

Conference Announcement & Call for Content

2024 Collection Systems & Stormwater Conference

“Flowing Together: Uniting for Cleaner Waters and Brighter Futures!”

April 9-12, 2024

Hartford, Connecticut

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: October 17, 2023



This conference is to be held by the Water Environment Federation in cooperation with the New England Water Environment Association.

Given the growing challenges to our nation’s collection and drainage systems, including climate-change-driven severe wet weather events, the time has come to unite stormwater and collection systems professionals at one conference. This conference will include oral presentations, interactive discussions, pre-conference workshops, exhibits, technology spotlights, and opportunities for networking in dynamic settings. Utility and water industry professionals; consultants; technology specialists; academics; and others are invited to submit content for podium presentations, interactive panel discussions, thematic sessions, and workshops.

The Conference Committee is soliciting abstracts, session proposals, and workshop proposals addressing the following topical areas:

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Integrated Planning | I. Wet Weather Management & Control |
| B. Community Engagement | J. Alternative/Innovative Systems |
| C. Programmatic/Regulatory Issues | K. Green/Gray Systems |
| D. Climate Change Resilience | L. Intelligent/Smart Systems |
| E. Environmental Justice | M. Asset Management |
| F. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion | N. Design & Construction |
| G. Nature Based Solutions | O. Urban Flooding |
| H. Tidal and Sea Level Rise Impact | P. Surface Water Management |

All abstracts, session proposals, and workshop proposals must be submitted online no later than midnight Eastern time on October 17, 2023. To submit, go to:

www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

For more information on submitting content and accepted presenter requirements, please see our Speaker Information page: www.wef.org/speaker-info

Important Information about 2024 Abstract Submissions

Method of Submittal: Online only please. Please visit www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater for a direct link to the online submittal site. Abstracts must be received by Midnight Eastern on **October 17, 2023**.

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

Clearly defined and addressed in the abstract submittal:

- State Purpose – What main message or knowledge transfer will be provided?
- Benefits of Presentation – Clearly state why this presentation should be selected and how it will provide a benefit to our industry. Is it unique, an innovative technology, a different spin on an old concept?
- Status of Completion – At the time of submittal, is the subject work complete? If not, when will it be complete? Presentations on completed projects and work are preferred.
- Conclusion – A clear and concise take-away message should be included. The conclusion should be well supported and technically sound.

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 December 2024. Per WEF's policy, selected abstract authors are required to submit manuscripts prior to the deadline. Session and workshop proposal submitters are not required to submit manuscripts. Presenters are expected to register for the Conference and pay the appropriate registration fee. No travel or assistance funds are available for speakers.

For Questions or Additional Information Contact:

Water Environment Federation
Education and Training
CSSWConf@wef.org
(703) 684-2400, Ext. 7450

www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

Submitting a Session Proposal

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: October 17, 2023

SUBMIT ONLINE AT www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

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. The Conference 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:

1. Session Title
2. Selection of Full or Half Session
 - a) Full Session: 2.5 hours total; 1.5 hours content, 45 min break, 1 hour content
 - b) Half Session: either 1.5 hours or 1 hour long (please indicate the length in the description)
3. Contact Information for Session Coordinator
 - a) 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.
4. Contact Information for Each Session Presenter
 - a) 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.
5. Session Description
 - a) Should be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words)
6. Three Learning Objectives
7. Session Agenda
 - a) Should follow Half or Full Session timing listed above.
 - b) Should include title, timing, and speaker for each portion to be included in the public program
8. Target Audience (a suggested list will be provided)

All session proposals must be submitted online by October 17, 2023 at www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

Submitting a Workshop Proposal

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: October 17, 2023

SUBMIT ONLINE AT www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

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 facetime, 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 Specialty Conference Committee will review all submittals and announce accepted workshops in January.

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

1. Workshop Title
2. Full- or Half-Day Program
 - a) Full-day Workshop: 8:30 am-5:00 pm
 - b) Half-day Workshop: 8:30 am-12:00 pm or 1:30-5:00 pm
 - c) Breaks for all workshops: 10-10:30 am, 12-1:30 pm, and 3-3:30 pm
3. Contact Information for Workshop Coordinator
 - a) 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.
 - b) This person will ensure WEF receives all deliverables.
4. Contact Information for Each Workshop Presenter
 - a) The selected speakers should be from different companies, utilities, and organizations.
5. Workshop Description
 - a) Should be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words)
6. Three Learning Objectives
7. Description of All Breakout Group Activities and/or Interactive Components
8. Workshop Agenda
 - a) Following Full-day or Half-day workshop timing listed above
 - b) Should include title, timing, and speaker to be included in the program
9. Target Audience (a suggested list will be provided)
10. Preferences for Room Layout, Attendance, and More

All workshop proposals must be submitted online by October 17, 2023 at www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater