

United States

Big Sky, Montana wins tap water prize

The American Water Works Association has named Big Sky, Montana, as the winner of the 'best of the best' tap water taste test. Second place was given to Universal City in Texas, at the 11th edition of the awards that gathers regional winners from across the US. Big Sky County Water & Sewer District is a special purpose unit of government organised to regulate and operate the public water and sewer systems of the city from untreated groundwater. Third place split the judging panel and so was shared between Albuquerque and last year's winner, Boston. The people's choice award went to Champlain in Vermont.

India

Cleanest city rankings released

The first rankings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 100 Cleanest Cities, or Swachh Bharat, in India revealed the top city to be Mysore. The city was awarded the first position due to its minimal open defecation rates and extensive adoption of solid waste management practices. The rankings, based on the extent of open defecation and solid waste management



in cities, was released by the Ministry of Urban Development. Out of India's state capital cities, Bengaluru came first followed by Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. Mumbai recorded the worst result ranking a lowly 140. Other large cities like Chennai were placed 61st and New Delhi Municipal Corporation was in 16th position.

Namibia

Windhoek expands water re-use plants

To serve increasing water demand and to comply with strict regulations on technology and security, the City of Windhoek will expand and modernise its capacities for wastewater treatment and re-use for water supply. Exceeding the initially installed capacity of 21



million cubic metres per year, annual water demand has grown 34 million per year. To assist the city increase capacity, Karl-Ulrich Rudolph, a Professor at the Private University of Witten/Herdecke (Germany), has been appointed as Chairman of the Ujams Panel of Contract Advisors. The Panel will advise the City of Windhoek technically and economically in planning, tendering and ongoing contracts with construction companies and operators of water facilities. "We will break new ground in technical and financial engineering to find out a technical solid and economically viable solution," said Rudolph. "It is expected that international know-how and best available technology will be applied for Windhoek, hopefully with intelligent finance for a sustainable, cost-efficient solution."

United States

Grants offered to reduce storm water runoff

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has opened a grant programme to control urban storm water and improve local water quality. Municipalities, including cities, boroughs, or incorporated towns within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are eligible to apply. "Urban stormwater runoff has a big role in local water quality, it's so important to manage that stormwater properly to prevent pollution from reaching our waterways," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "These grants will serve as a valuable tool to enable local governments to improve their urban stormwater management and ultimately, their water quality and that of their neighbours downstream." The grants will fund construction of urban storm water best management practices to reduce the discharge of nutrients and sediments delivered to local waterways, and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. The money for the grants is provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency. A total of US\$2.3 million is available with the maximum funding amount per applicant being US\$200,000.