

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>Stickney Water Reclamation Plant <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>Shedd Aquarium: Behind the Scenes <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>Loyola University School of Environmental Sustainability <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>Scaling Water Reuse in Industry <i>Fee: \$150</i> Workshop Lead: Black & Veatch</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>Circular Water Economy Framework <i>Fee: \$150</i> Workshop Lead: LimnoTech</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. 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	Networking Breakfast & Liquid/Water Cooling Deep-Dive with Ufuk Erdal, Black & Veatch		
8:30AM	Welcome Remarks John Kmiec; President, WaterReuse Association & Director, Tucson Water Keith Hobson; President, WEF & Project Manager, Strand Associates, Inc.		
8:30AM-9:30AM	Waterside Chat: Circular Water and the Future of Reuse Ralph Exton, <i>Executive Director, WEF</i> & Bruno Pigott, <i>Executive Director, WaterReuse Association</i>		
9:00AM-10:00AM	How Water Fuels the AI Revolution <i>The rapid growth of AI and data centers is reshaping water demand, energy use, and infrastructure needs.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay Swain, Meta • Alton Echols, Loudoun Water • Rebecca Maco, Brown & Caldwell 		
10:00AM	Networking Break		
10:30AM-12:00PM	Critical Materials Moderator: Brian Arntsen, Veolia <i>Water is essential for extraction, processing, and management of materials central to the energy transition. Discuss regional challenges, resource recovery opportunities, and strategies for water efficiency and reuse.</i>	Food Industry Moderator: Mike Buettner, Alfa Laval <i>The food and agricultural sectors are implementing water solutions across production and processing. Join panelists for practical approaches to improving efficiency and maximizing water reuse in food production.</i>	Powering Central Ohio’s Tech Boom with Circular Water <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Sheets, CDM Smith • John Newsome & Grace McInerney, City of Columbus • Brian Coghlan, Del-Co Water • Kelvin Guobadia, Google



Tuesday, June 9 (continued)

12:00PM	Networking Lunch		
1:00PM-2:30PM	Water in the Beverage Industry <i>The industry is rethinking water: sourcing, production & discharge.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Skovgaard, Grundfos • Paul Bowen, BIER • Orianna Bretschger, Aquacycl • Michael Waitek, Pepsi 	Water-Energy Nexus <i>Dive into the critical interdependencies between water and energy systems.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abigail Antolovich, Suez • Umesh Ghimire, Tomorrow Water • Peter Fiske, NAWI • John Moynier, Garney 	Community-Centric Approaches for Successful Data Center Partnership Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Kmiec, Tucson Water • Carla de las Casas, Brown & Caldwell
2:30PM	Networking Break		
3:00PM-3:30PM	Waterside Chat: Scaling Water Reuse for Resilient Cities Rabia Chaudhry, <i>Director of Water Supply Resilience, DC Water</i> & Rochi Khemka, <i>Private Sector Specialist, World Bank</i>		
3:30PM-4:30PM	The Automotive Sector and Circular Water Economy <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Sharon Waller, Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago • Randi Berris, Ford Motor Company 		
4:30PM-5:30PM	Conversations & Cocktails <i>Participants will connect in a dynamic, small group setting designed to foster meaningful dialogue and peer exchange. Rotate through three focused discussion rounds with groups of approximately 8–10 participants. Topics will include public health, GIS, pulp and paper, AI adoption frameworks, and many more.</i>		



Wednesday, June 10

7:30AM-8:30AM	Networking Breakfast and Recycled Water Certificates Deep-Dive with Greta Zornes, <i>CDM Smith</i> and Usman Khan, <i>Amazon</i>		
8:30AM-9:00AM	Waterside Chat: Federal Water & Industry Leadership <i>Featuring Peggy Browne, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA</i>		
9:00AM-10:00AM	Global Perspectives on Industrial Water <i>Learn how communities worldwide are approaching corporate commitments, innovation, resilience, and efficiency.</i>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Rasmus Hammer-Jakobsen, Embassy of Denmark • Rebecca West, ReWa • Usman Khan, Amazon 		
10:00AM	Networking Break		
10:30AM-12:00PM	Onsite Water Systems <i>Onsite solutions reduce demand on centralized infrastructure & enable sustainable development.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Salvatelli, H2O Innovation • Prithviraj Chavan, Ardurra • Zach Gallagher, NSU 	Industrial Reuse Financing <i>Financing models are evolving to support innovative infrastructure and technology.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Simm, Stantec • Christine Morris, Cambrian • Tacoma Zach, MentorAPM • Janet Goodfellow, Geosyntec 	How to Scale Industrial Water Reuse: Overcoming Integrated Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Havrelock, Freshwater Lab • James Jennings, Illinois EPA • Ahmed–Rachid El-Khattabi, UNC Environmental Finance Center • Zhenxing Zhang, IL State Water Survey • John Ryzewski, Carollo
12:00PM-1:30PM	Lunch Panel: The Role of Non-Profits in Making a Profit <i>Learn how non-profits are shaping market-based approaches to water sustainability and influencing capital flows toward resilient water solutions.</i>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Shannon Spurlock, Pacific Institute 		

