

2026 Oregon ACWA Annual Conference Program

July 15-17, 2026

Riverhouse Convention Center

Bend, Oregon

PLENARY ROOM - CASCADE A/B/J					
	8:30 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Lobby)			
Opening Session	9:30 AM	Welcome - ACWA Chair Torrey Lindbo			
Keynote	9:40 AM	Opening Keynote Speaker: Ready or Not: Our Shared Responsibility for a Resilient Oregon			
	10:40 AM	Andrew Phelps, Chief Operating Officer, AC Disaster Consulting			
	10:40 AM	BREAK			
Plenary Session	11:00 AM	Pendleton's Sustainability Journey & Funding Strategies for 2026			
	12:00 PM	Kathleen Kelleher, Business Development / Grant Coordination, Ameresco; Layne McWilliams, VP, External Growth & Industrial Symbiosis, Cascade Energy; Alicia Li, Municipal Initiatives Manager, Energy Trust of Oregon			
	12:00 PM	LUNCH			
Plenary Session	1:30 PM	Sensible Strategic Planning Through EUM (Effective Utility Management)			
	2:30 PM	Ron Wieranga, Deputy Director, Clackamas WES; Erin Blue, Finance Manager, Clackamas WES			
	2:30 PM	BREAK			
	Time	CASCADE C	CASCADE D	CASCADE E	CASCADE F
Concurrent Sessions	2:50 PM	Biosolids/PFAS Updates	Water Quality Permit Reporting in Your DEQ Online	Building the Future Workforce	Between Rocks and Hard Places, Connecting Local Water to State Housing and Data Center Policy
	3:50 PM	Ron Wieranga, Deputy Director, Clackamas County; Frank Dick, Wastewater Treatment Engineer, City of Vancouver	Martina Frey, WQ Program Analyst, DEQ; Melissa Kays, WQ Program Business Systems Analyst, DEQ	Jim Baird, General Manager, Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority; Auburn Mills, Manager, City of Portland; Charissa Rogers, Operations Supervisor, City of Portland	Amy Maag, Development Engineering Manager, City of Wilsonville; Bobby Cochran, Senior Strategy & Policy Lead, Cities4Forests (WRI); Michael Jung, Co-Chair, Oregon Data Center Advisory Committee
Concurrent Sessions (Repeat)	4:00 PM	Biosolids/PFAS Updates	Water Quality Permit Reporting in Your DEQ Online	Building the Future Workforce	Between Rocks and Hard Places, Connecting Local Water to State Housing and Data Center Policy
	5:00 PM	Ron Wieranga, Deputy Director, Clackamas County; Frank Dick, Wastewater Treatment Engineer, City of Vancouver	Martina Frey, WQ Program Analyst, DEQ; Melissa Kays, WQ Program Business Systems Analyst, DEQ	Jim Baird, General Manager, Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority; Auburn Mills, Manager, City of Portland; Charissa Rogers, Operations Supervisor, City of Portland	Amy Maag, Development Engineering Manager, City of Wilsonville; Bobby Cochran, Senior Strategy & Policy Lead, Cities4Forests (WRI); Michael Jung, Co-Chair, Oregon Data Center Advisory Committee
Deschutes NS	5:00 PM	RECEPTION Hosted by ACWA Associate Members			
	6:30 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN			

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THURSDAY JULY 16

	7:30 AM	BUFFET BREAKFAST	
	7:30 AM	NACWA BREAKFAST with Kaitlyn Montan	
Keynote	8:30 AM	Updates and Insights from the EPA Region 10 WQ Director	
		<i>Krishna Viswanathan, EPA Region 10 Water Division Director, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</i>	
Plenary Session	9:15 AM	PFAS: A Legal and Regulatory Update in a Changing Landscape	
	10:00 AM	<i>Kristin Denmark, Attorney/Shareholder, Thorp Purdy; Ashley Liuzza, Partner/CCO, Stag Liuzza LLC</i>	
	10:00 AM	BREAK	
Plenary Session	10:20 AM	Practitioner's Journey Through Industrial Symbiosis	
	11:10 AM	<i>Frank Dick, Waste Water Treatment Engineer, City of Vancouver; Steve Worley P.E., Senior Project Manager, Jacobs Engineering</i>	
Plenary Session	11:10 AM	Nutrient Strategy and Compliance	
	12:00 PM	<i>Shannon Richardson, WQ Program Analyst, DEQ; Jennifer Wigal, WQ Administrator, DEQ; Cody Luebbering, Principal WQ Scientist, Geosyntec; Adam Schnieders, WQ Resource Coordinator, Iowa Dept. of Nat. Resources</i>	
	12:00 PM	LUNCH	
	1:20 PM	2026 ACWA Priorities; Recognition for ACWA Board and Committees; Announcements	
	1:40 PM	<i>Geoff Rabinowitz, ACWA Executive Director</i>	
Plenary Session	1:40 PM	Hot Topics in Oregon DEQ Water Quality Programs	
	2:40 PM	<i>Jennifer Wigal, WQ Administrator, DEQ</i>	
	2:40 PM	BREAK	
	Time	CASCADE C	CASCADE D
Concurrent Sessions	3:00 PM	DEQ Water Quality Manager Forum	NPDES Individual Permit Monitoring Reductions and Streamlining
	4:00 PM	<i>Connie Dou, WQ Manager, DEQ; Steve Mrazik, WQ Manager, DEQ; Wyatt Stinnett, WQ Manager, DEQ; Rebecca Bodnar, WQ Permitting and Prog. Manager DEQ, Chris Marko, Program Coordinator for Clean Water Revolving Fund, DEQ</i>	<i>Jeff Navaro, Sr. WQ Permit Program Analyst, DEQ; Aliana Britson, Senior Permit Policy Consultant, DEQ</i>
	4:15 PM	Optional Organized Activities	
		DINNER ON YOUR OWN	

THURSDAY JULY 16

PLENARY ROOM - CASCADE A/B/J

FRIDAY JULY 17

	7:30 AM	BUFFET BREAKFAST	
	7:30 AM	Energy Committee Meeting: Layne McWilliams, VP, External Growth & Industrial Symbiosis, Cascade Energy	
	7:30 AM	Utility Director(s)/Deputy Director(s); Coffee with ACWA Executive Director	
	8:30 AM	Oregon DEQ Update	
	9:15 AM	<i>Shannon Davis, Deputy Director, Oregon DEQ</i>	
	9:15 AM	NACWA: National Updates	
	10:00 AM	<i>Kaitlyn Montan, Director of Legislative Affairs, National ACWA</i>	
	10:00 AM	BREAK	
	10:20 AM	The Water Shoe is on the Other Foot: DEQ Asks Questions to an ACWA Member Panel	
	11:05 AM	<i>Todd Miller, Deputy Director, Springfield Envir. Services; Frank Dick, Waste Water Treatment Engineer, City of Vancouver; Johnny Leavy, Water Reclamation Facility Mgr, City of Medford; Julia Crown, Water Resources Analyst, Clean Water Services; Ron Wierenga, Deputy Director, Clackamas WES</i>	
	11:05 AM	The Best of the Best Annual Awards and Recognition	
	11:30 AM	<i>Presented by ACWA</i>	
	11:30 AM	Resiliency, Modeling, and How to Think about Addressing the Big Problems	
	12:00 PM	<i>Larry O'Neill, Associate Professor, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at OSU</i>	

FRIDAY JULY 17

We make every effort to provide accurate information. Please note that the program is subject to last-minute changes to ensure the best experience for all attendees.