



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD's Sustainability Summit honors partners excelling in resource recovery, stormwater management



From L to R: MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, City of Berwyn Senior Engineer Nicole Campbell, Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation Deputy Commissioner Malcolm Whiteside Jr., ChicaGRO Intergenerational Growing Project Executive Director Gregory Bratton, Village of Skokie Public Works Director Max Slankard and MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele celebrate achievements in sustainability.

Commemorating progressive efforts in resource recovery, stormwater management and environmental protection, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD) Sixth Annual Sustainability Summit created a forum of enlightening discussion on the latest trends in sustainability.

The event was held at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant in Cicero, IL, and brought together community leaders, elected officials, public administrators, land managers and other partners looking to play a role in utilizing renewable resources and help manage stormwater. The Sustainability Summit also addressed the many environmental measures that the MWRD is taking and offered visitors an exclusive look at the process the MWRD uses to produce its EQ Compost.

"From the water we reclaim to the resources we recover, we strive daily to promote sustainability and protection for the health of the public and our environment," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "The Sus-



John Brophy, Sustainability Manager of the City Colleges of Chicago, addresses the audience.

tainability Summit allows us to spread our message, advance our work and strengthen our partners' commitment to protect our planet."

Four awards were presented. ChicaGRO Intergenerational Growing Project was honored for its expansive Chicago community gardens that utilize MWRD EQ Compost as a sustainable soil amendment for planting beds; the City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation was honored for its contribution of more than 100,000 cubic yards of woodchips to help the MWRD develop its compost program; and the Village of Skokie and City of Berwyn both received honors for their green infrastructure solutions to managing stormwater through comprehensive rain gardens in Skokie and 10 green alleys in Berwyn that provide nearly 700,000 gallons of retention capacity.

"These community and municipal partners are making a difference in the quality of life for their communities and helping the MWRD play a much larger role in sustainability and resource recovery," said MWRD Commissioner Kari K. Steele. "By recognizing them and promoting their stories, we hope more (continued)

MWRD's Sustainability Summit honors partners excelling, *cont.*

of our partners are empowered to make similar initiatives to protect our environment.”

After informative presentations and discussions on stormwater management and resource recovery, guests boarded the MWRD bus for a tour of the Harlem Avenue Solids Management Area, where the MWRD blends biosolids with the City of Chicago's woodchips to create an exceptional quality product that can be used beneficially and locally to produce healthy soils and plant life.

President Spyropoulos served as the emcee, and MWRD Managing Civil Engineer Joe Kratzer provided a stormwater management sustainability program overview. Space to Grow Healthy Schools Campaign Senior Manager Meg Kelly discussed green infrastructure at schoolyards and neighborhood flooding reduction, MWRD Environmental Soil Scientist Dominic Brose provided an update on the MWRD's biosolids and composted biosolids utilization program, and City Colleges of Chicago Sustainability Manager John Brophy discussed sustainability initiatives at City Colleges of Chicago.



MWRD Managing Engineer Ahmad Laban provides Sustainability Summit attendees, including State Rep. Theresa Mah (2nd Dist.), with a tour of the Harlem Avenue Solids Management Area, where the MWRD composts woodchips and biosolids to provide an exceptional quality compost for turf growth and soil nourishment.

To learn more about the MWRD's efforts in sustainability in protecting the regional water environment and recovering resources, visit www.mwrd.org, and to request EQ Compost, visit <http://compost.mwrd.org>.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrd.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.