**Utility of the Future Today Recognition Program**

NACWA, along with the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) and WateReuse — with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — is proud to announce a new *Utility of the Future (UOTF) Today* recognition program. The program will celebrate the progress and exceptional performance of our nation's wastewater utilities while supporting the widespread adoption of the innovative UOTF business model.

The UOTF concept was first introduced in 2013 to guide utilities of all sizes toward smarter, more efficient operations and a progression to full resource recovery with enhanced productivity, sustainability, and resiliency. NACWA was proud to lead the coalition of organizations that conceptualized the Water Resources Utility of the Future initiative and work collaboratively with our partners and clean water agencies nationwide as they pioneer innovative technologies and cutting-edge practices with a focus on resource recovery. Since then many utilities have successfully implemented new and creative programs to address local wastewater technical and community challenges.

The *UOTF Today* recognition program will build on this success by celebrating these advancements and experiences; encouraging the adoption of UOTF principles (water reuse, watershed stewardship, beneficial biosolids reuse, community partnering & engagement, energy efficiency, energy generation & recovery, and nutrient & materials recovery) as the "Organizational Culture of the Future;" and enabling participants across a broad range of capacities and capabilities to collaborate, learn, and continue to evolve as a unified sector.

Wastewater utilities of all sizes are encouraged to apply by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, June 17, 2016**. Applicants must have no major permit violations in the past year prior to the submission date of their applications. Winners will be notified by July 29 and announced/officially recognized during an awards ceremony at WEFTEC 2016 this September in New Orleans, La.

A complimentary webinar is planned for May 4 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm Eastern Time to introduce potential applicants to the program. [Register](http://www.mmsend57.com/link.cfm?r=1158758122&sid=95035768&m=12705351&u=NACWA&j=33377101&s=https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/303339139289932802) today! To learn more about the UOTF Today recognition program, visit [www.wefnet.org/utilityrecognition](http://www.mmsend57.com/link.cfm?r=1158758122&sid=95035769&m=12705351&u=NACWA&j=33377101&s=http://www.wefnet.org/utilityrecognition/Utility%20Of%20The%20Future%20Application%20-%20Final.docx) or contact [UtilityRecognition@wef.org](mailto:UtilityRecognition@wef.org).