

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TAGRO employee announced as regional 2018 Excellence in Biosolids Management Award

TACOMA, Wash.- Dan Eberhardt, supervisor of City of Tacoma's TAGRO program, was recently recognized by a collection of regional environmental agencies as an outstanding leader at the 2018 BioFest conference in Lake Chelan, Wash.

Eberhardt was celebrated for his collaborative research approach, his proactive engagement with diverse audiences, and his efforts to implement a cost-effective, environmentally beneficial biosolids program in the Pacific Northwest.

Eberhardt is known for his enthusiasm about his craft and for inspiring the next generation of biosolids leaders, both within the City and at local universities.

"Most people just want wastewater to go away. We've made a viable product out of something no one wants and I'm really, really proud to be a part of that," Eberhardt said. "We're doing the right thing for the environment by not landfilling any of this. Better yet, we are turning it into something of beneficial use to the community."



Dr. Sally Brown, research associate professor at University of Washington's School of Forest Resources, has been so impressed with Eberhardt's knowledge and his ability to engage with audiences that she has included his presentation as a regular part of her curriculum.

"The first time we did this, we didn't realize just how excited the students would be. They all wanted to take their soil home."

This distinction is awarded in collaboration between the British Columbia Clean Water Association, Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association, Northwest Biosolids, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Washington State Department of Ecology.

According to these agencies, Eberhardt and the TAGRO program have made significant accomplishments in the both biosolids technology and biosolids management practices.

Since its beginning in 1991, TAGRO has earned numerous national awards, including the Environmental Protection Agency's first place award for best biosolids program in the country. By the bucket or truckload, customers have stated that their gardens grow faster, lawns grow thicker and trees grow taller. Vegetables and flowers grown in TAGRO have earned hundreds of awards at the Puyallup Fair since 1992 and have aided in the growth of some of the world's largest pumpkins on record. TAGRO has been known to yield beautiful gardens and lawns so successfully that it has been hauled to locations as esteemed as the White House.



Tacoma chooses to make products that meet the most stringent safety standards of the USEPA: Class A, Exceptional Quality. Meeting these tough standards means that TAGRO products are of the highest quality and are completely safe. As one of the pioneers of Class A biosolids treatment and product innovation, Tacoma's treatment program exceeded the EPA's very definition for the process and remains a national leader in the industry

Dr. Brown, who nominated Eberhardt for the award, believes he is an invaluable asset to the biosolids industry.

"While Dan may in fact deserve a master in science from UW, I doubt that I could get him to apply," said Dr. Brown. "But I could nominate him for an Excellence in biosolids award, even without his permission. This is an award he has clearly earned and clearly deserves."

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