

Which Communities* are Right for Me?

WEF has more than 30 different Communities and Task Forces available to support your career and professional development.

Here are suggestions for how you can maximize your membership and professional growth opportunities.



Central to the WEF mission is to connect the incredible people—you 35,000 WEF members dispersed globally—to one another and to the varied opportunities to contribute to WEF initiatives across the water industry.

WEF wants to make it easier for you to join and engage in WEF groups at your desired level of involvement, wherever you are in your career or around the globe. As demands increase on your limited time, WEF aims to **provide volunteer opportunities that capitalize on the breadth, energy, and enthusiasm of members while heightening the sense of both community and inclusion for all.**

To this end, **WEF is introducing new** technology for ease of access that better supports member engagement; **we are restructuring to support the growing membership and diversity of WEF; and we are changing the way WEF talks about work—**formerly WEF initiatives were addressed through committees, now called communities.

How do you want to engage with WEF? **Which Communities are right for you?**

*previously known as Committees



A WEF strategic goal is to facilitate engagement, connection and networking that supports diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at WEF.

The WEFUnity platform is a new, online multi-national platform to connect WEF's 28 international member associations and 20+ non-MA international organizations. It facilitates conversations in multiple languages and across time zones. *[*see platform demo](#)*



The WEFUnity Platform offers:

- ✓ Easy single sign-on
- ✓ Information in member's preferred language
- ✓ Open access to Communities, making it easier for members to find, follow and join Communities and Focus Groups
- ✓ A central platform to view and create events
- ✓ Volunteer opportunities portal including micro-volunteering opportunities across all communities
- ✓ Discussion forums within communities, direct messaging, email digests, and WEF news and media center resources
- ✓ New Mobile App with real time access
- ✓ Online searchable Community Member Directories



For new WEF members, I suggest you pick one community where you're most confident your experience can support the work and then pick another you're interested in where you want to learn. For long-term WEF members: how are you growing outside of your area of expertise? Pick something new. We don't want you to come to WEF just to be an expert, we also want you to learn new things.

— **Jeremy Johnson, Task Force Leader**

WEF provides different levels of networking, learning and leadership opportunities through its volunteer groups. WEF members can **find leadership opportunities and build experience and skills through these Communities** that are not available at their work. Communities and volunteer opportunities support members in understanding their individual skills, leveraging their knowledge, and offering learning to match career needs and interests.



Communities –members organized by a common technical or other interest/activity, focused on improving and promoting the water industry. Communities are tasked with developing technical, process or knowledge-based products that align with the Strategic Plan. They are established by the Board of Trustees through recommendation by the Community Leadership Council. Each Community has a range of Focus Groups on specific topics of interest for members to join according to interest.



Accelerators –open access groups where members come to discuss a hot topic. Accelerators stay active for up to 2 years at which time they sunset or transition to a Community, a Task Force, or a Focus Group within a Community.



Task Forces –provide members an opportunity to assemble and work on a specific, defined task or activity within a specified timeframe. They are generally comprised of cross-community WEF members who work together to advance a Board-requested initiative, respond to a growing industry challenge or problem that spans multiple communities. Task forces are intended to be small but nimble and organize a group of cross-community members into measurable and specific action, quickly—typically with a 2-year end goal.



Advisory Panels –board-appointed panels, govern WEF initiatives. Designed to be small, nimble, and cross-functional. Positions are appointed through an application process.

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**HOW
DO I
JOIN?**

WEF Communities at-a-Glance

Open Access Communities	Air Quality & Odor Controls	Awards	Collection Systems	Disinfection & Public Health	Government & Regulatory Affairs	Industrial Water
	Intelligent Water Technology	Laboratory Practices	Membership	Municipal Resource Recovery Design	Ops Challenge	Plant O&M
	Public Communications & Outreach	Research and Innovation	Residuals & Biosolids	Safety, Cyber & Infrastructure Security	Small Communities	Stormwater
	Students & Young Professionals	Utility Management	Water Reuse	Watershed Management		
Invited	Program	Manufacturers & Representatives (MARC)	Technical Practices			
	Advisory Panels	Operator Initiative	Specialty Conferences			

Community Types*

- Open Access | Any member can join
- Invited | Must Apply or be Appointed
- Task Forces | Cross-Community collaboration with 2-year end goal
- Accelerators | New Focus Areas at WEF
- Advisory Panels | Appointed Panels to govern WEF Initiatives

* Check the WEFUnity platform for the most up to date information on available opportunities including Task Forces & Accelerators



WEF also facilitates young professional networking and engagement opportunities through three formal initiatives. The [Water Leadership Institute](#), focuses on developing strong lasting relationships in the water industry. [WEF InFLOW](#) aims to enhance diversity and inclusion in the water workforce. The [Springboard Program](#) increases opportunities for Student and Young Professional Community members to become involved with WEF, particularly with technical communities, WEFTEC, and WEF Winter Meeting.

Diverse and *inclusive communities are the most innovative because the diversity of knowledge and experience brings greater breadth and depth of information to more effectively develop solutions and address challenges. *see [Inclusive Committee Leadership](#)

Everyone has something to contribute. How will you get involved?