



2026 National Environmental Achievement Award Honorees

The National Environmental Achievement Awards recognize individuals and NACWA member agencies that have made outstanding contributions to environmental protection and the clean water community.

Individual NEAA Awards

ENVIRONMENT AWARD

- **Deborah Nagle**, Former Director, Office of Science and Technology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DC

UTILITY LEADERSHIP

- **Luther Blackburn**, Executive Director, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, MI

Member Agency NEAA Awards

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- City of Dayton Department of Water, OH
Urban Agriculture Grant Program
- City of Garland Water Utilities, TX
Recycled Water Program
- Detroit Water & Sewerage Department, MI
Green Stormwater Management Program
- Hampton Roads Sanitation District, VA
Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Community Commitment Program
- Mount Pleasant Waterworks, SC
Advancing Public Health and Environmental Protection: South Carolina's First Comprehensive Utility-Led Septic Management Initiative
- Orange County Sanitation District, CA
OC San Headquarters

OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

- Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, NM
SWRP Outfall Restoration Project
- Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, PA
North End Plant Expansion: ALCOSAN's New Outfall
- Hampton Roads Sanitation District, VA
Automating Regulatory Monitoring of Residual Chlorine: Improving Operational Efficiency and Public Health Protection
- Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority, AR
Sewer Service Line Replacement Program
- Sacramento Area Sewer District, CA
Septic to Sewer Projects

PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION: E-MEDIA

- Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District, KY
Flood Impact to Wastewater System Public Information Project
- Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, MO
IT's a Sewer
- Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, OR
City of Springfield, OR
One Water Video & Digital Campaign
- Prince William Water, VA
PrinceWilliamWater.org: Website Redesign and Migration



2026 National Environmental Achievement Award Honorees (continued)

PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, VA
Let It Flow! Arlington's Art-Driven Outreach
- Henrico County Department of Public Utilities, VA
Keep Henrico Beautiful
- Johnson County Wastewater, KS
Fats, Oils, & Grease Program
- Knoxville Utilities Board, TN
Water Education and Outreach
- Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority, AR
JoJo the Water Hero
- Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, WI
DRIIPS Communications Toolkit
- Orange County Sanitation District, CA
Wastewater 101 Citizens Academy
- Toho Water Authority, FL
Toho 101

PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION: VIDEO

- Hampton Roads Sanitation District, VA
Water Cycle Video: Water from Source to Sanitation
- Metro Water Recovery, CO
How We Treat Wastewater: Children's Video
- Union Sanitary District, CA
Transforming Public Understanding: A Collection Services Educational Video Initiative

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Henrico County Department of Public Utilities, VA
PFAS Private Well Sampling Program

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

- Atlantic County Utilities Authority, NJ
Artificial Root Filter
- Columbus Water & Power, OH
Fugitive Methane Study
- Hampton Roads Sanitation District, VA
Next-Gen Nitrogen Removal at a Full-Scale WRRF: Leveraging AI for Ammonia-Based Aeration Control (ABAC)
- Muscatine Water & Resource Recovery Facility, IA
Muscatine Organics Recycling Center

WATERSHED COLLABORATION

- City of Cedar Rapids, IA
Utilities Watershed Program
- Northern Moraine Wastewater Reclamation District, IL
Advancing Nutrient Trading within the Circular Water Economy

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- City & County of Honolulu, HI
ENV Training Development and Retention (TDR) Program
- Clean Water Services, OR
Operator & Plant Technician Training
- Gulf Coast Authority, TX
Executive & Emerging Leaders Program
- Hampton Roads Sanitation District, VA
Career Pathway Program
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance, WA
Culture of Excellence Workforce Development Program
- Renewable Water Resources, SC
Experience ReWa/Wes Wessinger