

LEARNING EXCHANGES



NEW for 2021!

Share your expertise and perspectives about trending themes, technologies, and topics in the water sector with a small peer group (roundtables up to six people).

Monday, October 18			
Time	Topic	Description	Location
3:00 PM - 4:30PM CT	Utility Leadership Forum: Evolving Your Leadership Toolkit for the New Normal	Discuss adapting to a "new normal" with utility leaders throughout the sector and share how your leadership skills have had to evolve amid significant challenges and change within our country and throughout the world.	Room S103c
3:00PM – 4:00PM CT	Public Officials	You are not alone! After the pandemic isolation, we need to connect with our peers more than ever. Is my utility/city/town/county the only one facing challenges? In this session, public officials will network with each other and share challenges and successes during the past two years and threats and opportunities facing utilities in the post-pandemic world.	Room S105a
3:00PM - 4:00PM CT	Distributed Infrastructure: It Isn't Just for Small Communities	After decades of being relegated to the fringes and dark corners of the water sector, distributed water infrastructure (alternatively known as decentralized, scalable, or on-site water infrastructure) is moving into mainstream conversations about the future of water infrastructure. But many still have questions about distributed infrastructure and to whom it applies. In this Learning Exchange, we invite you to share your experiences with distributed infrastructure, the gaps in the water industry, and how WEF can help!	Room S105c
3:00PM - 4:00PM CT	Water Workforce: Rainbow Advocates	Water professionals reflect the communities we serve, which includes those in the LGBTQ+ communities. This learning exchange is for those in the LGBTQ+ community and those seeking to support their colleagues as fellow Rainbow Advocates. All are welcome to this lively Learning Exchange.	Room S105d
3:00PM - 4:00PM CT	The Next Big Thing in Water (PFAS, Microplastics, COVID Testing in Water, etc.)	Are you a big ideas person? Do you like to imagine the future? Come to this roundtable to help us focus on the big picture. What do we need to be paying attention to in the future? Is it PFAS, Microplastics, COVID Testing in Water, or something completely different? What is the next big issue for the water sector? What does the future look like? What do we need to do to accomplish these visions? If you can dream it, we can work together to address it.	Room S106

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Tuesday, October 19			
Time	Topic	Description	Location
3:00PM - 4:00PM CT	Public Outreach to Get Customer Support	We all know that public communication is the key to a successful (and maybe a peaceful) community. This Learning Exchange is for anyone who has an idea that worked (or didn't work) or needs new ideas. During this exchange, you can move between several tables covering different topics.	Room S105a
3:00PM - 4:00PM CT	Water Workforce: People of Color	Initiatives to increase representation, equity, and advancement of people of color in the water workplace, as well as to address water equity issues within our communities have increased substantially in recent years. In this Learning Exchange we talk about what has been done so far, sharing what has been effective, what has not, and lessons learned. We will also discuss what is being overlooked and the critical investments and initiatives needed to move the needle.	Room S105d
3:00PM - 4:00PM CT	Cybersecurity: Something for Everyone	The Water Sector Coordinating Council recently released survey results on cybersecurity in the Water and Wastewater Systems Sector that showed significant challenges in ensuring cybersecurity. This Learning Exchange helps you connect the dots and provide recommendations for improving your water infrastructure security posture. You cannot wait until a cyber disaster hits your utility to act. This Learning Exchange is your opportunity to explore ideas and find solutions now.	Room S105c
3:00PM - 4:00PM CT	Critical Water Workforce Issues	Many key water quality issues focus on the people working every day in this critical sector, and we have learned many lessons over the last year. How can we apply these lessons? How do we address succession planning, politics, hiring needed talent? During this Learning Exchange, learn new ideas and share solutions that have worked for you. Even the simplest solutions can help someone else who may not have thought of it.	Room S106
3:00PM - 4:00PM CT	Regulations and Policy Development: What's on Your Mind?	Policy and regulations are always of interest in a regulated industry. Participate in this Learning Exchange to talk about whatever is on your mind about policies and regulations. The tables are wide open for discussion!	Room S103c

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Wednesday, October 20			
Time	Topic	Description	Location
10:00AM - 11:00AM CT	Water Workforce: Women in Water	<p>Women are an important and growing part of the water workforce. As a woman in the workforce, new issues may have surfaced over the last year while old issues may still be persistent. Come to this lively Learning Exchange to support other women in the water community through a dynamic personal case study workshop where participants will work together in small groups to learn and listen to each other.</p> <p>How can we use the collective support of the meeting participants to brainstorm solutions to professional challenges? You don't have to be a woman; all are welcome to this Learning Exchange.</p>	Room S106
10:00AM - 11:00AM CT	Funding: How to Find It	We hear a lot about the infrastructure funding gap these days. Do something about it while you are at WEFTEC. Make connections with others who are seeking funding and those who have found sources of funding. This Learning Exchange focuses on the almighty dollar and how we can help each other find what is out there.	Room S103c
10:00AM - 11:00AM CT	The Big Bang!	The universe is constantly expanding, and so should your circle of influence-- <i>and</i> influencers! Be intentional about getting connected to your peers and expanding your circles. No games, no speed dating--just results. Hosted by WEF Past President Tom Kunetz.	Room S105d
10:00AM - 11:00AM CT	WEFTEC 2022 Wish List: What Do Participants Want to See Moving Forward?	Now that you have seen WEFTEC, what worked well? What can be improved next year? What did you learn that you can put into action when you return to your workplace? What connections did you make that you want to commit to keeping up? What does the future of WEFTEC look like to you? This Learning Exchange is your chance to cement your learning, commit to action, and at the same time tell us what you like and give us new ideas!	Room S105a