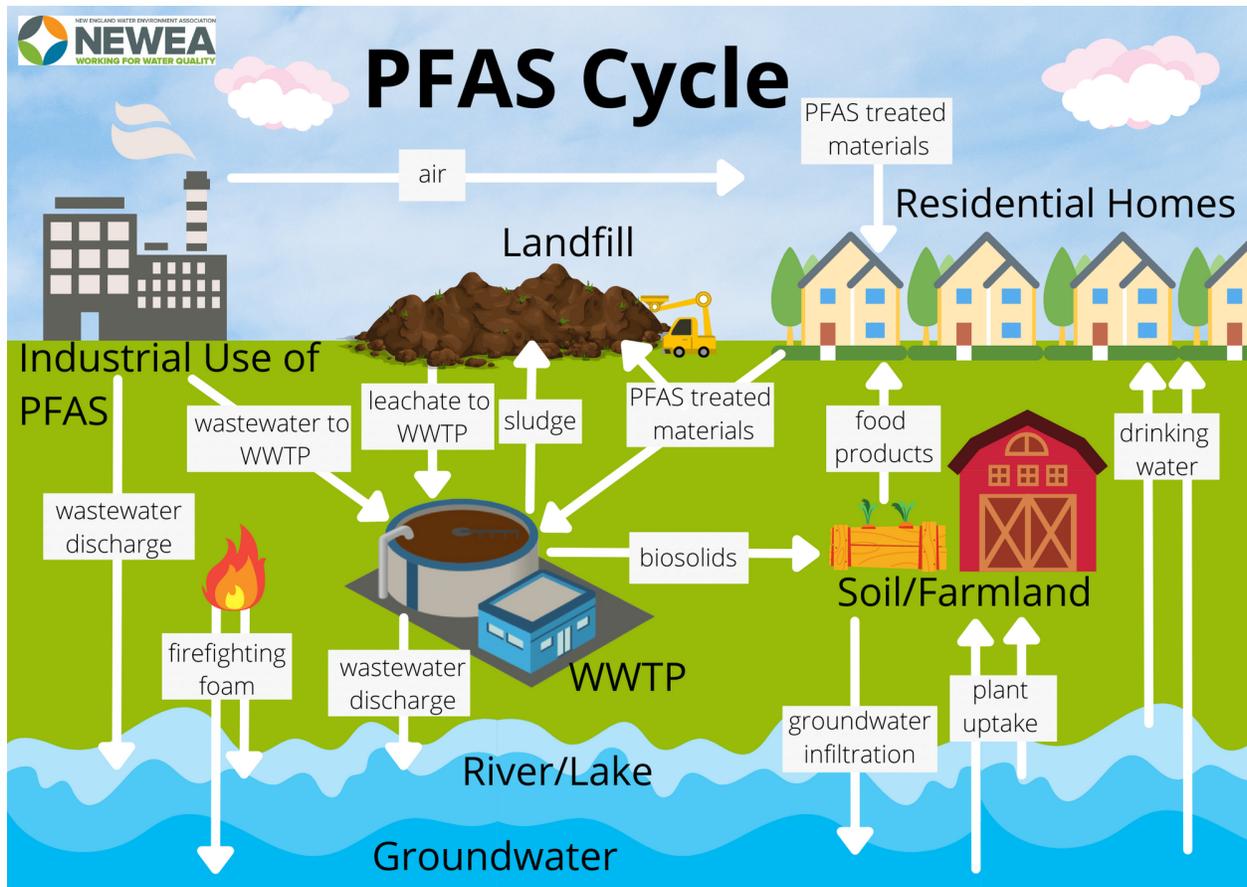


Reverse Pitch Event: PFAS & Biosolids Management - Innovation Pavilion - NEWEA Annual Conference 2022

The 2022 [NEWEA Annual Conference](#) was a success despite the pandemic conditions around the world. One of the highlights was the [Innovation Pavilion](#) - an event where a number of startups had a chance to pitch their technology. Along with company pitches, the Pavilion held a “Reverse Pitch” event. This was an exciting opportunity to hear about what problems are currently troubling the water industry, specifically issues with PFAS. As you may already know, PFAS are everywhere, and can easily make their way into our food, air, and water systems (as seen in the graphic below). They need to be dealt with in a particular way to prevent further harm to environmental and public health.



Three professionals sat down and discussed the particular issues they were facing when dealing with the persistent PFAS family of chemicals. The participants were as follows:

1. Janine Burke-Wells, Executive Director of Northeast Biosolids and Residuals, a non-profit professional association promoting the recycling of biosolids.

2. Howard Carter, Director of the Water Resource Department, a secondary or biological treatment facility, for the City of Saco Maine.
3. Jeff McBurnie, Director of Compliance at Casella Resource Solutions, a waste and recycling services company.

Moderating the panel was Chi Ho Sham, VP & Chief Scientist at Eastern Research Group and President of the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

The panelists discussed the reason for recycling biosolids, the cost of biosolids management by state, and the impact of PFAS regulations on biosolids management. They presented data on the cost impact, the PFAS levels in biosolids, the projected biosolids disposal costs, and the PFAS composition of biosolids influenced by stabilization treatment.



PFAS Reverse Pitch Session at the Innovation Pavilion. From left to right: Chi Ho Sham, Jeff McBurnie, Janine Burke-Wells, Howard Carter.

If you attended the PFAS Reverse Pitch event and would like to offer any feedback on the panel and/or the issues discussed, please fill out this [Google Form](#).

To learn more about how NEWEA is helping to address PFAS and other contaminants, [visit the Contaminants of Emerging Concern Committee page](#).