

# 2019 PWS Awards (for calendar year 2018)

Alphabetical order

## The Beyond Compliance Awards

### Non-transient Non-community

3051011 Assurance Technology Corp. - Carlisle  
4036008 Cape Cod Air Force Station - Sagamore  
1059012 Chester / Middlefield Elementary School  
2054047 Heritage School - Charlton  
2034004 The International - Bolton  
2179027 Mendon Town Hall Campus  
2017012 Montessori Center, Inc. - Auburn  
4239003 The New Testament Church - Plymouth  
4247004 Pinecroft School - Rehoboth  
2241015 Post Office Place Realty Trust - Princeton  
4247052 Rotondo Precast - Rehoboth  
3051019 Wee Forest Folk - Carlisle

### Small Community

2037013 Applewood Community Corporation -Boxborough  
2021001 Barre MHP/Waterwheel Village  
4086095 Town of Eastham  
4247055 Horton Estates Condominium Trust, Inc. - Rehoboth  
4052074 Pine Ridge Condominiums at Sampson's Pond - Carver  
2028007 Northbrook Village I / Berlin  
2028018 Northbrook Village II - Berlin  
2028017 Sawyer Hill Ecovillage - Berlin  
1268000 Shelburne Falls Fire District  
3269002 Woodhaven Elderly Housing Committee - Sherborn

### Med/Large Community Systems

4041000 Brewster Water Department  
3073000 Dedham Westwood Water District  
4088000 Easton Water Division  
4089000 Edgartown Water Department  
4126000 Harwich Water Department  
4131000 Hingham/Hull - Aquarion Water Company of  
3163000 Lynn Water and Sewer Commission  
6000000 Massachusetts Water Resources Authority  
4211000 North Attleboro Water Department

3056002 North Chelmsford Water District  
4224000 Orleans Water Department  
4239055 Pinehills Water Company, Inc. - Plymouth  
4242000 Provincetown Water Department  
4244001 Randolph/Holbrook Water Board  
4265000 Seekonk Water District  
2278000 Southbridge Water Department  
3315000 Wayland Water Department

## Consecutive Systems

3035000	Boston Water and Sewer Commission (MWRA)
3046000	Brookline Water and Sewer Division (MWRA)
2017001	Elm Hill Water District - Auburn
3100000	Framingham Water Department (MWRA)
4173001	Mattapoisett River Valley Water District
3078005	Meadowbrook Water Trust - Dover
3291000	Swampscott Water Department (MWRA)
3314000	Watertown Water Department (MWRA)
3333000	Weston Water Department

Also in this Beyond Compliance Category we must recognize the following system for their continued effort in having been an awards recipient for the past three years:

3246000	Reading Water Department
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## Nominated Awards

### Energy Conservation

#### **Groton Water Department (2115000)**

The Whitney Pond Wells Pump Station Optimization Project – By effectively utilizing a \$83,295 Gap II Grant from MassDEP's Clean Energy Results Program for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities, the Groton Water Department implemented a comprehensive water pumping and energy management upgrade that optimized Whitney Pond Wells #1 and #2. This project has resulted in: producing a 40% increase in pumping capacity to meet summer peak water demands during off-peak electricity usage with existing assets; improving water quality for customers; and allowing the town to postpone spending approximately \$2-3 million for new well development for at least five years. As a result of optimizing Whitney Wells' pumping assets, the town of Groton is also saving over \$8,000 / year from Groton Electric Company's reduced electrical rate for its new electrical peak demand operations.

## Water Conservation

**2280000 Spencer Water Department**

**2282000 Sterling Water Department**

**2294000 Templeton Municipal Light and Water Plant**

**3342000 Wilmington Water Department**

1. Met 65 RGPCD and 10% UAW standard based on their approved 2017 data (2018 data is not yet in)
2. Did not win this award in the past three years
3. Implemented at a minimum mandatory water use restrictions in 2017 (all three implemented restrictions allowing 2 days or less of watering per week in 2017)
4. All three have websites showing conservation related information
5. While not required, all three used less water in 2017 than 2016.

## Source Protection

**2097000 Fitchburg Water Department**

The Fitchburg Water Department, through land acquisitions, over the last year has secured six parcels of land for a total of over 173 acres for the purpose of source protection.

## STARL Award (Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead)

**2158000 Littleton Water Department and Littleton Public Schools**

**2177000 Medway Water Department and Medway Public Schools**

This award is given to systems and schools who take action to reduce lead in school drinking water and do so with extremely encouraging results. Award is given to both the PWS and the school district as they both diligently work in tandem to produce results.

## Regional Recognition Awards

### WERO

**Sunderland Water District (1289000)** faces many of the same challenges as other small water systems including compliance challenges. The District has complied with the vast majority of SDWA and other Drinking Water Regulations for several years. The District manages its water use and has significantly reduced its consumption during the last 2-3 years.

### CERO

**MCI Norfolk/Cedar Junction/Walpole (2208001)** is being recognized for improvements made to the water quality (specifically the addition of iron and manganese treatment, increased amount of treated water available to the system), water quantity (2 new sources with elevated levels of iron and manganese going on-line in conjunction with the new treatment plant) and increased staffing (2 additional DOC operators were recently hired to oversee the PWS). All of these improvements, and many other, have made the MCI Norfolk public water system solid and reliable.

## **SERO**

The **Mashpee Water District** (4172039) faced contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds in a production well due to a plume from the nearby Joint Base Cape Cod. The district immediately took the well out of service, negotiated an agreement with the U.S. Air Force, hired a consultant, applied for a MassDEP Drinking Water Construction Permit, and at this time the Air Force is constructing a granular activated carbon system to remove the contamination. The district is voluntarily continuing to monitor wells that have shown low concentrations of PFAS compounds. Additionally, a small non-municipal community public water system's wells also were contaminated by the same source area. The district finalized an agreement to allow that system to connect to the district's distribution system. According to MassDEP's most recent sanitary survey report for the district, "The condition of the facilities and organization of the records reflect a high level of professionalism and pride taken by the district's employees." For maintaining an excellent operation and responding professionally in critical situations, MassDEP's Southeast Region selects the Mashpee Water District for its Regional Recognition Award.

## **NERO**

The **Melrose Water Department** (3178000) submitted a letter dated January 30, 2018 regarding their lead service line removal program (LSL) as a result of exceeding the lead action level in 2017. Melrose stated that they had 819 lead service lines at the start of their removal program in February 2016. As of the 2018 letter, they were determined to have 574 LSLs remaining. They proposed to remove 58 LSLs between November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018. In a letter dated November 7, 2018, Melrose stated that they removed 72 full, 24 partial, and 32 goosenecks. After two rounds of sampling in 2018, with both rounds below the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, they will return to annual sampling in 2019.

## **Distinguished Operator**

### **1. Acton Water Supply District (2002000) Robert Murch**

Bob Murch is an operator for Acton Water District who in the past two years has taken the role of contract operator for a number of small water systems in the Central Region. Many of these systems have had significant water quality or compliance issues and Bob has worked tirelessly to bring them into full compliance, spending many nights and weekends installing emergency disinfection or troubleshooting treatment systems. Two notable examples are: one public water system had triggered numerous RTRC assessments due to biofilm growth due to a poorly maintained treatment system, which Bob fully disassembled the treatment system and disinfected all components piece by piece; and the other system that Bob has spent a great deal of time diagnosing treatment issues and working with the manufacturer on solutions associated with a sulfur removal system. Bob prioritizes communication with MassDEP and maintains recordkeeping. Bob's clients speak very highly of him and appreciate all of his efforts.

## **2. Lawrence Water Works Operators (3149000) / Woodard & Curran**

**Dan DiNicola**

**Chris MacKay**

**John Kellett**

**Mark Riopelle**

These four operators are being recognized for their emergency response efforts during the natural gas explosions in Lawrence, MA. On September 13, 2018, excessive pressure in natural gas lines caused a series of explosions and fires to occur in as many as 40 homes, with over 80 individual fires in the Massachusetts towns of Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. Woodard & Curran operates the Lawrence Water Treatment Plant. While the gas explosions did not cause the plant to lose power, it did cause our employees to lose communication with all the pump stations, as the electricity was knocked out at the radio repeater station at one of the water tanks. The pump stations take water out of the distribution system and fill up storage tanks for high service areas. Because Dan DiNicola, Plant Manager, and his staff had lost communications, they had no way to ascertain how much water was in the storage tanks. However, they knew it was critical to get to the pump stations to check the water levels and manually operate the pumps if necessary. At one time, as many as 18 fires were burning at once, and Andover officials had struck a maximum 10-alarm response. The staff needed to make sure there was enough water and water pressure for the fire fighters to battle the blazes. Complicating efforts was the fact that thousands of people were told to shut off their gas service and evacuate their homes. The number of people evacuating by vehicle and foot soon caused gridlock on streets that were already experiencing congestion by the afternoon rush hour commute. At the same time, Andover's fire chief described "billows of smoke coming from Lawrence behind me, I could see plumes of smoke in front of me within the town of Andover, it just looked like an absolute war zone." Dan, Chris, Mark, and John remained calm and carefully made their way to the pump stations. Because the streets were so congested, at times they needed to stop the car and walk/run to the stations. When the tanks were running low, they needed to manually operate the pumps in order to ensure there was enough water available – including water for the fire fighters. This situation lasted for close to 24 hours until a portable generator was brought to the radio repeater site. Their efforts to keep the community of Lawrence safe are greatly appreciated.

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