

# 2025 MWMA FALL SUMMIT

September 16 – 18, 2025  
Hotel Champlain, Burlington, VT



## AGENDA

(as of September 14, 2025 – subject to change)

### Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

7:30 am - 9:00 am  
*Lake Champlain Salon*

#### **Breakfast Available**

9:00 am – Noon  
*Lake Champlain Salon*

#### **Urban Summit (PUBLIC SECTOR 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.

Sarah Reeves (Moderator & President, MWMA)  
Executive Director  
Chittenden Solid Waste District

Noon - 1:00 pm  
*Green Mountain Ballroom*

#### **Opening Luncheon**

*Remarks*

Sarah Reeves  
President of MWMA Executive Committee  
Executive Director, Chittenden Solid Waste District, VT

Emma Mulvaney-Stanak  
Mayor, City of Burlington

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

### **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Packaging Perspectives**

Several states across the country have now passed EPR legislation aimed at holding producers responsible for recycling costs and managing waste more sustainably. This session will offer an overview of the different EPR laws enacted nationwide, including what's working, where challenges remain, and how others can learn from these experiences to advance EPR in our own communities.

Jennifer Schultz (Moderator)  
Senior Policy Associate  
Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)

Scott DeFife  
President, Glass Packaging Institute  
Producer Responsibility Advisory Board Member (Colorado)  
EPR Advisory Council (Maryland)

John Hite  
Senior. Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs  
The Recycling Partnership

Jeff Fowler  
Deputy Director, Solid Waste Line of Business  
City of Seattle

Hannah Martinez  
Head of Advocacy, Indorama

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

### **Problem Materials Part 1: Lithium Ion-Batteries**

As a growing safety and fire hazard, Lithium-Ion batteries continue to present significant challenges for municipal waste management services and industry alike. This session will explore disposal best practices, highlight innovative detection technologies, and discuss the future recycling capacity for these types of materials.

Richard McHale (*Moderator*)  
Director, Austin Resource Recovery  
City of Austin, TX

Judy Jeevarajan  
Vice President & Executive Director  
ElectroChemical Safety Research Institute, ULRI

Roxane Peggs  
Director, State Stewardship, Call2Recycle

Lia Kiam  
Head of Strategy and Operations, Visia

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm

**BREAK**

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

**Problem Materials Part 2:**

This session will explore safe management and disposal strategies for materials such as: paint, mattresses, and solar panels. Speakers will also discuss navigating the challenges associated with items that are banned from landfills.

Jen Holliday (*Moderator*)  
Director of Public Policy & Communications  
Chittenden Solid Waste District

Jacob Saffert  
Director of Eastern States, PaintCare

Mary Horsman  
Northeast Manager of Sales & Marketing, Tough Stuff Recycling

Robert Nicholson  
Director, Sustainability  
Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)

5:00 pm - 5:15 pm

**Vendor Roundtable**

5:45 pm – 7:45 pm

**Opening Reception**

Located in the Green Mountain Foyer Ballroom.

[Wednesday, September 17th](#)

7:30 am - 9:00 am                    **Breakfast Available**  
*Green Mountain Foyer Ballroom*

9:00 am - 10:30am                    **Ahead of the Storm: Disaster Debris Preparedness/Aftermath**

As weather events across the country become more frequent and more widespread, communities all across the nation must be prepared to act quickly and effectively. Speakers in this session will share their own experiences of reacting and adapting to increasing climate threats including through preparation, emergency coordination, and post storm debris management.

Kanika Greenlee (Moderator)  
Interim Deputy Commissioner, Public Works Department  
City of Atlanta

Eric R. Swenson  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Deputy Commander, North Atlantic Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Alan Morrison  
Solid Waste Division Manager, Public Works Department,  
City of Orlando

Nicholas Gerold  
Director, Solid Waste & Recycling  
City of Minneapolis

10:30 am - 12:00 pm                    **Innovations in Technology**

As always, innovations in processing waste stream commodities – fueled largely by private-sector investment – aim to revolutionize the ways waste and recyclables are managed and processed. In this session a number of these promising and ambitious technologies will be explored.

Sarah Sims (*Moderator*)  
Deputy Director, Environmental Services Department  
City of San Diego, CA

Nigel Deacon  
Business Development Director, metroSTOR

Katie Gwathmey  
Municipal Partnerships, Mill

John Kelsey  
Chief Commercial Officer, AMP

Jeremy Labbe  
Division Manager, Casella Waste Systems

Bridget Croke  
Managing Director, Head of Strategic Partnerships  
Closed Loop Partners

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

### **Luncheon - State of Play**

There have been a lot of policy and program changes in Washington, DC that will impact local environmental, solid waste and recycling programs. Find out the latest information regarding current developments and what to expect next.

Judy Sheahan (Moderator)  
Assistant Executive Director  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors/MWMA

Kristen Hildreth  
VP Government Relations & Public Policy  
Recycled Materials Association (ReMA)

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

### **Closing the Loop on Food Waste**

Nearly 120 billion pounds of food waste, or 30-40% of the entire food supply, is discarded in the United States every year. Representing the largest component of materials in U.S. landfills, food waste increases greenhouse gas emissions, consumes large amounts of land, and strains operational resources.

Speakers in this session will highlight successful food waste reduction and organic recycling programs in their communities. Presenters will also explore financing options and share best practices for local leaders looking to advance sustainable food management.

Jason Baker (*Moderator*)  
Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works  
City of Yonkers, NY

Sarah Mason  
Resource Recovery Manager, City of Ann Arbor

Carlos De La Torre  
Director of Environmental & General Services, City of Tucson

Eugenia Manwelyan  
Manager, Raftelis

Arun Gudla  
VP, Strategic Initiatives, Convertus Group

2:15pm – 2:45 pm

### **The Role of AI in Waste Management**

As the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to impact our daily lives, its role in waste management is transforming the industry. From increasing fleet efficiency to promoting worker safety and streamlining operations, AI is embracing how we enable smart cities to efficiently handle waste.

Join us to learn more about the different ways AI is being integrated into smart waste management. Robert Marseglia will show us how Nord Engineering and Alia Service Ambientali are using the latest in digital innovation to preserve the Renaissance beauty of Florence, Italy.

Crystal Jacobs Shipman (*Moderator*)  
Sanitation Commissioner  
City of Philadelphia, PA

Giuseppe Roberto Marseglia

Board Member Waise Waste

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm

**BREAK**

3:00 pm- 3:30 pm

**Get Home Safe, Every Day: Building a Culture Where Safety Is Personal**

From heat-related prevention to avoiding occupational hazards, worker safety is more critical than ever. This session will highlight how leaders are implementing the latest safety protocols to better protect workers all across the industry. A specific focus on new OSHA heat regulations will also be discussed.

Brenda Haney (Moderator)  
Director of Solid Waste & Recycling  
City of Denton, TX

Mike Recor  
Director of Safety, Waste Management

3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

**Ozempic, Prime Day and Tariffs:** How are these trends affecting recycling markets? And, by the way, have prices for curbside recyclables hit bottom? Chaz Miller, who writes a monthly markets analysis for the Northeast Recycling Council's Recycling Markets Task Force, will discuss current prices, factors affecting different materials and forecast where markets are going.

Andrew Kays (Moderator)  
Executive Director  
Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority

Chaz Miller  
Chair of Recycling Markets Committee, NERC

4:15 pm - 4:30 pm

**Closing Remarks**

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Executive Committee Meeting (CLOSED)**

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Evening Reception**

Welcome Aboard! Please join us for an evening sunset cruise exploring the beautiful scenery of Lake Champlain. A dinner buffet will be served onboard.

*Note:* Boarding will begin at 5:45 PM. We'll be meeting at the [Spirit of Ethan Allen](#), which is about a 10-15 minute walk from the hotel. Attendees are suggested to bring a jacket or sweater.

### Thursday, September 18th

7:30 am - 9:00 am  
*Lily May's Café*

**Breakfast Available** (see staff for vouchers)

8:45 am - 12:00 pm

#### **Local Environmental Tours**

Our first stop will be **Casella's** de-packaging facility, which separates food waste from its packaging, enabling the food to be composted or processed into renewable energy while recycling the packaging materials. This process minimizes waste sent to landfills and maximizes resource recovery, turning formerly unusable food and packaging into valuable resources.

We'll also be visiting Chittenden Solid Waste District's [Organics Recycling Facility](#) - home of the wicked good Green Mountain Compost!

*NOTE: Transportation will depart the hotel promptly at 8:45 am. Participants can expect to return around noon. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for both indoor and outdoor walking.*