WaterOne Wins National Sustainability Award

WaterOne was recently honored with the Sustainable Water Utility Management Award by the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA). This prestigious award recognizes water utilities who demonstrate innovative economic, social, and environmental efforts. In receiving the award, WaterOne was recognized for its success in responsible resource management, protection of public health, meeting responsibilities to the community, and providing cost-effective services to ratepayers.

WaterOne has taken a leading role in water policy and resource management, through involvement in efforts like the state’s 50-year Vision for Water Sustainability, regional advisory committees and stakeholder groups, Water Research Foundation studies, and studying Missouri River bed degradation. WaterOne was a founding partner of the Milford Lake Regional Conservation Partnership Program, an initiative which is working to address harmful algae blooms in Kansas drinking water sources.

The award additionally recognized WaterOne for its investment in forward-looking facilities, including a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory and Wolcott Treatment Plant. Current and future projects include a soon-to-be-complete ozone treatment facility, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and a planned hydropower plant on the Kansas River.

AMWA judges also looked at WaterOne’s sustainable operations strategies. This included criteria such as plant and facility design, technology choices, asset management, fleet improvements, recycling policies, and planet-friendly cleaning products. Judges favorably noted that WaterOne coordinates water main replacements with city street improvement projects, which helps avoid the expense, inconvenience, and environmental impact of unnecessary excavating.

The award highlighted WaterOne’s strong financial performance, exemplified by its AAA bond rating and stable fiscal practices, policies, and planning. WaterOne also cultivates an award-winning communication and outreach program, including its pro-tap water initiative “I Love Tap” (ILoveTap.org).

WaterOne is proud to maintain an overall customer satisfaction rating above 90%, and the award reflects that its customers are significantly satisfied in the performance of their public utility.

AMWA is an organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water systems in the United States. AMWA’s membership serves more than 156 million people – from Alaska to Puerto Rico – with safe drinking water.

Additional recognition earned by WaterOne can be found at waterone.org/awards.
WaterOne has published a Popular Annual Financial Report, commonly known as a PAFR, for its 2018 fiscal year. The PAFR format has been widely adopted by governments and organizations as a supplement to in-depth public financial reporting. The report offers an easy-to-understand general summary of the organization’s revenue and expenditures, financial strategies, and performance over the preceding year, as well as information about WaterOne’s history, service area, and projects.

“At WaterOne, one of our strategic objectives is to provide our customers and stakeholders with accurate and timely information about WaterOne’s finances,” said Director of Finance Darin Kamradt. “As part of achieving that objective, we are proud to present WaterOne’s Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.”

WaterOne’s Communications Department has been presented with awards from the City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA). WaterOne took home an Award of Excellence for its 2018 Year in Review Storymap and a Silver Circle award for the Milford Lake Regional Partnership Program (RCPP) website (milfordwatershed.org).

WaterOne’s “Sprinkler Dance” video was also featured at the conference film festival. The video promotes WaterOne’s Smart Watering initiative.

The 2019 Kansas Water/Wastewater Joint Conference, WaterOne staff received top scores in several utility skills contests. WaterOne took first & second place for the second year in a row in the Hydrant Hysteria competition, which is a timed contest that has teams of two assembling a fire hydrant. The winning time of 1:33 was achieved by Distribution Tech 1-6 Ethan Smith and Construction Inspector Tyler Nickle.

WaterOne HR Generalist Katie Shapiro took second place in the Meter Madness competition in a very close match. Katie entered the competition spontaneously, having never assembled a water meter before competition try-outs. Her time of 59.7 seconds was a mere second slower than the winning time.

“I was stunned. I didn’t win, because I ended up beating last year’s winning time by almost 23 seconds!” said Katie.

The new tank is 116 feet in diameter and will hold 3 million gallons of water. Over 600 tons of steel and 101 truckloads of concrete was used in the construction process.

The project is expected to be completed in Spring 2020.

See the timelapse video at Youtube.com/ourwaterone!
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