

Conference Announcement & Call for Content



Water Environment
Association of Texas

Collection Systems & Stormwater Conference 2025

"One Water, One Future: Building Resilience from the Bayou Up!"

July 15-18, 2025
Houston, Texas, USA

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: January 27, 2025
at www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

This conference is jointly partnered by the Water Environment Federation and the Water Environment Association of Texas.

As climate change intensifies and wet weather events become more severe, the Collection Systems & Stormwater Conference 2025 will focus on resilient, integrated solutions under the banner of One Water. Houston, a city shaped by its bayous and flood management systems, provides the perfect backdrop for exploring how collection systems and stormwater infrastructure can be strengthened to meet evolving environmental challenges.

Hosted jointly by the Water Environment Federation and Water Environment Association of Texas, this conference invites professionals to share innovations in stormwater and collection system management that prioritize resilience and sustainability. Whether addressing urban flooding, managing stormwater runoff, or upgrading aging infrastructure, this event will showcase forward-thinking approaches that ensure long-term system integrity. We invite utility and water professionals, consultants, technology experts, academics, and regulators to submit proposals for Oral Presentations, Panel Discussions, Workshops, and Interactive Sessions.

Content Focus: We are soliciting submissions that align with the following themes:

- A. **Climate Resilience in Collection Systems & Stormwater Management:** Design, technology, and policy approaches to enhance resilience against extreme weather events including coastal adaptation.
- B. **One Water Solutions:** Integrating stormwater and wastewater management within a holistic, watershed-level approach.
- C. **Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Control:** Natural solutions like wetlands and permeable surfaces to manage runoff and alleviate stress on collection systems.
- D. **Trenchless & Innovative Technologies:** Advances in the rehabilitation and construction of collection systems for improved performance.
- E. **Wet Weather Control & Management:** Strategies to address storm surges, CSOs, and infrastructure vulnerabilities.
- F. **Community Engagement & Equity in Stormwater Solutions:** Best practices for involving the public and ensuring equitable access to resilient infrastructure.
- G. **Regulatory & Programmatic Innovations:** Navigating new regulations and exploring innovative programmatic solutions for stormwater management.
- H. **Innovations in Design, Construction, and Asset Management:** Unique and innovative case studies
- I. **Odors and Air Pollutants:** New and innovative solutions to reduce odors and pollution from treatment processes, conveyance systems, and natural systems

Important Information About Content Submissions

Method of Submittal: Online only please. Please visit www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater for a direct link to the online submittal site. Abstracts, workshop and session proposals must be received by Midnight Eastern on **January 27, 2025**.

Abstract Review Criteria: 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.

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: For more details about what is expected for a workshop or session proposal, please see Pages 3 and 4. 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 March 2025. 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 presenters.

For more information on submitting content and accepted presenter requirements, please see our Speaker Information page: <https://www.wef.org/events--education/conferences/speaker-information/>

For Questions or Additional Information Contact:

Water Environment Federation
Education and Training
WEF/WEAT CSSW 2025
(703) 684-2400, Ext. 7450
CSSWConf@wef.org
www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

Submitting a Session Proposal

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: January 27, 2025

SUBMIT ONLINE AT www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

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.

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 January 27, 2025 at

www.wef.org/CollectionsStormwater

Submitting a Workshop Proposal

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: January 27, 2025

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 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 at the same time as the final technical program.

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**