



# 2021 MWMA Fall Summit

October 11 – 13, 2021

The Westin Austin @ The Domain (TX)

## AGENDA

(as of August 30, 2021 – subject to change)

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 12:00pm

**The Urban Summit (PUBLIC SECTOR MEMBERS ONLY).** Join your colleagues from across the country for this closed-door session featuring candid dialogue on topics important to your success. Find out how other cities are dealing with problems that you face every day & share what works in your community.

12:00pm – 1:00pm

**Opening Luncheon sponsored by Waste Management**

1:15pm – 2:45pm

**Best Practices, New Strategies for...Employee Recruitment & Retention.** The news headlines say it all (a recent one from Bloomberg CityLab: “Desperate U.S. Cities Pitch Wall Street-Style Sign-On Bonuses.”) In this environment, where there’s increasing competition for scarce resources – human resources, that is – what strategies can municipalities employ to attract employees for open positions in the MSW field – drivers and technicians specifically? In this session we’ll hear from experts in the field who are tapping typically overlooked constituencies and employing bold, creative new recruitment and retention strategies.

3:00pm – 4:30pm

**Best Practices, New Strategies for...Employee Health & Safety.** In the wake of COVID (a phrase that’ll surely be printed in history books for decades to come) our employees have experienced not only physical challenges but emotional ones as well – caring for their families, providing front-line services during a pandemic, and in many cases losing colleagues, co-workers and friends and family to COVID. It certainly feels like we, as executives, need to think in different ways about what our employees need in terms of safety, and care. But what? That’ll be the focus of this session.

5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Opening Reception sponsored by Republic Services**

7:00pm – 8:30pm

**MWMA @ The Movies: *Trash Dance***

Join us for a screening of this acclaimed and entertaining film. Choreographer Allison Orr finds beauty and grace in garbage trucks, and in the unseen men and women who pick up our trash. Filmmaker Andrew Garrison follows Orr as she rides along with City of Austin sanitation workers on their daily routes to observe and later convince them to perform a most unlikely spectacle. On an abandoned airport runway, two dozen trash collectors and their trucks deliver — for one night only — a stunningly beautiful and moving performance, in front of an audience of thousands.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 10:15am

**State of The Industry: The Mile-High View.** The solid waste and recycling industry faces unprecedented challenges from multiple, dynamic issues; this session will address some of the most important issues facing municipalities today and into the future, as well as potential solutions for these issues, and identify key areas of concern. Key topics to be discussed will include framing a path forward for municipalities with zero waste or high recycling goals; emerging challenges with contracting for services; and what to expect from the next generation of customers and rate payers.

10:30am – 11:45am

**State of Recycling In the Wake of COVID I: Combatting Curbside Contamination/Composition Transition.** COVID (yup, COVID, again) has meant more residents at home, and more recyclables in the bins, and more contamination too. It's also in many communities meant a change in what recyclables end up in the bin. In this session, we'll talk about the changing quality, quantity and composition of recyclables collected curbside, the challenges that these changes have presented to communities, and strategies for addressing them.

12:00pm – 1:00pm

**Luncheon**

1:15pm – 2:30pm

**State of Recycling In the Wake of COVID II: Combatting Contamination at the MRF Level/New Technologies.** This session will focus on the next stop in the (re)cycle(ing): the materials recovery facility, or MRF. MRF operators have taken advantage of the latest technology advancements to clean up, so to speak, the materials recovery process. In this session we'll hear about two partnerships – between cities and their MRF/providers – that have resulted in not only a cleaner stream of commodities but cost-savings in the process.

2:45pm – 3:45pm

**State of Recycling In the Wake of COVID III: Addressing Supply Chain Issues.** COVID has heightened worker shortages; this impacts not only the availability of the human resources we need to ensure delivery of solid waste services, but the equipment we need as well. The delivery of trucks is one area in which we're seeing delays in delivery to municipalities. In this session leading truck manufacturers will provide an update on the situation and highlight new technologies they're installing on their trucks that will make them safer to operate – in the wake of COVID and in general.

4:00pm – 5:00pm

**Executive Committee Meeting (CLOSED SESSION)**

6:00pm – 8:30pm

**Lone Star Riverboat Cruise.** Experience the exhilaration of the outdoors, Austin's ever changing city skyline, and the, and the spectacular sunset emergence of the estimated 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats live under Austin's Congress Avenue Bridge: the largest urban colony in North America! Dinner will be served and transportation from the hotel will be provided.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am – 11:30am

**Closing Session | Roundtable Dialogues.**

- **Reuse & Repair – Federal and State Policies & Programs**
- **Homeless Encampments – Emerging Issues**

1:30pm – 4:00pm

**Balcones MRF Tour.** Transportation will be provided.