

Compiled by WWD Associate Editor Leslie Streicher

vanishing WATER

As water supplies become scarce, conservation efforts rise

With the world's population quickly surpassing 7 billion, water conservation is all the more imperative to secure a healthy global environment and economy. *Water & Wastes Digest* Associate Editor Leslie Streicher talked with Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) Director Sandra Fabritz-Whitney about how the industry is reacting to water scarcity in the arid Southwest.

Leslie Streicher: How important is it for the general public to practice water conservation?

Sandra Fabritz-Whitney: Water conservation is extremely important and should be practiced as part of our daily routines. It is an essential resource in our lives and is essential to maintaining a vibrant economy and environment.

The efficient use of water results in cost savings and decreases in energy use, and it preserves the environment. Conserving water and using it more efficiently is a responsibility of all residents here in Arizona. It is a critical element in the state's long-term plan for securing a sufficient water supply.

Streicher: What are some of the technologies currently promoting water conservation?

Fabritz-Whitney: Water-efficient appliances that are available for home use include clothes washers, showerheads, faucets, drip irrigation systems, automatic irrigation controllers, efficient hot water systems, automatic shutoff nozzles for hoses and water brooms.

At treatment and drinking water plants, water-efficient practices include metering deliveries to all connections, leak detection and repair programs, and SCADA systems that provide real-time information for water production and delivery.

Streicher: Arizona is an arid state with recurring water scarcity issues. Where do you see water conservation heading for the state in the coming years?

Fabritz-Whitney: Arizonans' water providers, agricultural users, industrial users and residents will continue to

improve their water conservation and efficiency efforts and promote a conservation ethic. Further research will allow the identification of components of residential and industrial water use so conservation prescriptions can be tailored to local conditions to provide the greatest amount of benefit for the least cost. The link between water use and the economic value of water resources will be explored in more detail, creating new opportunities for efficiencies that are sustainable.

Streicher: What are you doing at ADWR to promote water conservation?

Fabritz-Whitney: ADWR is committed to promoting responsible water stewardship through education, outreach and technical support. ADWR maintains a conservation website that includes an assembly of tools that are available to assist communities and water providers in the design and implementation of comprehensive, customized and proven conservation strategies.

Our staff promotes and encourages the efficient use of water by providing education and outreach, community assistance, program development, water-efficient technologies and conservation tools throughout the state, while also coordinating Arizona's drought program. This includes conservation planning information so that water providers have a plan in place for times of drought.

ADWR also administers the Water Management Assistance Program, which provides financial and technical resources and has assisted in the development and implementation of conservation programs, augmentation programs, and programs designed to monitor hydrologic conditions and assess water availability. [WWD](#)

Sandra Fabritz-Whitney is director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Fabritz-Whitney can be reached at safabritz@azwater.gov or 602.771.8426.

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For more information, write in 1114 on this issue's reader service form on page 59.

News Briefs compiled by WWD Associate Editor Leslie Streicher

WWD Editorial Staff Tours Chicago Pumping Station



Editorial Director Neda Simeonova, along with *Water & Wastes Digest* Managing Editor Caitlin Cunningham, *Water Quality Products* Managing Editor Kate Cline and *Storm Water Solutions* Managing Editor Elizabeth Lisican, recently traveled to Hodgkins, Ill., to tour the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Mainstream Pumping Station.

The station is part of the district's expansive Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, also known as Chicago's Deep Tunnel, designed to capture combined sewer overflows from an area of 375 sq miles.

EPA Improves New England Communities



The U.S. EPA's New England office is awarding 13 grants under its 2011 Healthy Communities Grant Program, totaling approximately \$372,000, to support community projects addressing environmental and public health issues.

The projects funded through this program will result in reduced environmental risk, protection and improvement of human health, and improvements to the quality of life for communities across New England.

The program's goal is to competitively select projects that will achieve measurable environmental and public health results in communities. Grants were awarded to Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Canada Joins Trans-Pacific Trade Negotiations



The Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Assn. (WWEMA) submitted a letter to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative supporting Canada's request to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations.

This multilateral trade agreement will liberalize trade among the economies of the Asia-Pacific region, which represents more than 40% of global trade. Current parties to the negotiations include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam and the U.S.

National Mayor's Challenge Set for March

The Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation is a nonprofit competition to see which leaders can best inspire their residents to make a series of informative, easy-to-use online pledges to reduce water and energy usage.

Mayors across the country will ask residents to make a commitment to conserve water and cut pollution by taking part in a national contest. In return, residents can win a new Toyota Prius Hybrid, water-saving fixtures and hundreds of other prizes.

Prediction Models Prevent Infrastructure Failures



New regression models developed by researchers at Syracuse University's L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science are expected to help utilities predict the service life of wastewater pipeline infrastructure and take a proactive approach to pipeline replacements and maintenance.

As wastewater utilities seek to implement asset management strategies to help justify and optimize their expenditures, understanding the current and future behavior of wastewater lines may help utilities mitigate costly emergency repairs. The deterioration models assess risk and identify pipes that have the highest probability and consequences of failure.

The research is presented in the American Society of Civil Engineers' *Journal of Infrastructure Systems*.

IFAT ENTSORGA 2012 Offers New Perspectives



IFAT ENTSORGA 2012, a global trade fair for the environmental industry, will take place from May 7 to 11, 2012, in Munich, Germany.

The event is drawing strong interest from abroad, with an international visitors' proportion of 40% in 2010 and a 37% international spread among the exhibitors.

This year's event will allow key players to present their latest environmental products and services. A diverse program of top-class events round off the unique trade fair.

Networking News

WWEMA elected Debrah LaVelle as chairman of the Board of Directors. LaVelle is the first woman to hold the position in more than 100 years.

Black & Veatch appointed Cindy Wallis-Lage as president of its global water business.

Calico Energy and Aclara announced a partnership. [WWD](#)

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