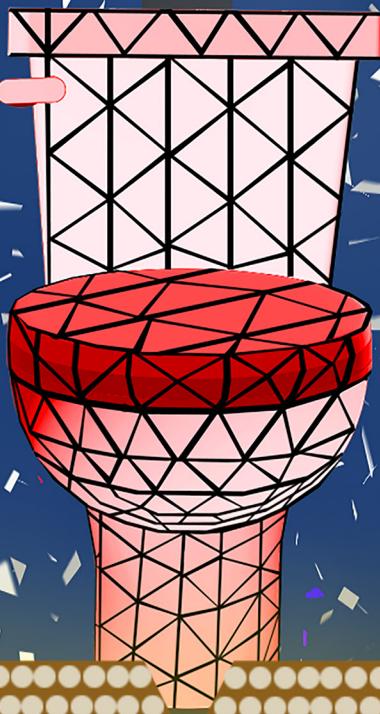


# Weekly Pipeline

**ENERGY EDITION**

**DEP wishes everyone a happy and healthy  
New Year!**

January 7, 2026



2024

# Guest Commissioner's Corner



**Jane Gajwani**

At the end of shed, aqueducts and utility every year, the service territory. Replacing Office of Energy and Resource Recovery Programs reflects on the progress DEP has made towards its energy goals, but 2025 carries extra significance because it is the first year with a milestone target established by Local Law 97 of 2019. This law amended New York City's Administrative code (§ 24-803) to require a minimum of a 40% reduction in City government greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2025 as compared to the base year, FY06.

**The progress we have made to date would not be possible without the efforts of our operating bureaus and the support from office staff across the agency.**

Reducing DEP's GHG footprint is a massive undertaking; emissions come from energy consumed in assets such as pump stations, wastewater resource recovery facilities (WRRFs), office spaces and vehicles scattered across the 2,000 square mile water-

legacy infrastructure with more efficient alternatives takes funding, planning and time. In addition to the infrastructure that was in place in 2006 when the baseline was developed, we have added energy-intensive biological nitrogen removal to eight of our WRRFs and built entirely new major facilities whose operation contributes to our inventory, including the Cat-Del Ultraviolet Disinfection Facility, the Croton Water Filtration Plant, and four combined sewer overflow facilities.

DEP's efforts to reduce its emissions have yielded results. Even with those added emissions from water treatment systems, DEP has dramatically cut emissions as measured in metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e includes carbon dioxide emissions along with other greenhouse gasses such as methane or nitrous oxygen). These reductions come from replacing pumps and blowers with modern equivalents, eliminating fuel oil usage, transitioning to LEDs, optimizing biogas utilization and optimizing heating systems by eliminating leaks.

As a result of this efficiency work, DEP achieved a 40% reduction in FY23, two years earlier than the target! However, as anticipated, our reductions temporarily decreased in FY25 because of the operational requirement to run the Croton Water Filtration Plant at full



capacity while the Catskill Aqueduct was offline for leak repairs. This was a temporary operational situation which highlights how the natural approach the Bureau of Water Supply takes to maintain the cleanliness of our water supply also contributes to meeting our energy and climate goals.

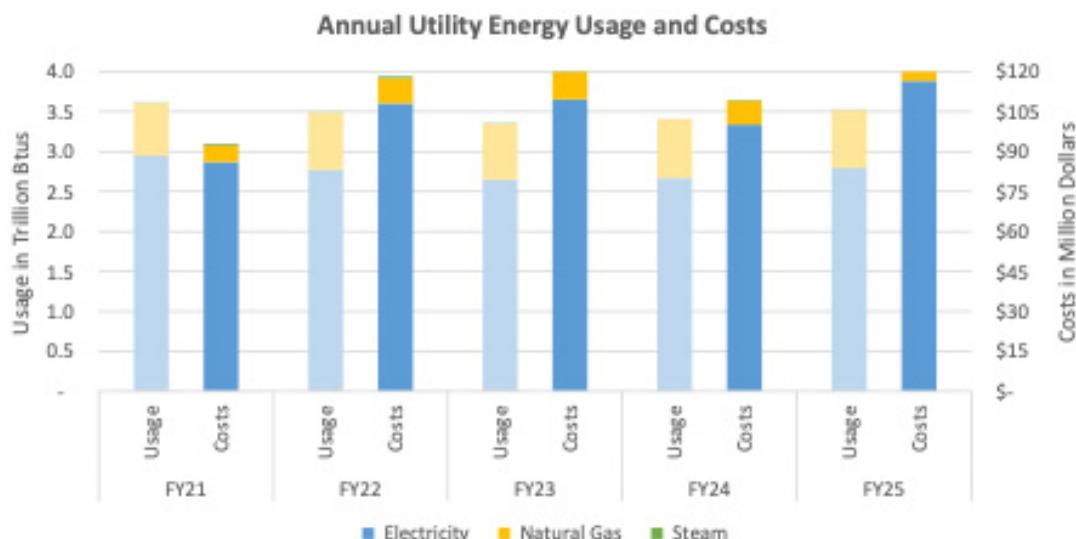
We are also pleased to report that the scale of active projects already underway should help DEP easily achieve its 50% reduction by FY30. One impactful measure the City has taken is securing a supply of clean electricity; the Champlain Hudson Power Express-way will begin operation this year, delivering clean electricity to municipal operations from hydropower facilities in the Quebec province. Secondly, projects like the cogeneration system at North

River WRRF and digester gas heating system at Wards Island WRRF will come online, increasing the beneficial use of biogas at the facilities and reducing our natural gas consumption. Additionally, we have an aggressive plan to invest millions of dollars in gas handling systems at all of our WRRFs to avoid future fugitive methane releases that could drive emissions up.

The progress we have made to date would not be possible without the efforts of our operating bureaus and the support from office staff across the agency. The Office of Energy and Resource Recovery Programs extends our gratitude to everyone who has worked towards our shared goals, and we look forward to reaching our next milestone goal in 2030.

# DEP Energy Use and Cost

With both energy usage and energy prices increasing from FY24 to FY25, it is important that our agency delivers the energy efficiency and renewable energy projects currently in construction and coming down the pipeline. In FY25, DEP spent \$127 million on 3.5 trillion British Thermal Units of electricity, natural gas, and steam. This represents a 16.7% increase in spending and a 3.5% increase in usage compared to FY24. The increased spending is due to higher prices for energy. DEP's electricity price in FY25 was 17% higher than in FY24, and its natural gas price was 15% higher. Electricity price increases were driven by nat-



ural gas prices, as most of the electricity DEP uses is produced using natural gas. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, natural gas prices increased in FY25 due to strong export demand that consistently outpaced U.S. natural

## Why Energy Matters to Me



**Brendan Hannon**  
Energy – the ability to do work – is an obsession of mine. This stems from its role as a limiting resource that shapes so many of my choices. My decisions about how I spend time depend on my personal energy levels; this energy is allocated across family obligations, work responsibilities, personal development, and recreation. Some activities drain energy while others replenish it, and with age, I've gotten better at balancing the things that recharge me (sleeping, eating well, exercising) with the energy demands of working, parenting, and socializing.

The same analysis I apply to my own life has steered my professional career into the energy sector. The city is the individual writ large, and like individuals, cities must decide how to allocate their energy. Limitations on energy come in many forms

— some immediately apparent, such as electric grid constraints, and others less obvious but just as real, such as the climate's ability to absorb atmospheric carbon. In the context of a water and wastewater utility, unlimited energy would unlock a host of treatment options (e.g., PFAS destruction in biosolids, desalination of drinking water).

I bring the same strategies I use to balance my personal energy to the decisions I make at work. As an agency, we can expand our available energy by developing clean sources and auditing existing equipment for efficiency, to meet the unavoidable energy demands of water and wastewater treatment. I feel so fortunate to be working in DEP's Energy Office, at the intersection of water and energy — two essential foundations of life as we know it.

*Brendan Hannon is the Deputy Director of Strategy and Long Term Planning in the Office of Energy and Resource Recovery Programs.*

## Social Media Highlight



Reporting from Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility, DEP's Gabe Lopez finds out why 2026 should be the year you stop flushing wet wipes.

#TrashItDontFlushIt



Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [X](#) and [Instagram](#).

## Setting Sail After 40 Years of Service



After decades of dedicated service to the City, **Kevin Byrnes** is setting sail after 40 remarkable years. Kevin began his career in operations and went on to spend many years as Section Chief of the Marine Section, where his influence is still felt today. He became deeply involved in vessel maintenance and played a key role in the design and construction of most of the boats currently in ser-

vice — a lasting contribution that will benefit the City for years to come.

Kevin was promoted to Division Chief of Residual Operations about five years ago, overseeing both the Marine and Transportation Sections. In this role, he most recently worked closely with the Office of Labor Relations and Discipline to help negotiate a new labor contract for marine em-

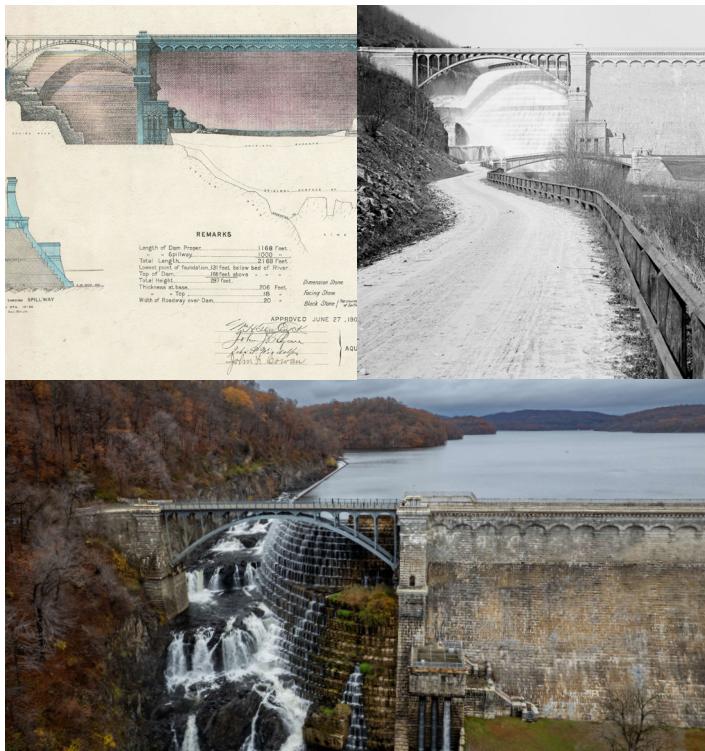
ployees, ensuring it remained competitive with outside marine operators, including the Staten Island Ferry. He helped modernize contracts, improve communication, and strengthen standard operating procedures for truck operations across the City.

Known for his approachable leadership style, Kevin always made time for employees and worked hard to build camarade-

rie and trust within his teams. Beyond his operational expertise, he also brought a unique talent to the organization — his gift for writing. He authored several short historical pieces on marine topics, reflecting both his deep knowledge and his passion for the field.

We thank Kevin for his many years of service and wish him all the best in a well-earned and happy retirement.

## Out of the Archives



A drawing signed exactly 121 years ago, the completed structure in 1909, and the spectacular New Croton Dam today, Archives on [Flickr](#).

## In the News



DEP's announcement of the \$12.56 million watershed land acquisition was featured in the New York Times. This purchase is the single most expensive land acquisition DEP has ever made for watershed protec-

tion. "This is a truly historic investment to protect the high quality of the pristine unfiltered water that New York City is famous for," **Commissioner Aggarwala** told the outlet. [Read the full article.](#)

## Focus on the Field



**Dany Davis**, Stream Studies Coordinator and Geologist for the Bureau of Water Supply, has been with DEP for 29 years. Before joining the agency, he spent seven years as a groundwater modeler, including a 1996 project for DEP that led to his eventual recruitment for the agency's New Infrastructure Program.

Since completing his New Infrastructure Program work in 1999, Dany has served as a geologist and fluvial geomorphologist in the Stream Management Program. He surveyed Catskill streams and developed regional regression models for predicting bankfull streamflow and channel dimensions, foundational tools for stream as-

essment. He later managed the Esopus and Ashokan watershed stream management programs and, since 2015, has served as Stream Studies Coordinator for the Stream Management Program. He leads DEP's 10-year turbidity-source research partnership with United States Geological Survey, collaborating with scientists from Cornell University and the University of Vermont — work that will ultimately support three doctorates and two post-doctoral studies.

"I also lead the geomorphologic component of the study which keeps my feet in streams," Dany said.

Dany parented four children who are now 39- to 49-years-old and is a happy grandparent living in the Town of Rosendale. Originally from Alaska, he studied geoscience at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has always been drawn to water. He plans to retire in 2026 and return full-time to Seward, Alaska.

"I am an avid outdoor recreationist and spend most of my non-working time exploring and playing on mountains, rivers, lakes, and — when I'm in Alaska — glaciers and fjords. After I retire, I plan to increase my explorations and play time," he noted.

## We Welcome Your Feedback

To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).