



The United States Conference of Mayors

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SCHENECTADY MAYOR STRATTON RECEIVES MAJOR APPOINTMENT WITH THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Washington, D.C. – Seattle Mayor and USCM President Greg Nickels has appointed Schenectady, NY Mayor Brian U. Stratton as Co-Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Water Council.

Created in 1995, The Mayors Water Council (MWC), assists cities in providing high-quality water resources in a cost-effective manner through information sharing on water technology, management methods, operational experience, and financing of infrastructure.

"We welcome Mayor Stratton as Co-Chair of the Mayors Water Council. As a long-time member of the Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Water Council, Mayor Stratton brings a wealth of experience to the policy discussion on water issues including infrastructure needs and climate change impacts. We look forward to his leadership as mayors around the country lead the charge to make cities more efficient and create Main Street jobs," said USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.

Mayor Stratton will co-chair the Mayors' Water Council with Pleasanton, Calif. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. The City of Pleasanton, population 68,755, is located in the tri-county San Francisco Bay area.

Mayor Stratton said: "I am honored and energized by the opportunity to support fellow mayors and cities throughout the country in exploring new ways to improve the quality, availability and delivery of water, a resource of the utmost importance in every community. Schenectady is a local leader in water quality and management, and I look forward to using our experiences and other best practices to disseminate information to cities across the country."

The City of Schenectady won top honors last week at the "New York State Drinking Water Taste Test" held at the New York State Fair in Syracuse, earning the title of the state's best-tasting water. Schenectady beat out the City of Rochester by nearly a two-to-one margin, with the overwhelming majority of 300 judges saying Schenectady's water tasted best. Nearly 150 communities from throughout the state competed this summer to earn the title of New York's best-tasting drinking water.

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“Flowing far beneath Schenectady is the Great Flats Aquifer, a 14-mile geological wonder that provides nearly 35 million gallons of water every day to our city and neighboring communities. We have long known that our magnificent, natural water resource is one of Schenectady’s greatest assets, and the fact that New York thinks it tastes best makes our city and community an even more attractive place to live and work. We are very proud of that fact,” Mayor Stratton added.

Mayor Stratton said the city’s long-standing partnership with Veolia Water for the contractual operation of the city’s wastewater treatment plant also provides opportunities to study and share best practices in solid waste management and energy co-generation. Veolia has managed the plant since under contract for the city continuously since 1991, overseeing many improvements to make it more efficient.

Schenectady is seeking up to \$4 million in federal stimulus dollars to establish a co-generation facility at the plant that would convert the composting of solid wastes to energy to power the plant. In 2008, the city was awarded a \$1 million grant from the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) for the co-generation project, and has also applied \$610,000 in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) federal stimulus funds received earlier this year.

Schenectady officials estimate the project could save city taxpayers up to \$310,000 per year in reduced power expenditures at the wastewater treatment facility.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor. The City of Schenectady has been an active and continuous member of the Conference since 2006.

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