



# WASTE MATTERS!

Issue 3 Volume 3 Dec 2019

## Cleanup Moves Forward on Massasoit Ave

By Jeffrey Crawford

Cleanup and field activity have finally begun on the former “Koppers Company” property located on 200 & 210 Massasoit Avenue in East Providence after many years of investigations. The site is currently owned by Fujifilm Electronic Materials, USA (Fuji). Historically, Koppers was a manufacturer of coal tar products and operated on a portion of this property from approximately 1935 until 1969. In 2004, Arch Specialty Chemicals, Inc (Arch) sold the property to Fujifilm but remained involved and co-liable to perform the cleanup. Lonza Group AG acquired Arch in

See Cleanup on Pg. 3



Coal tar drum found at the bottom of the excavated site on Massasoit Avenue.

Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Crawford, Principal Environmental Scientist at RIDEM’s Office of Waste Management

## OWM Goes to Camp!

By: Emma Forbes

This past August, two employees from the Office, as part of OWM’s public outreach efforts, visited Camp Ok-Wa-Nessett at the Kent County YMCA to discuss with the campers what everyone can do to help protect the environment. “The campers were part of the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative, which is a program aimed to encourage youth voices and hands-on learning to help develop stronger connections to the community”, says Emma Forbes, an Environmental Scientist at OWM. There were several groups of campers, each with their own focus area. One of them focused

See Camp on Pg. 2



Kasie McKenzie (L) and Emma Forbes (R) holding the groundwater model they used to show campers about the process of contamination in water and soil.

Photo courtesy of Kirsten Bailey

# NEW ROUND OF BROWNFIELD GRANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED!

Remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites continue to be an important commitment to Rhode Island's economy. Below are the nine awardees for this year's round of grants.

Community Music Works 1326 Westminster St, Prov.	\$300,000
Paramount Apartments 5 Main St, Scituate	\$100,000
Evolution Mills 65 Manchester St, West Warwick	\$100,000
Natick Dam Hydroelectric 649 Providence St, West Warwick	\$300,000

West Elmwood Housing 34 Fuller St & 37 Westfield St, Prov.	\$205,000
Neighborworks 15 Island Place, Woonsocket	\$250,000
Neighborworks 68 South Main St, Woonsocket	\$250,000
MSC Realty/Meeting Street 946 Eddy St, Providence	\$300,000
What Cheer Flower Farm 28 Agnes St & 46 Atwood St, Prov.	\$195,000

## Meeting Street School Expands Thanks to Brownfields Bond

*By: Ashley Blauvelt*



On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Brownfields program represented RIDEM's Office of Waste Management at Meeting Street School's ribbon cutting celebration for Phase One of their expansion. This expansion included new classrooms, expanded athletic fields, an adaptive playground, and more parking. Meeting Street was awarded \$396,000 in Brownfields Bond funding in 2017 for the remediation and redevelopment work for the former RE Sturdy Site as part of this expansion. Meeting Street also secured \$600,000 in EPA clean-up funding to support this project. Just two weeks ago, the Department announced that Meeting Street School was awarded another \$300,000 in Brownfield Bond Funding for their next phase of work which is to begin in Spring of 2020 on the former National Plating brownfield site. "Assisting Meeting Street and similar non-profits reach their community goals is a major priority of our awards", stated Leo Hellested, Environmental Administrator for the OWM.



*Cont'd from Pg. 1*

on environmental issues so the program coordinator at Kent YMCA reached out to RIDEM for assistance. Kasie McKenzie, a Sanitary Engineer at OWM, joined Emma on this mission where they engaged the 8 and 9 year-old campers in some very insightful Q&A. They focused their talk on trash/recycling and water pollution/contamination and spoke to the campers about their work at RIDEM. To make it more visually appealing for the children, they borrowed a groundwater model from the UST/LUST Division of OWM to show the campers how groundwater and surface water can become contaminated and even played some trash and recycling trivia with them. "We loved hearing all the ideas the campers had!" exclaims Emma. Both Emma and Kasie are still in touch with the program coordinator at the camp and hope to continue outreach with them in the future.



# CLEAN-UP *Cont'd from Pg. 1*

October 2011, but the site has been under investigation since 2003. Fujifilm has recently removed all building structures and closed out two underground storage tanks with the UST Program in the Office of Waste Management at RIDEM. Lonza/Arch is in the process of removing all Coal Tar contaminated soils on the Site, treating contaminated groundwater as part of the soil remediation. In addition, they will be addressing a separate Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compound release in groundwater identified near the former building. Having these actions move forward fulfills a long-term OWM objective of addressing historic contamination along the East Providence waterfront.



*Left: Former Building Excavation Hole. Right: Bottom of Excavation.*

*Photos courtesy of Jeff Crawford, RIDEM-OWM*



## in the NEWS



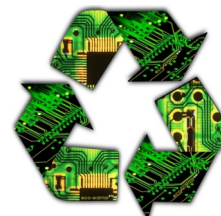
New Requests for EPA Applications for FY 2020 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines are now open. The deadline to submit an application is December 3, 2019. Click [here](#) for more information or email Ashley Blauvelt at [Ashley.Blauvelt@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Ashley.Blauvelt@dem.ri.gov).

## Staff Corner

The Office of Waste Management welcomes **Clare O'Connor**, a Sanitary Engineer, who will be conducting site inspections in the UST/LUST program. Claire holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University and has traveled to Honduras as part of the AguaClara team to help create and improve water purification plants in the Global South region.

## DID YOU KNOW ..... *By: Holleigh Pouliot*

E-waste, or electronic waste, is made up of any household computers, school desktop computers (grades K-12), monitors, televisions, laptops, notebooks, and tablets with screen sizes larger than an adult man's hand. E-waste can contain lead, mercury and other hazardous substances that pose a threat to human health and the environment if improperly disposed of at the end of their useful life. Your electronic may be at the end of its shelf life for you but may still be useful for someone else. Schools and local non-profit organizations could work with you to take your item and reuse it. Check with them if you are looking to get rid of this type of e-waste. You can also click [here](#) for a list of upcoming recycling events in your area. For specific recycling questions, contact Alyson Brunelli at the Office of Waste Management, at [alyson.brunelli@dem.ri.gov](mailto:alyson.brunelli@dem.ri.gov) or 401-222-4700 x 7134 for more information.



## Beyond the Straws: How to Incorporate Conscious-Minded Sustainability Into Your Life

By Clara Crawford  
URI Student Contributor and daughter of Jeffrey Crawford, a Principal Environmental Scientist at OWM



In recent trends, the initial reaction to living more sustainably usually entails boycotting plastic straws and using reusable bags. Although these are practical means, there is more we can do. I am not saying everyone should stop driving their car, or install solar panels on the roofs of their houses, but there are small individual acts that we can change in our daily routine. These small decisions we make will impact the longevity of our precious environment.

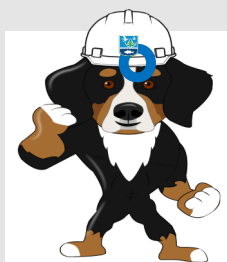
Two major components of why it is difficult for people to live a more sustainable lifestyle is due to affordability and accessibility. We are people of routine and of a budget. We aren't going to overextend ourselves or disrupt what needs to be done. Instead, we should embrace a sustainably-conscious mindset to improve how we live and how to treat the environment around us.

In the last year, I have practiced conscious sustainability. As a coffee addict, going to coffeeshops is a significant part of my routine. To eliminate waste, I will only allow myself to buy a coffee if I remember to bring my reusable container. With my container, I have a stainless steel straw as well. I have developed an aversion to plastic cups, and I will not allow myself to purchase a drink unless I have these materials. If I am shopping for groceries or at any retail store, I will always refuse to take a plastic bag out of the store. If I forgot my reusable bags, that's on me, guess I'm not getting groceries that day.

As long as there is a receipt, a store does not need you to take a bag to prove a transaction took place. You could also ask for your receipt to be texted or emailed to you in order to save paper. Not only is this better for the environment, but it's more financially functional. Instead of stuffing a six-foot-long piece of paper in your purse that you'll eventually throw away, an emailed receipt is an easy record of the money you spent, and it won't end up in the trash.

... See BEYOND the STRAWS on pg. 4

## OWM Q&A



### I NEED A NAME!

Miranda Riccio, a Seasonal Technical Intern for the Office of Waste Management, created this cutie as OWM's Q&A Mascot for future issues of **Waste Matters!** Unfortunately, our new mascot has no name! To submit ideas, click [here](#) or email us at [DEM.WasteMatters@dem.ri.gov](mailto:DEM.WasteMatters@dem.ri.gov) by December 31st. We will announce our new mascot's name in the next issue of **Waste Matters!**

This Q&A will answer some of the most commonly asked questions that the Office of Waste Management receives.

This week's question is: How do I dispose of a Freon-filled freezer?

To dispose of a freon filled freezer or any appliance containing CFC Coolant, call your local municipality's Department of Public Works and ask them if they are holding a recycling event anytime soon. If not, you can schedule an appointment with them and they will gladly drive by your home to pick-up the appliance. There may be a fee, so be sure to check all details before proceeding. You can also call the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Center (RIRRC) at (401) 942-1430 or visit them online at [www.rirrc.org](http://www.rirrc.org) for additional information.

To submit questions for our future editions of **Waste Matters!**, click [here](#) or email us at [DEM.WasteMatters@dem.ri.gov](mailto:DEM.WasteMatters@dem.ri.gov).

# Goodbye Tank Farm, Hello Wind Farm

By: Sofia Kaczor

This is the story of a small private electric utility, the Block Island Power Company (BIPCo), located in the Town of New Shoreham, a small island belonging to the smallest State in the United States, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (Rhode Island). BIPCo became the first Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) site in New Shoreham. This UST facility was registered in 1984 with an inventory of 67 tanks, many of which were abandoned and/or leaking at that time. Several scientists and engineers in the LUST Program at Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) were assigned to the case over the years and worked with the private utility to decommission 62 tanks. My turn came in 2010, when the last five 20,000-gallon diesel tanks were still being used to power the generators that provided electricity to Block Island's year-round residents and summer tourists. I oversaw the post-remediation monitoring of groundwater at the site until December 2017, when these tanks were removed. At the same time, a major event was taking place on Block Island. The first offshore wind farm in the United States was being built approximately 3.8 miles Southeast of the island. Between 2015 and 2016, a five-turbine, 30-megawatt capacity known as the Deepwater Wind Block Island Project was developed. On May 1, 2017, BIPCo switched from diesel power to wind power at 5:30a.m. Electricity is now being harnessed by wind power!

To read the full story, click [here](#) for Bulletin 86, the July 2019 issue of L.U.S.T.Line.

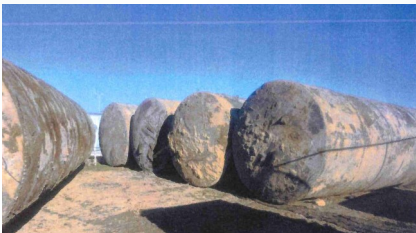


Photo Courtesy of  
Sage Environmental

# BEYOND the STRAWS.....

... Cont'd from Pg. 4

For food storage, always have reusable containers on hand in a variety of sizes. Containers can be used interchangeably to store in the fridge or carry lunch during the day. I avoid using saran wrap, opting to use beeswax instead. Beeswax is an all-natural product that effectively preserves produce.

When cleaning, designate rags for polishing or sanitizing certain parts of your home. Opt-out of relying on paper towels, and use cloth that can be easily washed later. Even for brushing your teeth, there is a wide arrange of bamboo and other-material toothbrushes for purchase online or in-store. Our normal plastic toothbrushes have tiny, micro pieces of plastic in the bristles that end up going into our water, and eventually the ocean. As for shampoo and conditioner, there is an array of brands that offer bars instead of bottled products. If you are not at home, remember you can still keep this conscious mindset. Avoid using plastic to-go cutlery or using a mini plastic cup at a water dispenser. Be prepared, and keep a kit of reusables in your car of everything you need. Do not be discouraged if you forget to be mindful along the way. Soon, these small and positive changes will allow us to eliminate more environmental issues than we ever thought possible.



