

# WATER CANADA

# INNOVATION 150

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**INSIDE:**  
water's next  
awards 2017  
**WINNERS!**

# water's next awards 2017

Celebrating Canadian water leaders and champions



Water's Next winners received a plaque and an individually hand crafted glass pin by artisan glassblower Aaron Calenda of Guelph, Ont.



## Welcome to Water's Next 2017.

**WATER CANADA** magazine's Water's Next Award program is the only national awards program to honour leadership across the entire water sector—including public servants, non-governmental groups, researchers, municipalities, and technology providers. Since 2010, Water Canada has hosted the awards to help strengthen and celebrate this national community of water leaders, champions, and innovators.

We believe that it is important to showcase these accomplishments, because so many of the accomplishment

that our finalists and winners have achieved go unrecognized by the broader public. And yet, our community knows that clean drinking water, healthy rivers, safe wastewater discharge, and tools to help communities understand water are precious gifts to society. Our hope is that their stories will inspire the next generation of water leaders and innovators.

This year, we owe the success of the program to the 14 outstanding and respected water leaders who participated on our selection committee.

Their guidance in the selection of our 40 finalists and 14 winners demonstrates some great breadth of knowledge and experience.

We were pleased to celebrate their success during our 2017 Water's Next Gala on June 22 at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto, held in conjunction with the 8th annual Canadian Water Summit.

Thank you to the nominees, winners, and finalists for what you bring to the sector, for your vision, and persistence to protect our most precious resource. We proudly celebrate you in these pages.



[watersnext.ca](http://watersnext.ca)



A Lystek engineer checks the SCADA system at the Fairfield Organic Materials Recovery Centre.

## Wastewater: Lystek International Inc.

**ONE MAN'S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE.** The waste that's flushed away each day—once a disposal challenge for municipalities—has become an important part of the circular, green economy thanks to emerging technologies like the ones produced by Cambridge, Ont.-based Lystek International.

The Southgate Organic Materials Recovery Centre (OMRC) facility in the Township of Southgate, in the heart of Ontario's farm country, is removing thousands of tonnes of biosolids from the landfill and, instead, turning them into a saleable biofertilizer product. The commercially funded facility has been in operation since 2012. The biosolids that the facility receives, from communities throughout a 120-kilometre radius including Toronto, are converted into a Canadian Food Inspection Agency-registered fertilizer sold as LysteGro.

"Before we had Lystek come in, biosolids were thought of as a waste to get rid of in our landfill pit," said Stewart Schafer, director of operations for the City of North Battleford. "Now we have people thinking of it as a raw resource to be refined and sold as a finished product. It just didn't make sense for us to fill our landfill with something that farmers are willing pay for to grow crops."

North Battleford is one of a growing list of communities across Canada that has adopted the municipal wastewater treatment plant deployment of Lystek's technology, alongside communities like Centre-Wellington, St. Mary's and Guelph to name a few.

Part of the company's recent success has resulted from the flexibility of its technology. The same system that produces biofertilizer can also be used to transform a wastewater

treatment plant into a resource recovery centre. By introducing a recirculation loop back to a plant's anaerobic digester, a portion of the treated or "LysteMized" material is re-introduced back into the digester, making it work more efficient. This approach reduces overall volumes of end material to be managed while substantially increasing the production of biogas that can then be converted into as clean energy to power the plant.

"The amount of nutrients and organic material that are available in biosolids are quite valuable both financially and environmentally, and there is a definite benefit in providing these to the agriculture industry," said John den Hoed, wastewater services supervisor for the Township of Centre Wellington. "The re-use of biosolids provides a cyclical and holistic approach to nutrient management."

Nutrient management has become the newest evolution of Lystek's technology, providing an alternative to traditional carbon sources to keep nutrients out of waterways.

"We've discovered that our material also makes a safe and cost-effective alternative carbon source for Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) systems," said Kevin Litwiller, director of marketing and business development at Lystek.

Instead of using traditional carbon sources like glycerol or methanol, municipalities are looking to LysteCarb to assist in the removal of phosphorous and nitrogen in a more cost-effective manner.

With a suite of solutions available, all from a simple, affordable system, Lystek is helping communities across Canada and the United States turn waste into treasure. — Andrew Macklin

# water's next awards



## Water Steward of the Year

**Katrina Hartwig,  
Living Lakes Canada**

(L-R) Nelson Switzer, Nestlé Water North America (presenter); Caroline Dubois, The Gordon Foundation (accepting on Katrina's behalf); Katherine Balpataky, Water Canada.



(L-R) Kurt Meyer, Jacqueline Ho, Kevin Litwiller, Jim Belcastro, Rick Mosher, Ward Janssens, Katherine Balpataky (host), Irene Hassas (presenter)



## Company of the Year

**Lystek  
International Inc.**

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To participate next year, contact Jane Buckland  
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