

2024 PWS Award Recipients

(For calendar year 2023)

2024-04-04

Part 1 - Compliance Award Recipients (37)

Nontransient Noncommunity System Category (3)

- Cape Cod Space Force Station (Sandwich)
- Carlisle Public School
- Martha's Vineyard Airport

Small Community System Category (7)

- Agawam Springs Water Company
- Centre Village Apartments (Boxborough)
- Essex Water Department
- Garrison Place (Carlisle)
- Highland Ridge Condominiums (Berlin)
- Northfield Water District
- West Newbury Water Department

Consecutive System Category (4)

- Everett Water Department (MWRA)
- Paxton Water Department
- Waltham Water Department
- Weston Water Department

Medium and Large System Category (18)

- Athol DPW Water Division
- Brewster Water Department
- Buzzards Bay Water District
- Dennis Water District
- Dracut Water Supply District
- Edgartown Water Department
- Hanson Water Department
- Harwich Water Department
- Lynn Water and Sewer Commission
- Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
- Needham Water Department
- North Andover Water Department
- North Chelmsford Water District

- North Raynham Water District
- Provincetown Water Department
- South Hadley Fire District #2 Water Department
- Wenham Water Department
- Winchester Water Department

Consistent Performer (5)

The systems in this category have been consistent performers as they have been award recipients for the past three consecutive years in the Public Water Systems Awards Program.

- Benfield Farms (Carlisle)
- Beverly Water Department
- North Sagamore Water District
- Orleans Water Department
- Seekonk Water District

Part 2 - Nominated Award Recipients (13)

Water Conservation Award

- *Aquarion Water Company, Milbury*

and

- *Sharon Water Department*

The criteria to earn a water conservation award is as follows:

1. Met 65 RGPCD and 10% UAW standard based on their most recently approved data. (Since 2023 ASR data is not yet available, we use 2022 ASR data)
2. PWS did not win this award in the past three years.
3. Implemented at a minimum mandatory water use restrictions that limited nonessential outside water use to no more than two days per week or less in 2023.
4. All winners have websites showing conservation related information.
5. Conducted an M36 Water Audit in 2021, 2022, or 2023.

Energy Conservation

The Groton Water Department installed a 22.5 kW solar photovoltaic system at the new Whitney Pond Wells Water Treatment Facility (864 Lowell Road in Groton MA) to provide clean renewable power to significantly reduce the electrical demand required to heat and de-humidify the new facility. MassDEP's Gap Energy Grant Program provided a \$103,500 grant to help fund the rooftop solar installation that will generate approximately 23,652 kilowatt-hours of renewable power annually. This project will ultimately result in projected cost savings for the town of approximately \$15,000 annually or a whopping \$225,000 over the life of the solar array.

STAR L

Through the MassDEP LCRR Pilot Program, the *Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC)* has completed testing of 43 Springfield Public Schools and conducted outreach to offer testing to all licensed childcares in their service area.

School and Day Care Lead-Reduction Advocate

Ana Rodriguez of the Cozy Cave Daycare is awarded special recognition for her work in helping advocate for the reduction of lead in schools and daycares. Her translation and organizational services of important documents and seminars to teach Massachusetts Schools and Daycares on how to reduce lead in their drinking water was enormously important. MassDEP thanks her immensely for her efforts in helping to keep Massachusetts children safe from the dangers of lead.

CERO Regional Recognition

The Dudley Water Department has been very proactive ever since 2019 and through the help of consultants and the support of the people of Dudley MassDEP has been able to approve activation of Dudley's new wells, blending of wells, rehabilitation of tanks, a new wellfield, pump station upgrades, replacing AC mains, newly installed raw water transmission main, and approval of centralized treatment plant for PFAS. George Patronis, Dudley's Superintendent should be commended for all his hard work with the State Revolving Funds and CERO Drinking Water permitting staff to get Dudley Water Department into a very competent place. It is a great honor that CERO recognizes the Dudley Water Department.

CERO Distinguished Operator

The Central Regional Office is happy to submit *Rick Cormier*, Primary Distribution Operator, for the City of Leominster, as CERO's Distinguished Operator for 2024.

The operation of the treatment plants is outsourced to Veolia North America and Leominster's DPW operates and maintains the water reservoir system, distribution system and storage tanks, as well as water transfers between the reservoirs and its watershed protection. The distribution system is a sizable and complex system. Over the many years of conducting surveys in Leominster or responding to calls from users about water issues, inevitably, Rick was known as the "go to guy" or "the walking distribution map" for the city. Rick's dedication, knowledge, and commitment to the city and its users as its primary distribution operator makes him greatly appreciated and valued. Now after 39 years of service to the City of Leominster, Rick has decided to retire to enjoy the next chapter of his life.

SERO Regional Recognition

The [Sandwich Water District](#) operators do an outstanding job of managing a large and complex water system. That complexity is exacerbated by the large population swing from summer to winter which presents unique challenges. The district's website is informative, easy-to-use, and transparently provides detailed information on a wide variety of topics in plain language. The Consumer Confidence Report detailing 2023 compliance was posted on the website in mid-January, well ahead of the July 1 deadline. District management also are on a Board of Management for the Upper Cape Cod Regional Water Cooperative, which is a wholesale water system providing water to four municipal water systems, including the district.

The Sandwich Water District personnel are knowledgeable, dedicated professionals who are leaders in complying with the wide array of drinking water requirements.

SERO Distinguished Operator

The [Sarian Company, Inc.](#) is a water operations company serving over 40 small water systems and one municipal wholesaler in Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod. Led by President Marisa Picone-Devine and Vice President Donald Rugg, Sarian is known for high integrity and outstanding performance. Sarian-operated water systems are known for high rates of regulatory compliance and are frequent recipients of water system awards. Sarian staff are active in the water works profession. Sarian presents a strong voice for the small water systems which struggle with limited funding opportunities, while system age, emerging contaminants, and regulatory requirements present increasingly difficult barriers to compliance.

For their dedicated professionalism, small system advocacy, and high levels of regulatory compliance, Sarian Company, Inc. earns the MassDEP Southeast Region's Distinguished Operator Award.

NERO Regional Recognition

While the [Andover Water Department](#) exceeded the Lead Action Level in the fall of 2021, it immediately recognized the challenges posed by the annual removal of 153 Lead Service Lines (LSL) as well as determining the materials of 1,359 unidentified service lines; and, voluntarily entered into an Administrative Consent Order with MassDEP in early 2022. This agreement requires Andover to remove a minimum of 25 LSL and investigate 400 service lines of unknown material annually. In February 2024, Andover reported to MassDEP that they had successfully identified all unknown service lines, achieving investigation efforts at an accelerated pace in far less time than the anticipated 3+ years. Through Andover's collaboration with MassDEP under the voluntary ACO, Andover effectively addressed the challenges of LSL removal and investigation, prioritizing public health protection. Moreover, within less than two years, they not only identified all 1,359 previously unknown lines, but have also removed 84 LSL. With their complete inventory now known, Andover can concentrate efforts on eliminating the 131 remaining LSL, and soon declare Andover a lead-free community.

NERO Distinguished Operator

[Richard \(Rick\) Dawe](#) has long served as the superintendent and primary treatment operator for the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission and proven to be a dedicated public servant who has made public health a priority for the City of Lynn. Rick's insightful judgement has always been evident in his responses to MassDEP through comprehensive, thoughtful, and timely feedback to inquiries. Rick is and has been a stalwart steward of the Commission as evidenced by the ranking of LWSC as one of the most outstanding PWSs in the Northeast Region. MassDEP NERO is pleased to recognize Rick for a long and distinguished career of public service and commitment to the drinking water industry; and offers its congratulations on his retirement in 2024.

WERO Regional Recognition

[Southampton Water Department \(1276000\)](#) – In February 2023, this PWS activated a new potassium hydroxide corrosion control system to address action level exceedances of both lead and copper. In the rounds of sampling since activation, Southampton WD has experienced no action level exceedances in either lead or copper. MassDEP commends Southampton's actions to proactively address ongoing potential public health risks in the lead up to the Lead & Copper Rule Revisions.

WERO Distinguished Operator

[Kevin Williams](#) has been a steady leading presence for Belchertown Water District as the population served by the district has grown into a medium sized system. Mr. Williams has been proactive in implementing upgrades to the PWS and in communicating with MassDEP about any changes in system operations. Mr. Williams is a professional with attention to public health and safety, as befits an individual holding a license from the Commonwealth.

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