

**2026 Industrial Water Solutions | McCormick Place Convention Center, Chicago | June 8-10**  
**Draft Schedule of Events**

*The schedule and speakers below are subject to change*

**Monday, June 8: Facility Tours**

<p><b>Stickney Water Reclamation Plant</b>  <i>Time:</i> June 8, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm  <i>Max # of Tour Participants:</i> 30  <i>Fee:</i> \$60</p> <p>The Stickney Water Reclamation Plant is not only the largest in the world but also the most efficient, treating an average of 700 million gallons of water per day and capable of treating up to 1.44 billion gallons per day. The plant utilizes advanced technologies to recover up to 85% of phosphorus and up to 15% of nitrogen from wastewater streams, converting them into valuable fertilizers.</p>	<p><b>Shedd Aquarium: Behind the Scenes</b>  <i>Time:</i> June 8, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  <i>Max # of Tour Participants:</i> 20  <i>Fee:</i> \$140</p> <p>The Shedd Aquarium is one of the largest indoor aquariums in the world, housing over 32,000 animals and serving as a hub for marine education and conservation. On the Behind the Scenes Tour, participants will see the aquarium’s water systems, including the water quality lab, the facilities operations room, the life support filtration systems, and the water reuse strategies that conserve water and reduce environmental impact.</p>	<p><b>Loyola University School of Environmental Sustainability</b>  <i>Time:</i> June 8, 1:15 pm to 4:15 pm  <i>Max # of Tour Participants:</i> 30  <i>Fee:</i> \$60</p> <p>Loyola’s School of Environmental Sustainability LEED-certified building showcases a range of innovative sustainability features. Visit the greenhouse and aquaponics system, the biodiesel lab for renewable energy research, and the geothermal ground-source heat pump. Permeable pavement and turf help collect and reuse water via cisterns and recharge Lake Michigan, demonstrating an integrated approach to water management.</p>
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**Monday, June 8: Workshops**

<p>1:00PM – 4:30PM</p>	<p><b>Scaling Water Reuse in Industry</b>  <i>Fee: \$135 early bird/ \$150 standard</i></p> <p>This interactive workshop will explore how industrial water reuse can help advance the transition to a circular water economy. Drawing on insights from global case studies across sectors such as food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, consumer products, and energy, the session will examine four key reuse pathways—onsite reuse, offsite reuse, utility-industry partnerships, and supply chain reuse—and their technical, economic, and governance challenges. Explore barriers, partnership models, and corporate water targets through collaborative dialogue.</p>	<p><b>Circular Water Economy Framework</b>  <i>Fee: \$135 early bird/ \$150 standard</i></p> <p>Help develop a Circular Water Economy Framework focused on practical applications for implementing circular water at the utility and industrial levels, with a particular focus on industrial water reuse. Building on ongoing discussions, the session will explore how industries can transition from linear water use toward circular approaches that prioritize reduction of waste, resource recovery, and regeneration of nature through system resilience. Led by experts from LimnoTech, the workshop will provide an interactive forum to refine key framework elements, identify implementation pathways, and gather stakeholder input to help shape a vision for circular water practices across industries.</p>
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**Monday, June 8: Welcome Reception**

<p>5:00PM – 6:30PM</p>	<p>Connect with leaders from industry and government for a social hour with appetizers and drinks in a lively downtown Chicago setting.</p>
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**Tuesday, June 9**

7:30AM – 8:30AM	<b>Networking Breakfast</b> <i>Optional Coffee Chat: Liquid Cooling</i> <i>*Either enjoy a networking breakfast or join your colleagues for a focused conversation.</i>		
8:30AM	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> John Kmiec; President, WaterReuse Association & Director, Tucson Water Keith Hobson; President, WEF & Project Manager, Strand Associates, Inc.		
8:30AM-9:30AM	<b>Waterside Chat: Circular Water and the Future of Reuse</b> Ralph Exton, Executive Director, WEF Bruno Pigott, Executive Director, WaterReuse Association		
9:00AM-10:00AM	<b>How Water Fuels the AI Revolution</b> <i>Hear from representatives of Fortune 500 companies, such as Meta, and utility partners who represent the communities and water solutions where data centers are proliferating.</i>		
10:00AM-10:30AM	Networking Break		
10:30AM-12:00PM	<b>Critical Materials</b> Moderator: Brian Arntsen, Veolia  <i>Learn about critical mineral mining, oil drilling &amp; produced water, and the role of water circularity.</i>	<b>Food Industry</b> Moderator: Mike Buettner, Alfa Laval  <i>Food &amp; agriculture are growing areas for water reuse and sustainability practices. Join a distinguished industry panel for updates.</i>	<b>Powering Central Ohio’s Tech Boom with Circular Water</b> <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Sheets, CDM Smith</li> <li>• John Newsome &amp; Grace McInerney, City of Columbus</li> <li>• Brian Coghlan, Del-Co Water</li> <li>• Kelvin Guobadia, Google</li> </ul>



**Tuesday, June 9 (continued)**

12:00PM-1:00PM	<b>Networking Lunch</b>		
1:00PM-2:30PM	<b>Beverage Industry</b> Moderator: Michael Skovgaard, Grundfos  <i>Learn about water reuse and circular water applications in the beverage industry.</i>	<b>Water-Energy Nexus</b> Moderator: Abigail Antolovich, Suez  <i>Sustainability practices for water and for energy can present both synergies and trade-offs. Hear how leading experts are connecting the dots.</i>	<b>Community-Centric Approaches for Successful Data Center Partnership Solutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Kmiec, Tucson Water</li> <li>• Carla de las Casas, Brown &amp; Caldwell</li> </ul>
2:30PM-3:00PM	<b>Networking Break</b>		
3:00PM-3:30PM	<b>Waterside Chat: Federal Water &amp; Industry Leadership</b> <i>US EPA and Microsoft Representatives Invited</i>		
3:30PM-4:30PM	<b>The Automotive Sector and Circular Water Economy</b> Moderator: Sharon Waller, Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  <i>Join sustainability experts from the automotive industry to discuss the future of auto manufacturing in the Midwest and across the United States, with a focus on sustainable water practices and water reuse.</i>		
4:30PM-5:30PM	<b>Conversations &amp; Cocktails</b> <i>Participants will connect in a dynamic, small group setting designed to foster meaningful dialogue and peer exchange. Attendees will rotate through three focused discussion rounds, each centered on a specific topic, with groups of approximately 8–10 participants to encourage deeper engagement. Topics may include public health, GIS, pulp and paper, AI adoption frameworks.</i>		



**Wednesday, June 10**

7:30AM-8:30AM	<b>Networking Breakfast</b> <i>Optional Coffee Chat: Recycled Water Certificates</i> <i>*Either enjoy a networking breakfast or join your colleagues for a focused conversation.</i>		
8:30AM-9:00AM	<b>Waterside Chat: Scaling Water Reuse for Resilient Cities</b> Rabia Chaudhry, Director of Water Supply Resilience, DC Water Rochi Khemka, "Senior Private Sector Specialist, World Bank		
9:00AM-10:00AM	<b>Global Perspectives on Industrial Water</b> Moderator: Rasmus Hammer-Jakobsen, Embassy of Denmark		
10:00AM-10:30AM	<b>Networking Break</b>		
10:30AM-12:00PM	<b>Onsite Reuse</b> Moderator: Bob Salvatelli, H2O Innovation <i>Onsite reuse systems can solve water supply constraints and open new possibilities for building and expanding industrial and commercial facilities.</i>	<b>Industrial Reuse Financing</b> Moderator: Rob Simm, Stantec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christine Morris, Cambrian Innovation</li> <li>Tacoma Zach, MentorAPM</li> <li>Janet Goodfellow, Geosyntec</li> </ul>	<b>How to Scale Industrial Water Reuse: Overcoming Integrated Barriers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rachel Havrelock, Freshwater Lab</li> <li>James Jennings, Illinois EPA</li> <li>Ahmed –Rachid El-Khattabi, UNC Environmental Finance Center</li> <li>Zhenxing Zhang, IL State Water Survey</li> </ul>
12:00PM-1:30PM	<b>Lunch Panel: The Role of Non-Profits in Making a Profit</b> <i>Non-profit organizations have a role in publishing research, setting sustainability targets, and bringing industry together in structured programs. These efforts can help advance the “triple bottom line” and spur business innovation. Join a panel of non-profit leaders to discuss how we can succeed, together.</i>		

