

## Sustainability Update is a Plan for All Seasons

On April 21, the day before Earth Day, Mayor Bloomberg found a fitting location to announce the four-year update to *PlaNYC: A Greater, Greener New York*, the city's long-term sustainability blueprint. The Mayor was joined by a number of agency commissioners, including Commissioner Holloway, to unveil it inside Harlem's Gatehouse, an original part of DEP's Croton Watershed supply network that was built in 1890.

The original far-reaching plan, launched on Earth Day 2007, contained 127 initiatives in 10 broad areas including energy, air quality, solid waste, and climate change. Over 97% of those *PlaNYC* initiatives began within one year of its release and almost two-thirds of the 2009 milestones have been achieved or mostly achieved. Of particular note, the city has al-



ready reduced greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels.

The *PlaNYC* update builds upon those successes. Since last year's Earth Day, the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability has worked with city agencies and convened 48 public meetings with more than 220 groups, resulting in nearly 1,000 ideas and suggestions. Of the 132 new initiatives, DEP-led ones are substantial, particularly in the areas of water infrastructure, energy, and air quality.

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## Spotlight on Safety

### These DEP Employees Put Safety First

Most employees have seen the EHS Matters Case Studies by now. These studies, which are issued periodically to highlight EHS incidents, scenarios, and innovations at DEP, are intended to provide a constructive way in which we can learn from each other. Recently, BWSO has been phasing in a new EHS Matters program geared toward recognizing employees' specific contributions to the program, whether it be a new safety innovation, an astute observation or quick thinking on the part of an employee which prevents a potentially unsafe or environmentally harmful condi-

tion. We are pleased to announce the first BWSO employees to be receive the EHS Matters Employee Award for their creative design and fabrication of emergency incident command tables for use by field and distribution operations during emergencies, such as water main breaks or a street collapse. The employees being recognized are all part of BWSO's Distribution Operations-Shaft Maintenance:

**George Yacca, Louis Grosso, Nicholas Paci, Steven Cummings, Vasilios Roumbeas, William Satterfield.**

Keep up the great work!

## Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

**David Bragdon**, Director of the Mayor's Office of Long-term Planning & Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

Our city is proof that investing in our future and maintaining our infrastructure is an imperative, not a luxury. Throughout New York City's history, bold municipal leadership and an inventive citizenry have been willing to make the investments which enabled the city to grow. In the 19th century, the ambitious engineering and construction of the Croton drinking water supply system was one of the wonders of its time, making it possible for millions of people to live in the city while enjoying the pure spring water of the upstate countryside. Similarly, the construction of sanitary sewers contributed to our city's economic growth and quality of life, sharply reducing the spread of infectious diseases which had long harmed urban areas. Those pipes, like the other public assets like bridges, subways, streets, parks and the electric grid, are essential to our current quality of life and future economic growth, even if we sometimes take them for granted.

Updating our infrastructure is one of the reasons we produce *PlaNYC*, Mayor Bloomberg's agenda to create a greener, greater New York. With a growing population, climbing energy prices, and the need to minimize our contributions to climate change and simultaneously prepare for its impact on our coast, the Mayor recognized we needed *PlaNYC* to guide our investments. That's why he launched *PlaNYC* in 2007 and updated it last week, propelling us along the course to a greener, greater city. The goals of *PlaNYC* are bold and visionary: for example, that one day all New Yorkers will live within a 10-minute walk of a park, that we will divert 75% of our waste from landfills, that we will clean up all contaminated brownfields in the city, and that we will reduce our contributions



to greenhouse gases by more than 30%. Even while recognizing that a 20 year plan doesn't get finished overnight, we've already seen some great examples of progress in *PlaNYC*'s first four years: public plazas which have improved air quality and reduced pedestrian-auto injuries and accidents, a progressive new building code which will create more energy efficiency in the city's largest buildings, nearly 200 under-used schoolyards converted to active playgrounds, nearly half a million trees planted—and, sure enough, unprecedented modernization of that famous Croton water system we inherited from our forbearers.

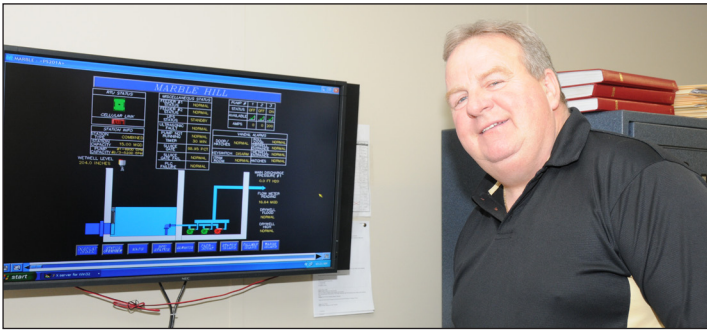
Commissioner Holloway and his team at the Department of Environmental Protection have been in the vanguard of making the plan come to life. For example, they've already taken green infrastructure from a concept in the 2007 version of *PlaNYC* into reality now in 2011. Turning stormwater from a liability we have to spend a lot of money to get rid of into an asset that can do double- or triple-duty in greening neighborhoods and providing more vegetation in our urban environment is a great example of innovation that can improve quality of life while also potentially saving the ratepayers' money as well.

The *PlaNYC* update Mayor Bloomberg announced last week will continue our progress to becoming a greener and greater city.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city.

CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

## Focus on the Field



**Kevin Buckley** has been with the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment since 1984, and is currently a senior stationary engineer (electric). Kevin supervises the bureau's Collections Facilities North, which operates and maintains wastewater pumping stations, relief regulators, and the interceptors for the northern half of the city including the Bronx, Manhattan and North Queens. Kevin dispatches crews to make sure that things are operating smoothly in anticipation of peak flows, which can occur starting in the late morning and end around 9:00 pm depending upon the characteristics of the drainage area, and he responds to conditions that need corrective maintenance.

Kevin says, "We protect receiving waters, and if raw sewage is not getting to the Tallman Island Wastewater Treatment Plant during dry weather, that is where we come in." His staff is called in to assist, almost like being the first responders of the bureau,

observes Kevin. "When there is a problem, it is like a box of chocolates, as Forest Gump would say, you just never know what you are going to find inside."

Kevin also manages the Flushing Bay Combined Sewer Overflow Facility, which stores 28 million gallons in its retention tanks and holds 12 million gallons through its in-line storage. During a storm, sanitary sewage and stormwater that cannot be handled by the Tallman Island Plant is held—rather than overflowing into the receiving waters—until the storm subsides and the plant can treat it.

Kevin also reviews the computerized telemetry readings for the remote locations to ensure that flows are being conveyed properly—to maximize the amount of wet weather flows that are treated and to reduce combined sewer overflows. In his spare time, Kevin spends time with his wife and three children and enjoys travel, playing golf and fishing.

## Kudos Corner



**PROJECT LAUDED:** DEP's SHARON (Single Reactor System for High Ammonia Removal Over Nitrate) facility project at the Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant was the recipient of the Grand Award in the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) 2011 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition. The SHARON process is a new technology to remove nitrogen from sewage. The competition recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate a high degree of innovation, achievement, and value. Thanks to **Allen Deur, Keith Beckmann** and their team in the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment for the hard work and analysis that went into the construction of this facility.

## Kodak Moment



**A PAWS FOR REFRESHMENT:** New Yorkers from all walks of life, including those with four legs, enjoyed NYC Water at the Earth Day NY celebration at Grand Central on April 22.

(Sustainability Update is a Plan for All Seasons... continued)

"The original *PlaNYC* laid out a path-breaking vision to promote economic growth in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly way," said Commissioner Holloway. "The 2011 update re-affirms that commitment and, with bold initiatives like green infrastructure and solar panel installations on closed city landfills, seeks to make sustainability part of the City's DNA. DEP has a major role to play in making *PlaNYC* a success, and I know we are up to the challenge."

A major component of the plan involves the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan, which relies on new green infrastructure technology that reduces rainwater runoff and avoids overloading wastewater treatment plants, while investing in wastewater system upgrades to further decrease sewage overflows into the local waterways. The city is also pursuing public private partnerships so that solar energy may be harnessed by placing solar power panels at decommissioned landfills, including those at Fresh Kills and Fountain

Avenue. They would generate more than 50 megawatts of clean solar power and replace oil-burning generators that discharge 56,000 tons of carbon dioxide into our air every year.

Another initiative, called Clean Heat, will phase out Nos. 4 and 6 heating oils. According to the Mayor, these heating oils "produces more soot pollution every year ... than all cars and trucks in New York City combined." The new rules announced by the Mayor will completely phase out No. 6 heating oil by 2015 and No. 4 heating oil by 2030.

Other non-DEP elements of the plan include 4,700 acres of additional parkland and public spaces being created and upgraded by 2030—the size of six Central Parks. And to get the public better involved, social media will enable community residents to participate in neighborhood improvement efforts by linking to tools, resources, and fellow neighbors using a new web-based tool, Change by Us.

## Press Box

"It has reframed the debate about New York's future. It has integrated discussions of economic growth with discussions of environmental protection and enhancement." – Columbia University's Earth Institute Executive Director Steve Cohen on the impact of *PlaNYC* and New York City's sustainability initiatives

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at:**  
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