

PRESS RELEASE

2018 NYSDEC Environmental Excellence Award Presented to GNWPCD for Innovative and Cost Saving Projects *Distinction Spotlights District as Industry Leader in Wastewater Treatment*

Great Neck, N.Y. (November 15, 2018)—The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District recently received the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (NYSDEC) Environmental Excellence Award, which recognizes projects that demonstrate state-of-the-art programs and a commitment to environmental sustainability, social responsibility and economic viability. The District was presented this prestigious award in recognition of its current green technology and ongoing projects, including the construction of Nassau County’s first grease receiving station, upgrades to the District’s anaerobic digesters and the addition of the facility’s third micro-turbine.

“The District is extremely honored to be one of the organizations to have received the 2018 NYSDEC Environmental Excellence Award and be among an elite group of organizations advocating innovation and sustainability in our specific industries and communities,” said Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Commissioner Steve Reiter. “The projects currently underway at our facility will generate sustainability, lower costs and have a positive impact on the environment for generations to come.”

The ongoing projects at the District’s facility are set to be a model of synergistic environmental sustainability once complete. The addition of a grease receiving station will allow the District to accept grease from local restaurants—generating over \$100,000 per year in hauler fees. This grease will feed the anaerobic digesters, which will more than double the District’s methane bio-fuel production.

This process ends in the micro-turbines where the methane bio-fuel produced in the anaerobic digesters is burned, thus generating electricity to power the facility. The two current micro-turbines produce 35% of the District’s electricity and 80% of the District’s heating requirements—with those numbers expected to increase to 50% and 100%, respectively, once the third micro-turbine is online. Due to this, the District is set to increase its utility cost savings.

“These environmentally-friendly infrastructure projects, working in unison, demonstrate our commitment to leadership with present and future solutions to the environmental challenges while lessening the burden for local taxpayers,” said Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Commissioner Patty Katz. “These improvements showcase what is possible for treatment facilities and serves as a model for others in the region regardless of a facility’s size.”

In addition to these projects, the District has been recognized for its ongoing initiatives aimed at protecting the environment, including its water conservation efforts that save 27 million gallons of drinking water annually, its Shed the Meds program that has collected over 800 pounds of unwanted or expired medications, and its F.R.O.G.s initiative that has educated residents and commercial business about the harmful effects that fats, roots, oil and grease have on sewer pipes.

For additional information and updates about the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District, please call the office at 516-482-0238 or visit the website at www.gnwpcd.net.

About the GNWPCD

The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District (GNWPCD) is a commissioner-run Special Improvement District within the Town of North Hempstead. The GNWPCD has provided sewage services for the Great Neck area since 1914, and currently serves more than 25,000 residents and businesses in the villages of Great Neck, Saddle Rock, Kensington, and those parts of Thomaston and Great Neck Plaza east of Middle Neck Road; as well as all unincorporated areas north of the Long Island Rail Road and a part of Manhasset. The GNWPCD’s mission is to protect our bay, the environment and the health of our society.