

FLORIDA BEACON

**Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals**

Fall 2013



From the President's Desk Kristin Bennett

Congratulations and THANK YOU to the Central Florida Chapter of the FAEP that hosted a very successful 2013 FAEP Annual Conference. Please take the time to thank the conference committee and the sponsors, speakers, and moderators for their efforts and generosity.

The conference combined training, education, and networking opportunities reflective of the wide ranging diversity of its members. From the CEP Training Course to the KeyNote Speakers and the breakout sessions, every facet of environmental practice was represented. As with all FAEP and FAEP chapter events, the conference provided an outstanding opportunity to interact with professionals from different disciplines and backgrounds.

Approximately two hundred people attended the conference with many participating in the Certified Environmental Professionals (CEP) workshop and twenty-eight participating in the golf tournament. Congratulations to Jeff Peters (ECT), Gordon Kirkland (FECC), Dave Gushleff (FECC), and Bruce Hodgson (Inland Building Systems) for their success on the golf course.

The CEP program provides eligible environmental professionals who possess special qualifications of education, experience, and accomplishment with the opportunity to be evaluated by a board of peers, and if they qualify, to be recognized for their accomplishments. If you missed the workshop, please contact Jim Yawn (jim.yawn@disney.com) or Don Deis (don.deis@atkinsglobal.com) for more information.

Continued on page 2



NAEP Annual Conference!!!

**April 7 - 10, 2014
St. Petersburg, Florida
Online Registration is Now Available
Click on this link**

<https://naep.memberclicks.net/2014-conference>

FAEP 2013

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a member of FAEP?
Click on [Renew-Join Here](#)**

President's Message Continued...

Collaborative Efforts: FAEP and the Florida Local Environmental Resources Agencies

Recently, an email was sent to the FAEP membership about an opportunity for FAEP members to join Florida Local Environmental Resources Agencies (FLERA) action teams. Many people contacted FLERA to take advantage of this opportunity to provide FLERA information based upon their professional experience and background as environmental professionals. The FAEP mission is to provide training, information, and networking opportunities. FAEP generally does not take positions on legislative and political matters. The collaboration with FLERA provides FAEP members the opportunity to have a voice in pending and proposed environmental matters including legislative matters. Members who choose to participate would not be representing the FAEP nor speaking on behalf of the FAEP. Rather, you would be lending your voice and expertise as an environmental professional.

It is not too late to get involved! If you are interested in a FLERA Action Team, please contact the FLERA Executive Director, Tony D'Aquila at flera@tampabay.rr.com, or by FAX to (813) 354-2324, or by mail to: FLERA, 5020 Bayshore Boulevard, Suite 202, Tampa, FL 33611. Mr. D'Aquila will forward your information to the appropriate FLERA committee chair. Interested FAEP members would provide their name and contact information directly to FLERA for the relevant FLERA Committee. Adhering to FAEP policy, FAEP will NOT release or provide FAEP membership data to third parties.

NAEP 2014 Annual Conference

The FAEP is proud to host the NAEP 2014 Annual Conference in St. Petersburg April 7-10, 2014. Many FAEP members are on the 2014 planning committee and all are working hard to ensure the 2014 conference will be one of the most successful conferences ever! Bruce Hasbrouck, Faller Davis & Associates, is the conference chair and he has assembled a dedicated and hard working group that is working on reviewing abstracts, recruiting track chairs, scheduling sessions and workshops and arranging for several social and networking outings including a dinner at the Salvador Dali Museum. If you are not an NAEP member, as an FAEP member you are eligible to receive a 10% discount off of the NAEP non-member price (a \$60 discount). You can register on-line at www.naep.org/2014-conference.

Kristin Bennett
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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
Florida Brownfields Association Conference	Oct. 27 - 30, 2013	Palm Beach, Florida
Water, Food, Energy, and Innovation for a Sustainable World	Nov. 3 - 6, 2013	Tampa, Florida
FAMU College of Law Environmental Law & Justice Symposium	Nov. 7 - 8, 2013	Orlando, Florida
The National Ground Water Association Expo	Dec. 3 - 6, 2013	Nashville, Tennessee
Public Interest Environmental Conference	Feb. 20-22, 2014	Gainesville, Florida
2014 FWRC Conference	Apr. 6 - 10, 2014	Orlando, Florida
39th Annual NAEP National Conference	Apr. 7 - 10, 2014	St. Petersburg, Florida
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts	May 21 - 23, 2014	Clearwater, Florida
Annual Environmental Permitting School	July 22, - 25, 2014	Marco Island

FAEP shares information about conferences pertaining to the environmental professions. The FAEP does not endorse any of the referenced conferences.

Portland Loo Solves the Problem of Public Toilets

The city built a solar-powered, not-so-private restroom that deters illegal activity.

Public bathrooms are often a source of frustration for city officials because they're difficult to keep clean, are targets for graffiti, and can play host to illegal activities. To address these concerns, Portland, Ore., designed a restroom facility that looks the size of just two stalls, is made of prison-grade steel that's nearly impossible to tag with graffiti, and has walls with narrow openings to deter activities one might not want seen from occurring, reports the *Los Angeles Times*. The so-called Portland Loo only has one faucet, and it's located on the outside of the unit to discourage loitering. On top of all that, it's powered by solar energy. The Loo costs \$60,000 to install and just over \$1,000 to maintain each month. After the first unit was installed in 2008, five more units have been added throughout the city -- most of which are along sidewalks and easily spotted by the public eye.

To finance further units, Portland is exploring selling them to other cities that have expressed interest like San Diego, Houston, Baltimore and Seattle.



Six of the seven Loos in Portland are solar-powered.



The Portland Loo, a public restroom about twice the size of a parking space, is popular with the citizens of the Oregon City. Other cities have purchased their own or are thinking about it.



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FAEP Conference Summary

The 2013 FAEP Conference combined training, education and networking opportunities to appreciate the wide ranging diversity of its members. From the CEP Training Course to the Key Note Speakers and the breakout sessions, every facet of environmental practice was represented. This year's Conference was a great opportunity to interact with professionals from different disciplines and backgrounds.

Four posters were entered into the poster competition. After two days of voting, the winner was selected:

Title: *Removal of Geosmin and MIB from Aqueous Systems using Advanced Oxidation Processes*

Authors: S. Petit, L. Rodriguez, J. Lara-Viera, W. Zhao, J. Michaels, S. Ergas, J. Kuhn, and N. Alcantar.

Thank you to everyone who participated.



FAEP and The Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals joined together to provide a training course for qualified applicants interested in becoming Certified Environmental Professionals (CEP). The CEP program provides eligible environmental professionals who possess special qualifications of education, experience, and accomplishment with the opportunity to be evaluated by a board of peers, and if they qualify, to be recognized for their accomplishments. If you missed the workshop, please contact Jim Yawn (jim.yawn@disney.com) or Don Deis

(don.deis@arkiinsglobal.com) for more information.

To close out the 2013 FAEP Conference, 28 people participated in a golf scramble at the Grande Pines Golf Club. All had a great time especially the following winners with a low score of 60! Congratulations to Jeff Peters (ECT), Gordon Kirkland (FECC), Dave Gushleff (FECC), and Bruce Hodgson (Inland Building Systems).

Thank you again to the sponsors, speakers, moderators, and conference committee for making this conference so successful. Without their support, this conference would not have been possible.



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DEP Secretary Vinyard Celebrates Florida State Parks System's Third Gold Medal Florida Becomes the Only State to Win Three Times

Florida Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. Joined Florida Park Service Director Donald Forgione to celebrate Florida State Park's third National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in the management of state park systems on October 14th at Lake Louisa State Park.

"The fact that the Florida Park Service has won this prestigious national award three times, while no other state has ever won twice shows the dedication of our employees and volunteers to manage the resources that provide vast opportunities for Floridians and visitors to enjoy our natural resources." said Secretary Vinyard. "More than 25 million people visit these award-winning state parks each year, and we are proud to continue to show how special Florida is to all those who visit."

Secretary Vinyard, Representative Bryan Nelson, and Florida Parks Director Donald Forgione spoke to nearly 50 people, including school children, Clermont leadership, parks friends groups, and visitors about the importance of Florida State Parks to the community and congratulated park staff for their continuous hard work.

"State Parks are a great way for families to connect with the outdoors," said Representative Nelson. "We always loved our state parks, we just never knew how really great they are."

The award was presented last week during the National Recreation and Park Association's Annual Congress and Exposition in Houston. The Association, in partnership with the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, presents the award to communities that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and administering a complex system of state parks. Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet recognized the Florida Park Service last week at their meeting.

"I am honored that Florida State Parks is the winner of our third National Gold Medal," said Director Forgione. "Our staff members, citizen support organizations, volunteers and concessionaires work hard every day to welcome visitors to enjoy our natural and cultural resources."

Since 1935, Florida's Park Service has been working to provide recreational activities for the community, while preserving, protecting, interpreting, and restoring our natural resources in the area.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, parks experienced a record-breaking number of visitors. During this time period, 25,575,794 people visited Florida's parks. This resulted in a 592,615 increase from the previous year. Increasing access to these state parks has been one of Secretary Vinyard's top priorities.

This achievement makes Florida the only system in the nation to win a third Gold Medal award. In fact, no other system has ever won two Gold Medal awards and systems are not allowed to apply for the award within five years of receiving a Gold Medal. Considerations for this award were based on the agency's ability to address the needs of those it serves through collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

For more information on the Gold Medals, visit www.nrpa.org/awards.

DEP Press Release October 14, 2013

How Edmonton is Finding Value in Its Waste Stream

By reusing, recycling, or composting everything possible, the Canadian city of Edmonton is on its way to reaching the seemingly impossible goal of diverting 90 percent of trash from landfills.

A growing volume of waste has long been viewed as a natural consequence of industrializing society. Unfortunately, we also have grown accustomed to disposing of most of what touches our lives, resulting in the challenge of managing vast quantities of municipal waste.

Edmonton, Alberta, facing the familiar problem of dwindling landfill capacity, has set what many might consider an impossible goal: diverting 90 percent of its waste from its landfills. As much of a stretch as that might seem, Edmonton already had a diversion rate of 60 percent, thanks in large part to a major composting facility completed in 2001 -- an already enviable figure in a province with an average residential waste-diversion rate of 29 percent.

But to get to 90 percent, Edmonton's leaders knew that they would need to go beyond traditional approaches. So the city's leaders looked for and found value in Edmonton's waste stream. Edmonton, they decided, needed to stop wasting its waste.

They started by getting input from residents over a period of many months. "We did not dictate to residents," said Roy Neehall, general manager of Waste RE-Solutions Edmonton, a city-owned corporation. "We listened, educated, listened." What the city found, Neehall said, is that its residents were "way ahead of politicians and administrators" on this issue.

It became clear that the city needed to pursue a holistic, integrated approach, one that viewed waste in the social context of the community. To divert usable items from the waste stream, for example, the city established a Reuse Centre where residents can drop off items such as office and school supplies that aren't typically accepted by charities. The Reuse Centre is staffed mostly by volunteers from the community. The city also set up a nonprofit organization to provide entry-level waste-management positions to the disadvantaged.

Of particular importance is keeping hazardous materials out of sewers and drains, so residents are asked to bring such items as leftover paint and household chemicals to recycling drop-off points called Eco Stations. (When needed, the city will collect hazardous materials from the homes of disabled residents.) The city's composting facility handles such items as used wallboard, adding its gypsum to its compost processes.

For all of that, getting to the 90 percent diversion level entailed investigating waste-to-energy technology to address material that can't be reused, recycled, or composted. City leaders knew from their public-outreach efforts that citizens didn't want incineration, so they looked for another approach.

After an international search, they contracted with a Montreal firm for technology that uses waste as a feedstock to produce a synthetic gas that can be converted to methanol or ethanol. Once the new biofuels facility becomes fully operational in 2015, the city expects to have attained its goal of a 90 percent diversion rate.

Where does Edmonton go from here? The city has committed itself to continual improvement, fostering that by establishing the not-for-profit Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence and the Edmonton Advanced Energy Research Facility, which is jointly funded with the province.

And the city hopes to make its experience available to others, marketing its waste-management expertise via Waste RE-Solutions Edmonton, the city-owned corporation. I'd say Edmonton's leaders have earned the right to talk trash to the rest of the world.



Edmonton, Alberta, already diverts 60 percent of its waste from landfills but it's seeking to up that to 90 percent.

Bob Graves, Senior Fellow, *Governing* magazine

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MORE TRASH TALK!

Bakersfield's Creative Solution for Trash-Littered Freeways

"I don't get no respect." The old Rodney Dangerfield lament is one you hear all the time from people, whether in government, industry, or the nonprofit world, who operate the infrastructure that provides water and energy and hauls away the trash. What frustrates these providers is the invisible role that they typically play in their communities -- that is, until there's a problem.

Some communities regularly deserve (and garner) recognition for their creative and sustainable water, energy, and waste-management services. In California, San Francisco is one such city. Santa Monica is another. Often the difference comes down to resources -- having the money to build the infrastructure, keep it maintained, and provide reliable service at a reasonable cost.

So it might seem surprising when a city like Bakersfield, in the heart of California's Central Valley and with fewer economic resources than San Francisco or Santa Monica, joins the group. Bakersfield's public-works department did so by creatively engaging the local community to find a sustainable solution to a growing roadside-litter problem.

As so often happens, it all started with a policy change at another level of government. Freeway upkeep falls under the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans). But the state's ongoing prison-realignment effort resulted in a loss of local inmate labor to hire to pick up trash on the roads. As litter accumulated along Bakersfield's freeways, residents found themselves driving through a growing eyesore.

Though not Bakersfield's responsibility, it still was a visible waste problem that the city would have to address. "Bakersfield was getting a bad name, and it wasn't under our control," says Sal Moretti, Bakersfield's Solid Waste Division superintendent.

Moretti started looking for solutions and hit on a novel idea: hiring clients of local nonprofit homeless centers to clean up the freeways. CalTrans agreed to come up with some of the money to pay the homeless-center clients, as long as the labor costs wouldn't be higher than they were for inmates.

Not only are the freeways being cleaned again, but a sense of hopelessness among Bakersfield's homeless is being addressed. And local businesses really liked that the homeless were working to get back on their feet. Several stepped forward and offered to support the project. So arrangements are now in place for companies to sponsor a mile of freeway for \$6,700 a year, and the project is moving toward a self-sustaining model.

Bob Graves, Senior Fellow, *Governing* magazine

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AMERICA'S WASTING TRASH-TO-ENERGY POTENTIAL, SUPPORTERS SAY

The folks at Covanta Energy's plant in Alexandria, Va., like to remind you that America isn't going to run out of trash any time soon. Judging by the unfathomable piles of rubbish being sorted by a three-story-tall crane run by Covanta employees on a summer afternoon, they're probably right.

So Covanta and other companies like it are giving trash a new destiny: Instead of letting it spend decades slowly decaying in a landfill, they're turning it into electricity for nearby communities. By processing nearly 1,000 tons of solid waste in 24 hours, the Alexandria plant provides enough renewable energy to power 23,000 homes each day.

Energy recovery isn't necessarily new -- Covanta's Alexandria plant is one of the company's 40 in the United States and opened in 1988; there are 87 total waste-to-energy plants -- but its advocates still argue that it's underutilized. About 12 percent of U.S. waste is converted to energy through a chemical combustion process like the one on display inside the Covanta plant. By comparison, Germany converts 38 percent of its waste into energy and recycles the remaining 62 percent. Fifty-five percent of Americans' waste gets dumped in landfills, compared to less than 1 percent of Germans' waste.

So why hasn't energy recovery become a staple of America's renewable energy portfolio, as it has elsewhere? After all, it's earned the endorsement of groups like the American Chemistry Council and the Center for American Progress (CAP). Researchers at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that burning waste for energy, as the Alexandria plant does, is better for the environment and produces more power than burying it in a landfill and then attempting to extract energy later. And according to CAP, every ton of waste converted to energy offsets approximately one ton of greenhouse gas emissions.

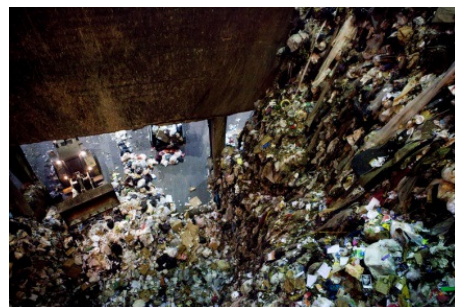
Advocates blame the negative connotation much of the public has with trash incineration, the deep pockets of the landfill lobby, and the vocal coalition that argues America's goal should be eliminating waste altogether -- not turning it into a business.

Energy-recovery proponents, though, point out that while a zero-waste society is a noble goal, it's not achievable for the foreseeable future. So in the meantime, they say, there are some things that state and local policymakers can do to make energy recovery more feasible.

The simplest and first step is investing. The Alexandria plant is jointly owned by the surrounding city and the county, as are many of Covanta's other facilities across the country.

Then there's the issue of regulations and incentives. According to EPA researchers, only 19 states consider energy converted from waste to be a renewable energy source, even though 30 states count landfill gases converted to power as renewable energy. Redefining energy recovery as a renewable energy source is an important step toward its widespread acceptance, advocates say.

On top of that, according to lobbying materials from the American Chemistry Council, states can ease the permitting process for energy recovery facilities and lead by example by diversifying their own energy purchases.



The Covanta energy recovery plant in Alexandria Virginia, processes nearly 1,000 tons of solid waste daily.



The plant was designed to look like an office building in order to help it blend into its surroundings.

Dylan Scott, Staff Writer *Governing* magazine

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FAEP Group Discount Memberships

Did you know that FAEP provides a discount on our memberships to employers who have 5 or more members? If your company or organization qualifies for the Group Membership you save \$5 on each FAEP new member or re-newing member, lowering the FAEP membership fee from \$40 to \$35 for everyone from your company or organiza-tion. If your company or organization is on this list, you are eligible to join or renew at the discounted Group rate. The FAEP Board would like to extend a thank you to the following employers for supporting their employee's profes-sional development and the FAEP mission:

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