



2026 ANNUAL WASTE CONFERENCE

Beyond Disposal: The Future of Waste in the Lake Michigan States

Monday, May 4, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Jenner & Block
353 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654**

Join us for one of the region's most impactful environmental events of the year!

The Lake Michigan States Section of the Air & Waste Management Association invites you to our **Annual Waste Conference**—a full day of learning, collaboration, and forward-thinking solutions for the waste and environmental management community.

This year's program brings together industry leaders, technical experts, and regulatory professionals to explore the issues shaping our field, including:

- Cutting-edge developments in **microplastics and plastics management** and their impact on the Great Lakes
- What's new in **PFAS State regulatory updates**
- Advances in **beneficial reuse**
- Strategies for **wastewater treatment plant biosolids reduction and disposal**
- The growing role of **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** in waste minimization
- ...and much more

You'll also enjoy a dynamic conference experience featuring:

- **Breakfast and Luncheon Keynote sessions**
- Ample **networking opportunities** with peers and experts
- **Exhibitor showcases** highlighting innovative technologies and services
- A relaxed **after-conference reception** to close out the day

Attendees of the conference are eligible to receive **Continuing Legal Education (CLE)** credit and/or a **Professional Development Hours (PDH)** certificate.

BECOME A CONFERENCE SPONSOR / EXHIBITOR

Companies that supply products and services for environmental management are invited to participate as Exhibitors or Sponsors.

Sponsor logos will be included on promotional emails, website and on display at conference. Sponsorships do not include attendance to the event. Please register separately to attend.

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7:30 a.m. CHECK-IN, BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING

8:15 a.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Audrey Avila, Audrey Avila, Counsel, Thompson Hine LLP
A&WMA-LMSS 2026 Vice-Chair

8:25 a.m. KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – USEPA REGION UPDATE

Administrator Vogel was confirmed EPA Region 5 Administrator last year, after a stint as the head of the Ohio EPA. She will highlight current EPA activities and priorities within EPA Region 5, including cooperative federalism efforts with the Region 5 states. Administrator Vogel will also provide insights into EPA's national priorities.



Introduction: **Suzanne Bonola**, Sr. Project Scientist, Weaver Consulting Group
Conference Co-Chair

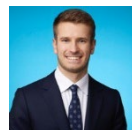
Speaker: **Anne Vogel**, Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 5

9:15 a.m. SESSION I – MICROPLASTICS

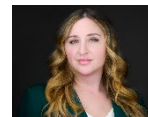
Microplastics are now on the radar of regulators, lawmakers, industry, and the public as all continue to determine how best to understand and address them. This panel brings together experts in laboratory science, environmental science and ecological risk assessment, environmental litigation and regulatory practice, and public policy addressing plastic pollution to offer a multidisciplinary perspective on this evolving landscape. Panelists will examine current scientific understanding of microplastics, including advances and limitations in analytical methods, detection, and quantification, as well as real-world challenges in assessing exposure and risk. The discussion will also address the shifting legal and regulatory landscape, including emerging federal and state initiatives and litigation trends such as consumer protection and public nuisance claims. Attendees will gain insight into compliance considerations, potential liability risks, and how to navigate a space where expectations are rising, but scientific and regulatory frameworks are still taking shape.

Moderator: **Audrey Avila**, Counsel
Thompson Hine LLP

Speakers: **Arie Feltman-Frank**, Associate
Jenner & Block LLP



Rachel Zajac-Fay, Senior Scientist/Ecological Risk Assessor
Geosyntec



Andrea Densham, Director of Regional Government Affairs
Alliance for the Great Lakes



Lloyd Kaufman, General Manager
SGS North America Inc.



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10:30 a.m. BREAK & EXHIBITOR VIEWING

10:45 a.m. SESSION II – STATE REGULATORY PFAS UPDATE

This roundtable discussion will dive into the key state initiatives involving PFAS in the Great Lakes region. Stay informed with the latest state regulatory updates!

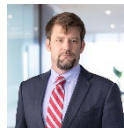
Moderator: **Matthew Walker**, Partner
Lathrop GPM

Speakers: **Amanda Raddatz**, Deputy Director for Environmental Policy
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Abigail Hendershott, Executive Director
Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART)

Nicholas Johnson, Senior Counsel
Foley & Lardner LLP, Wisconsin

Brian Wolff, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Land Quality
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

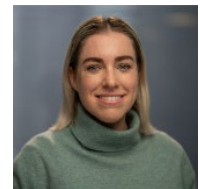


12:00 p.m. LUNCHEON & KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – WATER QUALITY IN THE CHICAGO RIVER: HISTORY, INNOVATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FUTURE

Dr. Pierce tells the story of the remarkable transformation of the Chicago River by highlighting its history, innovations that reshaped water quality, and the partnerships that have led us towards a cleaner, healthier, and swimmable urban ecosystem. This keynote offers a forward-looking perspective on how cities can rethink urban water quality for a more resilient future.

Introduction: **Suzanne Bonola**, Sr. Project Scientist, Weaver Consulting Group
Conference Co-Chair

Speaker: **Dr. Melissa Pierce**
Technical Program Director, Current
Technical Integration Lead, Great Lakes RENEW



Thank you to the Conference Exhibitors



4/28/2026

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1:30 p.m. SESSION III – BENEFICIAL REUSE

As organizations face growing pressures around sustainability, cost, and climate impact, waste is increasingly being viewed not as an endpoint, but as a resource. Today's panel will explore practical and innovative approaches to the beneficial reuse of waste streams—including food waste, solid waste, and landfill gas—highlighting how these materials can be transformed into value through recovery, energy generation, and circular solutions.

Moderator: **Sarah Langeliers**, Director, Supply Chain Environmental & Sustainability
Keurig Dr Pepper

Speaker: **Jyoti Agarwal**, Director Environmental Programs, Reworld Waste
Waste to Energy / Alternative Fuels



Jaymes Barrera, Vice President, 101 Food Lifecycle Solutions
Beneficial Use of Food Waste



Corina Sheridan, EVP Sales, Viridi Energy LLC
Landfill Gas Combustion



2:45 p.m. BREAK

3:00 p.m. SESSION IV – HOT TOPICS

The environmental and waste management industry is evolving rapidly, driven by regulatory pressure, emerging technologies, and shifting producer accountability. This panel brings together practitioners and innovators to examine three consequential developments shaping the field today: the latest strategies for biosolids reduction at wastewater treatment plants, the expanding framework of Extended Producer Responsibility and what it means for waste generators and consultants, and how artificial intelligence is being deployed to drive operational efficiency and quality improvement in environmental consulting practice. Attendees will leave with practical insight into where the industry is headed and how to position their organizations for what's next.

Moderator: **Jeffrey Dutton**, Strategic Business Development Manager
Eurofin US Environment Testing North Central, LLC

Speakers: **Ross Simpson**
Eden Lakes Company
Wastewater treatment plant reduction and disposal of biosolids



Alex Garel-Frantzen, Partner
ArentFox Schiff LLP
Extended Producer Responsibility



Marco Fiorante, Co-Founder & CEO
generAIT Solutions
AI for improved efficiency and quality in environmental consulting



4:00 p.m. CONFERENCE CLOSING

Giulia Aliyeva, Director, HSSE & Business Consulting LLC, Conference Co-Chair

4:15 p.m. NETWORKING RECEPTION

Join fellow conference attendees for a closing networking reception.

Thank you to the Conference Sponsors

JENNER & BLOCK

Facility

**MILLER
CANFIELD**

Luncheon



**Civil & Environmental
Consultants, Inc.**
Reception Bar



USA
environmental

Reception Food



Travel



Breakfast



Stantec

Breakfast



Coffee



Coffee



Coffee



General



General

This event is affiliated with Chicago Water Week, presented by Current.

4/28/2026

2026 Waste Conference

Register online or complete this form and submit

NAME: _____
COMPANY: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____
PHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____
E-MAIL: _____

REGISTRATION:

	Early Bird (before 4/13/26)	General (after 4/15/26)
☐ Members	\$425	\$475
☐ Non-Members*	\$500	\$550
☐ Government Employee	\$250	\$300
☐ Young Professionals (35 years old or younger)	\$200	\$250
☐ Students	\$50	\$75
☐ Virtual Attendee	\$325	\$375
☐ Printed Handbook	\$50	\$50
☐ Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Certificate	\$25	\$25
☐ Networking Reception Only (non-conference attendee)	\$75	\$75

☐ **Donation to Stephen Rothblatt Scholarship Fund** \$ _____
A&WMA-LMSS is a 501(c)(3) organization, please consult your accountant for potential tax deduction

**Non-members receive a one-year local associate membership with Lake Michigan States Section.*

Have multiple employees from the same company that want to attend?
Contact Robin Pelsis at 847-202-0418 to register and receive a 20% discount
after the first registration.

A limited number of scholarships are available for anyone who requires CLE credit to maintain professional registration such as attorneys, professional engineers and professional geologists and who could not otherwise afford to attend this conference. There are also a limited number of government and student scholarships. Contact Robin Pelsis at (847) 202-0418 or robin.pelsis@lmaurma.org for more details on any of the scholarships.

Payment via: ☐ check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express
 Credit Card # _____
 Exp. Date: _____ CVS #: _____
 Signature: _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____
 Name on Card: _____
 Address: _____

Cancellations will be accepted until April 29, 2026. Substitutions may be made at any time. After April 29th, we will no longer be able to issue any refund, but the conference proceedings will be provided.

To register - mail or e-mail your registration to the address below. Online registration is also available at www.LMAWMA.org

LM-A&WMA, 11 Pleasant Hill Blvd., Palatine, IL 60067
 Phone: (847) 202-0418 / E-mail: robin.pelsis@LMAWMA.org

2026 Waste Conference Planning Committee

Conference Co-Chairs: ***Suzanne Bonola***
Senior Project Scientist
Weaver Consultants Group

Giulia Aliyeva
Director
HSSE & Business Consulting LLC

Committee Members:

Jeff Dutton
Strategic Business Development Mgr
Eurofins Environment Testing North
Central, LLC

Audrey Avila
Counsel
Thompson Hine LLP

Tonya Chandler
President
BioLargo Equipment Solutions and
Technologies Inc

Johanna Clifford
Project Manager III
Civil & Environmental Consultants

Alex Garel-Frantzen
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ArentFox Schiff LLP

Jane Huber
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Federal Program Manager
SGS North America Inc.

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Keurig Dr Pepper Inc.

Jason Mkrtshjan
Marketing Manager
CleanAir Engineering

Daniel Robertson
Associate
Jenner & Block

Matthew Walker
Partner
Lathrop GPM

Brian Wozniak
Vice President
Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc.

Be on the lookout for upcoming events. Visit our website for information on Luncheons, Environmental Briefings, Networking and the fall Annual Air Conference.