hours of overtime covering each of the three round-the-clock shifts, whenever called on; and, he's been involved in reviewing capital improvement projects that affect the treatment process, and making observations and suggestions to improve designs.



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Sponsors for this year's awards event include: Barnstable County Water Utilities Association, Mass. Rural Water Association, MassDEP, Massachusetts Water Works Association, New England Water Works Association, Middlesex/Worcester County Water Works Association, Plymouth County Water Works Association, RCAP Solutions, and Western Massachusetts Waterworks Association.

More information on drinking water in the Commonwealth can be found [here](#).

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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