

# Conference Announcement & Call for Content



## WEF/IWA Residuals and Biosolids Conference 2023

May 16-19, 2023  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Charlotte Convention Center

### SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: Thursday, December 1, 2022

This conference is jointly hosted by the Water Environment Federation and International Water Association, in cooperation with North Carolina One Water and the IWA USA National Committee.

Residuals and Biosolids Managers continually face uncertainty and new challenges: maintaining positive public perception, regulatory changes, striving for utility sustainability, and the ever-increasing need for resiliency. The 2023 WEF/IWA Residuals and Biosolids conference will share new technologies, successful innovations, and current best practices to allow industry professionals to achieve long-term success designing and managing biosolids programs. You are invited to share creative approaches in biosolids and residuals management with focus on proving flexibility, increasing resiliency, technology advances, and new product marketing approaches.

The conference will include oral presentations, interactive discussions, posters, pre-conference workshops, exhibits, technology spotlights, and opportunities for networking in dynamic settings. Potential speakers are invited to submit content for an abstract for podium presentations, interactive panel discussions, thematic sessions, and workshops.

### The Steering Committee is soliciting content addressing the following topical areas:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. Research & Innovations                             | I. Whole Plant and Community Considerations |
| B. Environmental Justice                              | J. Regulatory and Other Program Drivers     |
| C. Troubleshooting & Optimization                     | K. Economics and Project Delivery           |
| D. Case Studies/Lessons Learned                       | L. Land Application and Biosolids Markets   |
| E. Emerging Issues (PFAS, Microplastics, Covid, etc.) | M. Sustainability and Resource Recovery     |
| F. Thickening & Dewatering                            | N. Managing Biosolids in the Carolinas      |
| G. Thermal Processes and Biochar                      |   |
| H. Digestion & Stabilization                          |   |

**All abstracts, session proposals, and workshop proposals must be submitted online no later than midnight Eastern time on Thursday, December 1, 2022.**

To submit, go to: [www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids](http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids)

For more information on submitting content and accepted presenter requirements, please see our Speaker Information page: [www.wef.org/sc-speaker-information](http://www.wef.org/sc-speaker-information)

*The Selection Criteria and Contact Info are on the Following Page*

## Important Information about the WEF/IWA Residuals and Biosolids 2023 Content Submissions

**Method of Submittal:** Online only please. Please visit [www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids](http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids) for a direct link to the online submittal site. Abstracts must be received by Midnight Eastern on December 1, 2022.

**Abstract Review Criteria:** Abstracts shall be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words). One additional page may be submitted with tables, graphics, and/or images

Content will be evaluated and ranked for selection based on their total score using criteria in the following table:

Content Evaluation Criteria					
Scoring Level	Originality	Status of Project	Technical Content	Benefits & Significance	Quality
1	Nothing new	Just an idea with no plan or results to evaluate	Just a concept	Of no interest to audience	Minimal text, limited discussion of project
2	Chance of small improvement	Idea with well-developed plan but no results	Well defined concept and clear objectives and approach	Modest benefit to focused audience	Clear relevant text but no tables or figures
3	Modest improvement	Interesting results but much work remaining	Well defined concept, clear objectives and methods	Modest benefit to broad audience	Clear text and minimal supporting data, tables or figures
4	Significant incremental improvement	Preliminary results demonstrating good potential for success	Clear objectives and methods. Outcomes suggested but not fully described	High interest and benefit to focused audience	Clear text with data, figures and/or tables but presentation or logic could be improved
5	Potential breakthrough	Idea fully developed, plan completed and well documented results	Clear objectives, methods described, and conclusions outlined, lessons learned	Broad benefits to broad audience	Well written logical text well supported by data, with high quality figures and tables

**Workshop and Session Proposals:** The following pages go into detail on what is expected for a workshop or session proposal. For each, the description should be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words).

**After Selection:** All submitters will be notified of their placement in the technical program in February 2023. Presenters are expected to register for the Conference and pay the appropriate registration fee. No travel or assistance funds are available for speakers.

**Conference Proceedings and Publications:** The working language of the conference is English. All selected presenters must submit to the conference proceedings. In addition, authors must select among the two following options upon submittal.

- **Water Science & Technology (WST):** Authors will submit an extended abstract to WEF preformatted according to WST requirements. WEF will retain license but no copyright. In addition, full manuscripts detailing the extended abstract are encouraged to then be submitted by the author to WST for normal peer review.
- **Water Environment Research (WER)** or any other journal: Authors will submit manuscripts to WEF preformatted according to WEF conference proceedings requirements. WEF will retain license but no copyright. In addition, authors are then encouraged to submit their manuscripts to WER or any other journal of their choosing for normal peer review.

Authors can submit their manuscripts to these journals at any time before or after the conference for independent peer review.

**For Questions or Additional Information Please Contact:**

Water Environment Federation  
 WEF/IWA Residuals and Biosolids 2023  
 Email: [BiosolidsConf@wef.org](mailto:BiosolidsConf@wef.org)  
 Phone: 703-684-2400, ext. 7450

*Information on Submitting a Session Proposal on the Following Page*

# Submitting a Session Proposal

**SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: December 1, 2022**  
**SUBMIT ONLINE AT [www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids](http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids)**

*Session proposals can be presented in different formats from the traditional podium presentation, such as a panel discussion, mini-workshop, and interactive discussion. We are open to whatever format you can come up with and encourage creativity.*

With an abstract proposal, the committee places selected abstracts together to form a session. However, with a session proposal, the session coordinator is responsible for finding all the speakers to fill between 1-2.5 hours and developing the timing and format of the session as a whole. Session coordinators will arrange the program and work with WEF staff to curate the session. Session proposals should be more interactive than the traditional podium presentations created through abstracts.

As a session coordinator, WEF asks that a proposal be completed and submitted for review through the online submittal site, Attendee Interactive (AI). The Steering Committee will review all submittals and announce accepted sessions at the same time as the final technical program in December.

**For complete proposals, WEF requires information on the following items:**

- ❖ **Session Title**
- ❖ **Selection of Full or Half Session**
  - Full Session: 2.5 hours total; 1.5 hours content, 45 min break, 1 hour content
  - Half Session: either 1.5 hours or 1 hour long (please indicate the length in the description)
- ❖ **Contact Information for Session Coordinator**
  - This person will be WEF's main contact throughout the process and is expected to work with the speakers throughout the development of the content for the program.
- ❖ **Contact Information for Each Session Presenter**
  - The selected speakers should be from different companies, utilities, and organizations. As an example, a successful session would not provide content from speakers who are all clients of the same consultant.
- ❖ **Session Description**
  - Should be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words)
- ❖ **Three Learning Objectives**
- ❖ **Session Agenda**
  - Should follow Half or Full Session timing listed above
  - Should include title, timing, and speaker for each portion to be included in the public program
- ❖ **Target Audience** (a suggested list will be provided)

**All session proposals must be submitted online by December 1, 2022**  
**at [www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids](http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids)**

*Questions about your submittal?*  
*Please Email: [BiosolidsConf@wef.org](mailto:BiosolidsConf@wef.org)*

*Information on Submitting a Workshop Proposal on the Following Page*

# Submitting a Workshop Proposal

**SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: December 1, 2022**  
**SUBMIT ONLINE AT [www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids](http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids)**

Pre-conference workshops are additional add-on programs available for conference registrants. A workshop is a highly interactive, hands-on, immersive learning experience. We offer both full day and half-day workshop experiences. Interaction is what makes a workshop a workshop. It needs to be well-integrated throughout the day. Do not hold the interaction until the end of the day.

Speakers and facilitators are encouraged to brainstorm and incorporate interactive activities to deliver their subject matter expertise and content in a meaningful way to the participants. As speakers also help facilitate and support the interactive components, plenty of face time, one-on-one, and small group knowledge is exchanged. **Workshops with interactive components interspersed throughout the session will be prioritized for selection.**

These programs follow strict guidelines so that the highest level of education credits (CEUs) can be awarded for all WEF workshops. In order to be approved for CEUs, workshop agendas and descriptions must be finalized at least 90 days before the event.

As a workshop coordinator, WEF asks that a proposal be completed and submitted for review through the online submittal site, Attendee Interactive (AI). The Steering Committee will review all submittals and announce accepted workshops in December.

**For complete proposals, WEF requires information on the following items:**

- ❖ **Workshop Title**
- ❖ **Full- or Half-Day Program**
  - Full-day Workshop: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
  - Half-day Workshop: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
  - Breaks for all workshops: 10 a.m.-10:30 a.m., 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Contact Information for Workshop Coordinator**
  - This person will be WEF's main contact throughout the process and is expected to work with the speakers throughout the development of the content for the program.
  - This person will ensure WEF receives all deliverables.
- ❖ **Contact Information for Each Workshop Presenter**
  - The selected speakers should be from different companies, utilities, and organizations. As an example, a successful workshop would not provide content from speakers who are all clients of the same consultant.
- ❖ **Workshop Description**
  - Should be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words)
- ❖ **Three Learning Objectives**
- ❖ **Description of All Breakout Group Activities and/or Interactive Components**
- ❖ **Workshop Agenda**
  - Following Full-day or Half-day workshop timing listed above
  - Should include title, timing, and speaker for each portion to be included in the public program
- ❖ **Target Audience** (a suggested list will be provided)
- ❖ **Preferences for Room Layout, Attendance, and More**

**All workshop proposals must be submitted online by December 1, 2022**  
**at [www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids](http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids)**