



2026 WaterReuse Symposium

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS: TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Deadline: August 11, 2025

Deadline Extended: August 14, 2025

YOU ARE INVITED

The WaterReuse Association is accepting presentation proposals for the 41st Annual WaterReuse Symposium to be held at the InterContinental Downtown in Los Angeles, California from March 8-11, 2026.

Submit your proposals on everything water reuse – best practices, lessons learned, innovations, emerging research, and more – for the opportunity to present at the 2026 WaterReuse Symposium. Presentations are meant to spark constructive conversation, inspire collaboration, and drive new solutions for greater adoption of water recycling globally. Demonstrate your thought leadership and build your professional network with a place on the podium at the 2026 WaterReuse Symposium.

Submit your proposals by **August 14 11, 2025** on our website: www.watereuse.org/symposium

THE MOST IMPORTANT GLOBAL WATER REUSE EVENT

The Annual WaterReuse Symposium is the premier conference on water recycling — attracting global water professionals and water reuse practitioners for knowledge-sharing, networking, and training. Planned in collaboration with The Water Research Foundation, the WaterReuse Symposium is the most comprehensive water recycling knowledge-sharing opportunity available, covering water reuse policy, technology, operations, communications, research, and more.

JOIN US: THE LATEST TRENDS, CHALLENGES, AND INNOVATIONS IN WATER REUSE

The 41st Annual WaterReuse Symposium seeks to explore the latest trends, challenges, and innovations that are impacting water recycling opportunities. Together, we will work to understand how water reuse systems, practices, and policies are bolstering water security, public health, and economic vitality. The 2026 Symposium takes place in California, a proud leader in water reuse innovation. Join us for tours of cutting-

edge local facilities, exciting networking opportunities, and technical education on water recycling solutions that range from regional mega-projects to small community and onsite reuse solutions. If you are a utility leader, community leader, regulator, technology provider, industrial water user, researcher, student, or simply someone with a strong interest in water reuse – the 2026 WaterReuse Symposium is the place to be!

PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS AND SESSION TOPICS

The WaterReuse Association invites technical presentation proposals with a fresh – or tried and true - point of view on the essential and supportive role of water recycling in water management for communities, regions, and businesses. Proposals should align with one or more of the **bolded** focus areas listed below. You will be asked to select a *primary focus area* and will have the option to select a *secondary focus area*. In addition to our standard presentations, panels, and posters, there is a new opportunity to submit for a 90-minute or three-hour workshop.

Please note that there are some cross-cutting topics that are not unique to a specific focus area. These include creative partnerships, funding strategies, non-potable applications, regional planning, regulatory compliance, and water quality standards among others. Case studies, emerging research, innovative technologies, and pilot projects are also acceptable in all focus areas. Please carefully consider which focus area your proposal would *best fit* into, using the bulleted list below as your guide. *If the proposal is related to a Water Research Foundation (WRF) project or a National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) project, please make sure to include the respective project/action number and title.* A list of official WRF projects can be found [here](#) - and a list of official WRAP projects can be found [here](#).

Across the Sectors: The Role of Reuse in Broader Water Management Challenges

- Cyber security
- Development projects – piping, spacing, and incentives
- Environmental equity - advancing reuse in underrepresented and underserved communities
- Urban & rural infrastructure and implementation challenges
- Water-energy nexus
- Workforce development - trainings, apprenticeships, and ongoing education – operators, manuals, and certificate programs

Affordability, Economics, and Financing

- Budget process and planning for the unexpected (e.g. tariffs increasing prices, canceled grants & loans)
- Comparative costs of reuse
- Financing by use type and scale (onsite, potable, etc.)
- Funding programs and strategies
- Market creation and co-benefits of reuse (circular water economy)
- Rate structures and the value of water
- Reducing market barriers

Agricultural Reuse, Landscape, and Irrigation

- How reuse reduces runoff – nutrient mgmt.
- Fit-for-purpose water reuse programs
- Food safety and regulatory considerations
- Seasonal storage

Climate Resiliency

- Climate disasters and water reuse – preparation, response, aftermath
- Flood & drought management
- Groundwater depletion, saltwater intrusion, and managed aquifer recharge
- Nature-based solutions (e.g. brine management, ecological restoration)
- Protection of sensitive waterways and ecosystems

Communications, Engagement, and Education

- Building support among local elected officials and ratepayers – successful advocacy, social media, marketing campaigns
- Crisis communication planning – preparing for pushback, misinformation, and negative media cycles
- Education programs, demonstration projects, and learning centers – the value, the opportunities, the challenges
- Effectively communicate about public health and contaminants/pharmaceuticals
- Engage strategic stakeholders (e.g. medical community, academia, developers)
- Interagency engagement and community partnerships
- Using data and analytics to measure outreach success

Industrial and Commercial Reuse

- Atmospheric water harvesting/generators
- Energy, heat conveyance
- Environmental Social Governance (ESG) goals, corporate water sustainability programs, and return on investment (ROI)
- Industrial applications for reuse (e.g. cooling, process water)
- Private-public partnerships
- Reuse perspectives from different industries (data centers, food, manufacturing, oil & gas, automotive, etc.)
- Reuse to support data centers and AI

Onsite Reuse and Decentralized Systems

- Addressing public health and regulatory requirements
- Benefits of integrating decentralized and centralized water and wastewater infrastructure
- District-scale reuse
- Lessons learned from design, operation, and maintenance
- Moving towards potable or near-potable reuse on a decentralized scale
- Nature-based solutions in decentralized treatment systems
- Sewer mining
- Stormwater and rainwater capture and use system

Planning, Operations, Maintenance, and Management for Water Reuse Systems

- Artificial intelligence/machine learning in treatment systems
- Integrated water resources / One water planning
- Meters and pipes (and transmissions)
- Organizational planning & formation
- Planning, design, construction, and project delivery approaches

- Strategies & considerations for implementing a new water reuse program
- Training and certificate requirements – opportunities and gap

Policies and Regulations Advancing Water Recycling

- Federal initiatives and programs
- Federal level legislation & policy
- Incentives and credits
- Regulatory environment: challenges, solutions, and opportunities
- State level programming, legislation, & regulations

Potable Reuse

- Enhanced process control optimization and monitoring
- Innovative treatment technologies and trains
- Pathogen and chemical control
- Reverse osmosis (RO) concentrate management

Water Quality and Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs)

- Antimicrobial resistance
- Measuring, mitigating, and treating CECs (e.g., 6PPD, PFAS, microplastics)
- Source control
- Water quality challenges and solutions

Water Reuse Around the World

- Indigenous water management
- International partnerships and global exchange programs
- Reuse rules, regulations, and policy developments (locally, regionally)
- Water reuse commitments connected with UN Sustainable Development Goal

NEW THIS YEAR! 2026 WateReuse Symposium Workshops

We invite you to design a workshop that offers an immersive and interactive learning experience that promotes a deeper understanding of critical issues related to one or more of the 2026 WateReuse Symposium focus areas (see pages 2-3). **Workshops primarily take place on Sunday, March 8 and can be 90 minutes or 3 hours.** The workshop should impart practical skills, techniques, and concepts directly applicable to water reuse professionals. Workshops include at least one facilitator and one or more interactive activities.

Successful workshop proposals will create an engaging learning experience, share multiple perspectives (utility, business, and others as applicable), and foster constructive audience exchanges beyond what is typically possible in a standard presentation or panel. The required interactive components can include Icebreakers, small group discussions, hands-on projects, polls and quizzes, and brainstorming on shared documents/flip charts, among other creative interactions.

Types of Workshops

- **Water Reuse Fundamentals:** These workshops will explore concepts, technologies, and processes for people new to water reuse, providing a learning experience that is accessible for people from various backgrounds.
- **Water Reuse Research, Innovation, or Technology:** These workshops provide a deeper understanding of specific research, systems, or technologies that water reuse professionals can use to plan, implement, and/or operate water reuse systems.
- **Water Reuse Solutions:** These workshops identify a specific barrier to advancing water reuse programs—such as financing, workforce development, public acceptance, regulatory challenges, etc.—and support the audience in developing and/or following a framework to identify and implement solutions.

PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

WateReuse encourages proposals that include a diversity of voices, including water and wastewater utilities of all sizes, young professionals, and rural and urban communities. When submitting, please enter your **full organization name**, not only the acronym.

Types of Proposals

WateReuse is accepting proposals for four types of technical presentations and workshops at the 2026 WateReuse Symposium:

- **Standard Presentation:** An in-depth technical presentation by one to two presenters (Time: 25 minutes, including Q&A).
- **Panel Discussion:** An interactive, in-depth discussion of a single topic by multiple presenters. Panels consist of three to five panelists, including at least one utility representative, and a moderator. (Time: 55 minutes, including Q&A)
- **Workshop:** An immersive and interactive learning experience that takes a deep dive into critical water recycling issues. Workshops include a facilitator, expert presenters, and interactive activities that facilitate adult learning. (Time: 90 minutes or 3 hours)
- **Poster Presentation:** A visual presentation of a research project or case study. A 60-minute period is designated for you to stand with your poster and interact with attendees.

Learning objectives

Presentations must clearly define measurable learning objectives for attendees. Learning objectives should describe the information, skills, behaviors, or perspectives participants will acquire or outcomes and actions attendees will be able to demonstrate after attending your presentation. Examples include:

- Attendees will be able to conduct a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis for proposed water reuse projects.
- Attendees will learn new ways to manage X.

Preparing a Proposal

Please gather the following information to prepare a presentation proposal:

- Title (up to 15 words)
- Presentation Type (Standard, Panel, Workshop, or Poster)
- Focus Area/Topic (select up to two)
- Summary (up to 150 words)
- Learning objectives (up to 100 words)
- Full presentation description/abstract (up to 500 words)
- Contact information and brief bios (up to 150 words) for presenters and/or panelists.
- List of co-authors (for reference)
 - Co-authors include only colleagues that will NOT be presenting the session. All others that will be presenting should be listed as co-presenters.

Please note that the WateReuse Association reserves the right to work with presenters to refine the title for communications purposes. The submission form allows presenters to mark if they are interested in being considered for an alternate proposal category.

Presenter Registration

Presenters are responsible for registering in advance for the Symposium, paying the registration fee, and securing and paying for travel and lodging. All accepted speakers are eligible to register at the discounted speaker rate if registered by the speaker deadline date of **February 3, 2026**.

Presenter Commitment

Presenters must attend in person in Los Angeles and agree that WateReuse Association can record presentations for on-demand viewing. Presenters will be required to upload their presentations and/or supporting materials and resources prior to the Symposium. These resources will then be posted for attendees to access beyond the session. If your proposal is selected, you will be provided with further instructions on uploading your presentation materials.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The WateReuse Technical Program Committee will review proposals for workshops, panels, presentations, and posters. Proposals will be evaluated based on relevance, appropriateness, applicability to focus areas, and overall clarity and quality.

Preferred proposals will include:

- Concepts, tools, approaches that move reuse strategies forward.
- Relevance to selected focus area(s).
- Speakers with valuable insight, both established experts and up-and-coming thought leaders.
- Partnerships between private entities and utilities.
- Diverse voices.
- Audience engagement.

| Key Dates | |
|--------------------|--|
| August 14 44, 2025 | Proposals Due via Online Submission Form |
| November 3, 2025 | Speakers Notified |
| February 3, 2026 | Deadline for Speaker Registration Discount |
| February 27, 2026 | PowerPoint Presentations Due |
| March 8-11, 2026 | 2026 WateReuse Symposium |

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available at watereuse.org/symposium. Presentation proposals will be accepted [here](#).

Please direct inquiries regarding this Call for Presentation to Monika Merk, Technical Program Manager, at mmerk@watereuse.org.