



Late-Breaking Call for WEFTEC Content: INNOVATION THEATER | GLOBAL CENTER CIRCULAR WATER ECONOMY THEATER

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is seeking presenters for Water Environment Federation's annual Technical and Education Conference (WEFTEC) exhibit hall theaters. The exhibition and conference take place from September 29 – October 1 in Chicago, IL.

The Pavilions highlight WEF's strategic initiatives and areas of focus each year. As a presenter, you will have the opportunity to reach a broad audience within the water sector, from the c-suite to operators, through our educational sessions in the theaters.

Please read the guidelines for each below and submit your abstract by **June 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Eastern.**

INNOVATION PAVILION



The Innovation Pavilion, presented by WEF, BlueTech Research, and Imagine H2O, is the go-to destination for the latest and most prominent water sector innovation initiatives. Presentations will highlight the newest trends, opportunities, technologies, and implementations in the water sector that address today's challenges. We are specifically seeking submissions on the topics below.:

- **Artificial Intelligence:** AI powered solutions for workforce, utility management, water resource management.
 - *Example: Improving Decisions and Increasing Organizational Resiliency with Digital Asset Management from Fors Utility*



- **R&D and Early-Stage Tech:** evaluating emerging solutions for urgent water challenges.
 - *Example: SmartCover presentation on getting traction within the water industry, along with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and Trinity River Authority*
- **Innovative Partnerships:** Collaborations between the public and private sector to build an innovation ecosystem for water. Including federally funded hubs, accelerators, examples of public-private partnerships around innovation partnerships.
 - *Example: Innovative desalination technologies that can treat nontraditional water sources (e.g., brackish water, seawater, and industrial wastewater) and shrink the carbon footprint of the water-treatment industry by NAWI and Department of Energy*

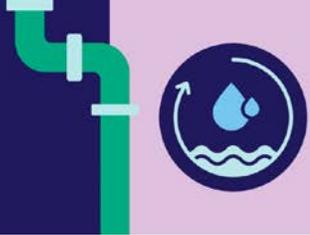
Innovation theater sessions can be either 20-minute or 50-minute presentations, with a maximum of 3 panelists if it is a panel.

GLOBAL CENTER



The Global Center highlights content and networking featuring attendees and presenters from five continents and over 20 international trade delegations. The theater covers a range of topics relevant to international attendees, including global workforce, water clusters, public-private partnerships, sustainable water management, and global business opportunities. Sessions must be educational and informative.

Global Center theater sessions are typically 55 minutes long (35-45 minutes presentation, followed by 5-10 minutes Q&A). Panel presentations with up to 5 panelists are welcome. Shorter presentations of 25 minutes will also be considered based on the nature of the topic.



CIRCULAR WATER ECONOMY THEATER



The inaugural Circular Water Economy theater will introduce the concept of Circular Water Economy and focuses on reducing waste, recovering nutrients and energy, and regenerating nature. Presentations will treat water as a renewable asset through the 3Rs (reduce, recover, regenerate). Relevant topics for this pavilion include:

- **Reducing Waste:** Energy efficiency, source control, reducing the cost of treating emerging contaminants, distributed infrastructure¹⁵.
- **Recovering Resources:** Nutrient and energy recovery – fertilizers, gas production, desalination, data centers¹⁶.
- **Regenerating Nature:** Nature-based solutions, watershed management¹⁷.
- **Corporate Water Stewardship:** Ensuring regulatory compliance, enhancing business resilience, reducing costs, and strengthening supply chains through efficient water management¹⁸.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Optimizing the circular water economy by enhancing water reuse, predictive maintenance, real-time monitoring, and resource efficiency to minimize waste and maximize sustainability.

Circular Water theater sessions can be either 20-minute or 50-minute presentations, with a maximum of 3 panelists if it is a panel.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please follow these guidelines when submitting abstracts:

- Limit abstract to 500 words
- Alternative session formats are preferred. Presentations such as flash talks (TedX-style presentations) and smackdowns/debates (speakers featuring both sides of a topic) have been featured in the past. Please indicate the format within the abstract.
- Limit speakers to:
 - 3 for Innovation and Circular Water Economy Theaters
 - 5 for Global Center Theater
- Do not re-submit an abstract or session proposal that was already submitted for consideration at WEFTEC 2025. (These submissions will not be considered for review.)
- Submissions should provide enough information and data to support the conclusion. Case studies are welcome as well.

All submissions are due June 2nd at 9:00 a.m. ET.

For questions, please email speakers@wef.org.

Please do not send abstracts to this e-mail as they will not be accepted or reviewed.