

CALL FOR CONTENT



WEF Residuals and Biosolids & Innovations in Treatment Technology Conference

May 6-9, 2025
Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, Maryland, USA

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: October 28, 2024

This conference is hosted by the Water Environment Federation in cooperation with the Chesapeake Water Environment Association.

In 2025, two WEF specialty conferences, the Residuals and Biosolids Conference (RBC) and Innovations in Treatment Technology (ITT) Conference, will be combined. This joint event provides opportunities for these technical communities to come together and work on some of the most pressing issues in the water industry focused on the circular water economy, while at the same time preserving the unique character of both programs and audiences. For a single registration fee, participants will be encouraged to attend technical sessions and networking events of both conference tracks. This event will share new technologies, successful innovations, and current best practices to allow industry professionals to achieve long-term success in both designing and managing biosolids programs and designing and operating water resource recovery facilities. Currently, WEF is soliciting abstract, workshop and session proposals.

Residuals and Biosolids Specific Information:

This conference program shares 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.

Innovations in Treatment Technology Specific Information:

This conference program provides the opportunity to share and participate in discussions of innovations in the tools, technologies, and strategies used for the research, design, and operation of treatment plants. The target audience includes researchers and practitioners energized in leading the discussion and implementation of technical development in our industry. Concentrating heavily on research, development, and innovation, the conference encourages a wide range of stages and scales of innovation, from well-developed process concepts to bench-scale and pilot-scale research and full-scale demonstrations, including developments in the design and operation of treatment processes, new strategies, operating and monitoring tools, and technologies.

Examples of topics that should not be submitted to this conference include case studies of well-established technologies, management (biosolids, people/workforce, utility, assets/equipment, finance, construction), collection and conveyance systems, equipment evaluation, project delivery, and master/facility planning, surface water quality-related topics, operator training issues, permitting/regulation, and aging infrastructure.

Topics of Interest

All focuses and disciplines in the field are encouraged. The combined event will host targeted tracks tailored to the unique RBC and ITT conference technical programs and audiences. Abstracts will be submitted through a single submittal platform, and authors will be able to select their conference of choice. Examples of topics that will be considered for each conference, respectively, are provided below:

Residuals and Biosolids (RB):

- A. Research and Innovations
- B. Environmental Justice and Inclusion
- C. Outreach and Cases on Bringing All Stakeholders Together
- D. Emerging Issues in Biosolids (PFAS, Microplastics, COVID, etc.)
- E. Thickening and Dewatering
- F. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- G. Digestion – Pretreatment, Post-treatment, Control, Co-digestion
- H. Modeling
- I. Thermal Processes
- J. Land Application
- K. Regulatory and Program Drivers
- L. Economics and Project Delivery
- M. Resource Recovery and Sustainable Practices (Biogas, Energy, Nutrients, etc.)
- N. Troubleshooting and Optimization
- O. Case Studies and Lessons Learned

Innovations in Treatment Technology (ITT):

- P. Process fundamentals and modeling
- Q. Nutrient removal, sidestream treatment, and recovery (low carbon, low nutrients, low energy)
- R. Enhanced primary treatment
- S. Innovative processes in water reuse
- T. Process Intensification, including densification, ballasted processes, biofilms, membranes, and other separation processes
- U. Contaminants of emerging concern and associated treatment means
- V. Innovative aeration and mixing approaches
- W. Alternative disinfectants and improved disinfection control
- X. Innovations in digestion – pretreatment, post-treatment, control, co-digestion
- Y. Novel approaches for treatment, decarbonization, and resource recovery
- Z. Advances in process monitoring and control systems and emerging sensor-based and/or data analytics-based controls such as machine learning/artificial intelligence
- AA. Advances in process, hydraulic, data-driven, and CFD modeling and non-traditional ways of using traditional models
- BB. New microbial processes for wastewater treatment \ Understanding, monitoring, and engineering bioprocess microbiomes
- CC. Energy saving, conservation, generation technologies and mitigation of process emissions (GHG)

Important Information about 2025 Abstract Submissions

Method of Submittal: Online only please. Please visit www.wef.org/RBITT for a direct link to the online submittal site. Abstracts must be received by Midnight Eastern on **October 28, 2024**.

Abstract Length: Abstracts shall be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words). Tables, graphics, and/or images will not count towards this number and will be submitted separately, not in line with the text.

Workshop and Session Proposals: For more details about what is expected for a workshop or session proposal, please see Pages 4 and 5. For each, the description should be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words). Tables, graphics, and/or images will not count towards this number and will be submitted separately, not in line with the text. Workshop and session proposals should include at minimum an agenda, list names and affiliations of all invited speakers, titles, and short abstracts for each agenda topic.

After Selection: All submitters will be notified of their placement in the technical program in January 2025. All accepted speakers are required to have submissions for the conference proceedings, but the requirements vary by track. Workshop and session proposal submitters are not required to submit manuscripts.

- **RBC:** Selected abstract authors are required to submit full manuscripts for proceedings prior to the deadline. Learn more about [requirements at this link](#).
- **ITT:** In an effort to increase engagement from bleeding edge innovators and academics, selected abstract authors are required to submit the original abstract for proceedings, with the option to submit an updated extended abstract.

Presenters are expected to register for the Conference and pay the appropriate registration fee. No travel or assistance funds are available for presenters.

Abstract Review Criteria

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

ITT Content Evaluation Criteria				
Scoring Level	Novelty	Technical Content	Benefits & Significance	Quality
1	Nothing new	Just a concept	Of no interest to audience	Minimal text, limited discussion of project
2	Chance of small improvement	Well defined concept and clear objectives	Modest benefit to focused audience	Clear relevant text but no supporting data for claims
3	Modest incremental improvement	Well defined concept, clear objectives and methods	Modest benefit to broad audience	Clear text but minimal supporting data or tables/figures if required
4	Very significant incremental improvement	Clear objectives and methods. Outcomes suggested but not fully described	High interest and benefit to focused audience	Clear text with data and figures/tables if required but presentation or logic could be improved
5	Potential breakthrough	Clear objectives, methods described, and (anticipated) conclusions outlined	Broad benefits to broad audience	Well written logical text well supported by data to support claims and including tables/figures if required

For Questions or Additional Information Please Contact:

RBITTConf@wef.org | 703-684-2400, ext. 7450 | www.wef.org/RBITT

Submitting a Session Proposal

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: October 28, 2024

SUBMIT ONLINE AT www.wef.org/RBITT

Session proposals can be presented in different formats from traditional podium presentations. Examples of other formats include a panel discussion, mini-workshop, or interactive discussion. We are open to any 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 to 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.

Session Coordinators should complete and submit proposals 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 January.

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 organization or same company.
- ❖ **Session Description**
 - Should be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words). Graphics, tables, and images do not count towards this number.
- ❖ **Three Learning Objectives**
- ❖ **Session Agenda**
 - Should follow Half or Full Session timing listed above
 - Should include title and timing for each portion to be included in the program
- ❖ **Submitter Demographics:** Please fill out the "Speaker Demographics" questions as it relates to you as the submitter. Accepted speakers will also be asked for this information in a later step. This information will not be shared with abstract reviewers, nor publicized, and will be used to provide greater insight into the diversity of experience of who submits content to our conferences.
- ❖ **Target Audience** (a suggested list should be provided)

**All session proposals must be submitted online by October 28, 2024
at www.wef.org/RBITT**

Submitting a Workshop Proposal

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: October 28, 2024

SUBMIT ONLINE AT www.wef.org/RBITT

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 continuing 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.

Workshop Coordinators should complete and submit proposals for review through the online submittal site, Attendee Interactive (AI). The Steering Committee will review all submittals and announce accepted workshops in January 2025.

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 organization or same company.
- ❖ **Workshop Description**
 - Should be no longer than 9,000 characters (approx. 1000 words). Graphics, tables, and images do not count towards this number.
- ❖ **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 should be provided)
- ❖ **Submitter Demographics:** Please fill out the "Speaker Demographics" questions as it relates to you as the submitter. Accepted speakers will also be asked for this information in a later step. This information will not be shared with abstract reviewers, nor publicized, and will be used to provide greater insight into the diversity of experience of who submits content to our conferences.
- ❖ **Preferences for Room Layout, Attendance, and More**

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