

Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Committee
Application for Sponsor Distance Education
OESAC CEU Committee

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See Distance Education Instructions before completing this application.

Course title: 2026 FOG Forum

Instructor(s): Please see application with agenda

Location(s): Bend, OR

Date(s): April 15 & 16, 2026

Requested CEUs (1 hour class time = .1 CEU; do not include time for breaks, lunch)

DW: _____ WW: 1.2 O2-I: _____ O2-SP: _____

Has this course been through OESAC review before? No **Yes** If yes, what was the previous OESAC number 4715

Course Format: Online/Internet **Webinar** CD Rom Correspondence Course Video One time class

Recurring Recurring Dates: _____ On-going

Was the content of this course designed by qualified subject matter experts?

Yes No

Is CEU awarded based on beta-testing results? **Yes** No If no, supply accrediting formula and submit results

Is the requested course being bundled with like courses? Name each individual course on a separate paper.
(See instructions)

Training Objective: Train Municipal staff how to build the business case for developing and implementing an effective fats, oil and grease (FOG) abatement program

Target Audience: Municipal staff, engineers and manager involved in wastewater management Consultants

Method of Tracking Attendance: Daily sign in sheets

Are quizzes or other forms of review and feedback included in this course?

Yes No

If yes, what is the minimum passing score for successful completion of this course? _

Does this course promote a product or apparatus or offer such to those attending? Yes **No X**

If YES, this must be explained on a separate attachment to this application and disclosed

Course contact name: Daniela Garcia

Address: 8620 Holly Drive, Suite 250,

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Phone: (208)-546-2444 Fax: _____

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Sponsor: Western States Alliance

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Contact: Ed Gonzalez

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Enclosed:

Instructor Biography

Course Agenda x

Course Timeline

Course Brochure

Check #: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Do you want the course to be listed on the OESAC website as "closed to registration"?

Yes No X

If you want to list newly scheduled classes from an already approved course, you must send the new schedule to OESAC.



2027 FOG FORUM DRAFT AGENDA

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15		THURSDAY APRIL 16	
7:30 AM	Breakfast	7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:20 AM	Welcome & Audience Polls, Ed Gonzalez & Jude Brown, PPRC	8:30 AM	Succession Planning and Asset Management, Shannon Hazelton, Environmental Finance Center, Wichita State University
8:30 AM	Case Studies with a Focus on Jurisdiction Coordination, Jill Hoyenga, City of the Dalles	10:30 AM	Break
9:15 AM	Building a FOG Program from the Ground Up, Tony Cole, FOGBMP	10:45 AM	How to Make Your Day Better With AI Tools, Greg Geyer, Terracord
10:00 AM	Break	12:00 PM	Lunch
10:15 AM	Insight into the City of Portland's FOG Program, Ali Dirks, City of Portland	1:00 PM	Choosing the Right Partner: A Practical Framework for Evaluating Utility Software Vendors, Everett Adams, SAMS
11:00 AM	The City of Gresham's Full Lifecycle Approach to FOG Management, Andrea Kilbane, Cody Anderson, and Jacob Corum, City of Gresham	1:45 PM	A Canadian Perspective on FOG Treatment, Alicia Wind, Enviro-Stewards
12:00 PM	Lunch	2:30 PM	Break
1:00 PM	Regulatory Updates from the States	2:45 PM	From Compliance to Collaboration: Driving Stakeholder Engagement in Modern FOG Programs, Nicco Mediate, SwiftComply
1:45 PM	The Tools and Techniques Behind Spokane County's FOG Control Program, Joshua Villa, Spokane County	3:30 PM	Online Training to Supplement Your Continuing Education, Jude Brown, PPRC
2:30 PM	Break	4:00 PM	Adjourn
2:45 PM	Community Based Marketing: How to Reach Your Audience, Jude Brown, PPRC		
3:30 PM	Experts Panel: Guided Q&A with Municipal Leaders from the Region		
4:00 PM	Adjourn		

Please note that this is a draft agenda that will likely change.

2026 FOG Forum

Speaker Bio's/Abstracts

Adam K Risher, DC Water and Sewer Authority

adam.risher@dcwater.com

Abstract: Guardians of Nations Capitol Waters:

We will touch on the challenges and benefits of water operations in Federal City. How the environment plays a role in controlling FOG.

Bio: Began working in Water and Wastewater in Forsyth GA in 2006.

While at Forsyth County I was able to work in all aspects of both distribution and collection operations. In 2014 I took an opportunity to work in WQ compliance at DeKalb County Georgia as a BPA inspector. In 2015 I was Offered an Opportunity to work in our Nation's Capital. Today I have formed and am managing DC Waters FROG program.

Shannon Hazelton, Environmental Finance Center Wichita State University, Program Manager

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Abstract: The least managed asset in your asset management program may be the most important. I plan to cover succession planning. Breaking it down to transferring institutional knowledge, starting an internship, operator recruitment and retention, wages and benefits and work life balance. This is targeted for capacity development in rural and small systems but could have some carryover into larger municipalities.

Bio: Shannon joined the Environmental Finance Center in February of 2025. He has a strong background in water and wastewater challenges and different treatment processes. Helping as many operators and communities as possible is his passion. In addition to providing technical assistance Shannon will help host workshops, write blog posts, and give presentations. Before joining the Environmental Finance Center, Shannon worked in the utility industry for over 20 years. He was the water/wastewater superintendent in Iowa Falls, Wastewater Superintendent in Ida Grove and Winterset, and also worked for the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District and the City of Des Moines. He has been helping communities and educating operators in his spare time for the last few years as well. He has a desire to help Iowa Water and Wastewater operators and helps on the Board of IAWEA Region 2 and AWWA-IA Region 2. He really enjoys providing new learning and training topics to recruit a new generation of operators into the field, especially a younger generation to pursue internships or job shadows.

Tony Cole, Director of Business Development

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Abstract: Municipal Coordinators often find themselves tasked with creating a FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) or Industrial Pretreatment program despite having limited or no prior experience in these areas. This often occurs because many municipalities do not have existing programs, requiring managers to build one from the ground up.

This presentation will guide attendees through the process of developing comprehensive municipal FOG & IP programs from start to finish. This presentation aims to guide attendees through the process of developing comprehensive municipal FOG and Industrial Pretreatment programs, from start to finish. We will use examples from current municipalities to highlight the effective practices utilized in their respective programs.

The presentation will then walk participants through the entire process, culminating in the creation of a mock municipal FOG program (on a small scale) with audience participation.

The following steps will be covered for FOG:

- Enacting, adopting, or creating a FOG ordinance
- Profiling stakeholders, including waste haulers, facilities, and grease separation device manufacturers
- Establishing a system for cleaning record submission and storage
- Conducting FOG inspections
- Developing sewer overflow and environmental reporting protocols
- Engaging FOG-generating facilities
- Creating data reports and measuring progress
- Performing typical daily FOG program tasks

The following steps will be covered for IP:

- Profiling industrial users
- Conducting industrial pretreatment inspections
- Automating permits (issuance & expiration notifications)
- Establishing a system for sample submission from both the control authority and industrial user
- Automate sampling event due dates for clear awareness amongst all stakeholders
- Creating standard customized data reports for measuring progress
- Issuing notices for SNCs & NOVs

As a practical example, we will examine how live municipalities operate their FOG program & Industrial Pretreatment Programs. Participants will gain insights into how a utility profiles its facilities, conducts inspections, manages enforcement, and prioritizes resources for daily operations.

Bio: Tony Cole is the Director of Business Development at BMP Compliance Group. With nearly 10 years of experience in the FOG & Pretreatment industry, Tony provides solutions and

consultation services to over 300 municipal water professionals who manage fats, oils, and grease (FOG), industrial pretreatment, and backflow compliance programs across the country. Before joining BMP Compliance Group, Tony spent over seven years leading regulatory compliance divisions for grease interceptor manufacturers Endura and MIFAB. Additionally, his board service with the US FOG Alliance and the Plumbing & Drainage Institute have established him as a trusted resource for professionals in the pretreatment sector.

Everett Adams, Regional Sales Manager

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Abstract: Choosing the Right Partner – “A Practical Framework for Evaluating Utility Software Vendors

For utilities, implementing a new software platform is a high-stakes decision.

The right solution can streamline compliance, preserve institutional knowledge, and enhance efficiency across departments. The wrong choice can result in cost overruns, staff frustration, and yet another system that fails to deliver. As regulations grow more complex and staffing challenges intensify, utilities must be strategic not only about when to invest in technology but also who they partner with.

This session will outline a practical framework for evaluating software vendors, guiding attendees through critical considerations such as:

- **Alignment with Utility Needs:** Does the platform address immediate regulatory, operational, and reporting requirements while also supporting long-term scalability?
- **Review:** Are you writing a wish list to see who can respond? Or have you done research and vetted most solutions prior to releasing your solicitation?
- **Integration Capabilities:** Can the system connect with existing CMMS, GIS, SCADA, billing, and document management platforms without creating new silos?
- **Security and Compliance:** How does the vendor safeguard sensitive data, manage access, and ensure compliance with the latest cybersecurity requirements and frameworks?
- **Implementation and Support:** What resources does the vendor provide for data migration, user training, and ongoing support during the critical post-go-live period?
- **Adaptability and Longevity:** Is the vendor committed to continuous improvement, user-driven enhancements, and technology that will stand the test of time?
- **Reference Checks:** Every solicitation asks for references, but what should be asked to each of them?

Attendees will also learn best practices for structuring RFPs, conducting vendor demos, and involving cross-departmental stakeholders early to strengthen adoption and change management.

Case examples will highlight utilities that successfully evaluated and implemented platforms by focusing on:

- Reducing audit preparation times by over 60%
- Shortening patch assessment cycles by 40%
- Achieving significant staff time savings through automation and integration
- Safeguarding institutional knowledge as senior staff retire

In summary, this presentation equips utility leaders with a roadmap for making confident, informed vendor selections. By asking the right questions and emphasizing long-term partnership over short-term fixes, utilities can avoid common pitfalls, mitigate risk, and implement technology that drives enduring operational excellence.

Bio: With over 10 years of experience in software sales, Everett brings a deep understanding of how technology drives business outcomes. For the past six years, he has specialized in the water industry, partnering with utilities to modernize and streamline critical workflows across operations, water quality, industrial pretreatment, cross-connection control, and related compliance programs.

Everett focuses on aligning technology with real-world utility challenges, helping organizations improve efficiency, automate processes, ensure regulatory compliance, and deliver better service to their communities.

Ali Dirks, City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services- Environmental Specialist

ali.dirks@portlandoregon.gov

Abstract: The City of Portland's Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) program, primarily managed through the "Cut Through the FOG" initiative by the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), is designed to protect municipal infrastructure, public health, and the environment from the deleterious effects of grease-laden wastewater. As of 2026, the program continues to regulate over 3,000 food service establishments (FSEs) to prevent sewer blockages that lead to expensive repairs and hazardous overflows into local waterways.

Bio: I have spent the last 15 years administering the City of Portland's Fats, Oils and Grease Program. Prior to that I was an investigator for the City's Spill Protection and Citizen Response team.

Joshua Villa, Spokane County - Pretreatment Coordinator

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Abstract: Spokane County's FOG Control program uses multiple tools and techniques to perform inspections at businesses. Those tools help bridge information gaps that are normally

found in varying maintenance records. Using the right tools during inspections assists in providing the best levels of customer service to businesses and helps to achieve positive pretreatment outcomes and aid in enforcement efforts. Note taking and inspection report writing are crucial when conveying information as part of inspecting business, this sets expectations for outcomes, and aids in reaching long-term compliance. On-going regional coordination and identifying stakeholders for a program are paramount to a successful FOG program too. Oil/water separators can't be forgotten either; while not a food service grease control device, Spokane County has found a way to deal with these devices and bridge communication gaps that were previously unaddressed in our region.

Bio: Joshua Villa is an environmental scientist with Spokane County's Public Works Department. Currently, he holds the role of Pretreatment Coordinator and oversees both the Industrial Pretreatment Program and the FOG Control program. Joshua has 15+ years of working in environmental programs, such as pretreatment, stormwater, solid waste, and construction where pollution prevention education is key and plays a critical role in long-term compliance.

Andrea Kilbane, City of Gresham Industrial Pretreatment Program Coordinator

andrea.kilbane@greshamoregon.gov

Abstract: The City of Gresham has taken a full lifecycle approach to Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) management. This presentation will cover the sources of FOG that the city has identified, the challenges and success of our award-winning interim FOG team, and an overview of the FOG hauled waste receiving program at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The implementation of this robust program relies heavily on collaboration, both internally and externally. When the positions of FOG Inspector and Industrial Pretreatment Program Coordinator became vacant The City of Gresham's Groundwater Protection Team stepped up and took on the role of interim FOG team. During their training and early implementation of the FOG program, the interim team reached out to SwiftComply to address inspection and tracking needs. Through their collaboration, the interim team was able to utilize SwiftComply's technology to standardize inspection forms, gather information on grease removal device types, and adequately track inspection and compliance data. The interim FOG team was recognized for their work with the SwiftComply Innovation Award for 2025. The City of Gresham has instituted a program to keep FOG out of the collection and liquid treatment systems and beneficially utilize the FOG for increased energy production at the treatment plant. Since 2012, the Gresham WWTP has been accepting hauled FOG waste at its FOG Receiving Facility. In 2015, the WWTP attained Electrical Net-Zero status and has averaged zero utility import since. In March 2025, the Gresham WWTP installed digester sensors after being approached by Sentry. These sensors were installed as part of a pilot program to track the waste strength of aggregated FOG, indexed by consumable Volatile Fatty Acids (cVFA), and subsequent changes as they take place after injection in the digesters. This application represents a partnership with Sentry to test these sensors in a FOG application and for the WWTP to gain insight into the relationships between

cVFA loadings from FOG and their effects on digestion. This presentation will highlight the innovations that have improved Gresham's FOG program from start to finish.

Bio: Cody Anderson is an Environmental Specialist 3 serving as the lead inspector for the Groundwater Protection Program within the City of Gresham's Water Division. In this role, he conducts regulatory inspections, oversees compliance efforts, and supports initiatives that protect local groundwater resources. Cody also contributes to the Interim FOG Program, where he performs site inspections and manages the program's reporting database to ensure accurate tracking and operational efficiency. Prior to his current position, Cody spent eight years with the City's Stormwater Operations crew, gaining extensive field experience in stormwater system maintenance, water quality practices, and environmental protection.

Jacob Corum is the WWTP FOG Program Coordinator and Engineer 1 at the City of Gresham WWTP. Prior to his current position, Jacob worked as an operator at the WWTP and has first-hand knowledge of operating and managing the FOG receiving facility for Gresham.

Andrea Kilbane is the Industrial Pretreatment Program Coordinator for the City of Gresham. In this role she manages the Industrial Pretreatment and FOG programs. Prior to this role Andrea has been working for local and state environmental agencies throughout the West in pretreatment and NPDES permit and data management.

Alicia Wind, Enviro-Stewards Inc., Senior Project Manager

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Abstract: A Canadian perspective on FOG treatment. This session will cover the common sewer use bylaw parameters regulated in Canada, with a specific focus on FOG and how it is typically dealt with (in-plant and/or end-of-pipe). Enviro-Stewards' preventive (root cause based) approach will be outlined using case studies to demonstrate the effectiveness and additional benefits of food loss prevention.

Bio: Alicia Wind has been working at Enviro-Stewards for 15 years and has been a key participant in dozens of P2 projects including toxics reduction, water and energy conservation, food loss and waste prevention, and circular economy projects. Her P2 work has won multiple national awards. Internationally, Alicia has worked on food loss prevention case studies for the North American Centre for Environmental Cooperation, ReFED and WWF, completed P2 work for facilities across the USA, and assisted numerous facilities across Canada.

Alicia is currently training dozens of industries in P2 skills through the Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium's green skills training program. This course includes both in plant instruction and practical in-plant assignments that students complete to develop and hone their skills. The course culminates with the students presenting to their own management team on the measures they have identified, implemented, and verified.

Haena Cho, Company: SwiftComply Role: Event Marketing Manager

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Abstract: From Compliance to Collaboration: Driving Stakeholder Engagement in Modern FOG Programs

As FOG programs grow in size and complexity, municipalities face a persistent challenge: keeping stakeholders aligned and responsive. Food service establishments, haulers, inspectors, and program staff all shape program outcomes, yet participation can be uneven and communication often breaks down, especially as regulatory expectations continue to evolve.

This session explores how modern FOG programs are moving beyond reactive, enforcement-heavy compliance and toward proactive stakeholder engagement. Drawing on real-world examples, weâ€™ll look at how digital tools and intentional communication, can increase participation, improve compliance results, and strengthen relationships across the FOG ecosystem. taking an average outreach email and making it better

Attendees will leave with practical strategies to improve outreach, strengthen coordination, and increase operational transparency, making FOG programs easier to manage over time.

Bio: Submitting on behalf of Nicco Mediate, Customer Success Manager, SwiftComply.

Nicco Mediate is a Customer Success Manager at SwiftComply, supporting customers across the Northwest U.S. He has been with SwiftComply for nearly two years, starting on the Support team before transitioning into Customer Success. In his current role, Nicco partners with clients to strengthen their Backflow, FOG, and Stormwater programs through ongoing guidance and support. Based in Washington State, he stays closely connected to the communities and customers in his territory.