



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment

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Aquarion earns honor from Housatonic Valley Association

Aquarion Water Company received the Housatonic Valley Association's Corporate Environmental Leadership Award during the HVA's annual meeting and award ceremony recently at its headquarters in Cornwall Bridge.

Each year, the HVA honors people, groups and businesses in the tri-state Housatonic River valley for their efforts to promote conservation and preservation of natural resources. Aquarion earned the Corporate Environmental Leadership Award "for consistently partnering with environmental groups to improve the quality of water throughout the Housatonic Watershed," according to an HVA statement.

In particular, the HVA cited Aquarion's role in 2009's "Safe and Sound" initiative, in which the company partnered with St. Vincent's Medical Center of Bridgeport to conduct a collection of expired or unwanted medications from Trumbull and Monroe residents and dispose of them safely.

"We are honored and gratified to receive this recognition," said Leendert DeJong, Aquarion's Manager of Watershed & Environmental Management, and co-chairman of "Safe & Sound." "We constantly strive to live up to our role as stewards of the environment, and to our responsibility as a corporate neighbor in the communities we serve. That's why 'Safe & Sound' was an important program for us: it removed drugs from homes, making them safer for young children, while avoiding the risk of abuse by teens. It also prevented the drugs from going into the ground or entering the wastewater system on the way to Long Island Sound. It was a win-win situation for everyone who participated."

"Safe & Sound" was the first event of its kind in Fairfield County, and it reaped 200 pounds of controlled drugs and 280 pounds of non-controlled and over-the-counter medications.

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In the past year, since the collection took place, New Canaan, Wilton and Darien have had similar events. DeJong lent his expertise to the planning committees for each event.

In addition to “Safe & Sound,” DeJong noted that Aquarion partners with other environmental groups in Connecticut to help protect and conserve natural resources. These include The Nature Conservancy, the CT Forest & Parks Association, and the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.

Aquarion Water Company serves approximately 580,000 people in 39 communities throughout Connecticut. It is among the seven largest investor-owned water utility companies in the U.S., and the largest in New England.

The Housatonic Valley Association, a non profit citizen’s environmental group founded in 1941, works to conserve the natural character and environmental health of its communities by protecting and restoring the land and waters of the Housatonic watershed from its source in the Pittsfield, Massachusetts area to Long Island Sound, including Monroe, Shelton and Stratford.

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