

2026 MWMA FALL SUMMIT

October 26 – 28, 2026
The Royal Sonesta Harbor Court
Baltimore, Maryland



DRAFT AGENDA

(as of September 14, 2026 – subject to change)

Monday, October 26th

9:00am – Noon

Urban Summit (PUBLIC SECTOR ONLY) (Workforce Topic and Neighborhood Cleanups Discussion)

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.

Moderator

Andrew Kays
President of MWMA
Executive Director, Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority

Noon – 1:00pm

Opening Luncheon

Remarks

Andrew Kays
President of MWMA
Executive Director, Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority

Brandon M. Scott (**Video Introduction**)
Mayor, City of Baltimore

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen (Invited)
US Senator - Maryland

Vendor Roundtable

1:00pm – 2:15pm

Navigating Political and Funding Pressures in Solid Waste and Climate Management

Aggressive proposed EPA budget cuts and the cancellation of climate-related grants are driving major policy shifts that will directly impact local environmental, solid waste, and recycling programs. Find out more about what's changed and how municipalities can sustain essential services through creative funding streams and operational adaptations.

SCOTT PASTERNAK

Burns & McDonnell

JEFF MCGARVEY

Raftelis

2:15pm – 3:30pm

EPR in the Courts: New State Laws and Emerging Legal Challenges

The emergence of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) packaging policy is critical for municipalities looking to meet their waste reduction goals. However, as states like California, Oregon and Maine prepare to implement these initiatives, the programs are now facing significant legal hurdles.

As the first-in-the-nation packaging EPR lawsuits proceed through federal court, what will the outcomes mean for local governments and the future of EPR municipal programs? This session will explore these legal developments, discuss risks and opportunities, and analyze how current litigation could shape the future of EPR policy.

Panel:

Moderator: TBD

McKENNA MORRIGAN (Confirmed)

City of Seattle

JESSICA YOUNG

Vice President for Compliance (Confirmed)

Circular Action Alliance

HALLEY TOWNSEND (Confirmed)
Associate
Holland & Knight

3:30pm - 3:45pm

BREAK

3:45pm - 4:15 pm

How Innovative Cities are Approaching Smart Containerization in the U.S. and Beyond

Moderator: CRYSTAL JACOBS SHIPMAN
Sanitation Commissioner
City of Philadelphia

RAÚL AMÉRIGO
General Manager, North America
Conteneur

4:15pm – 5:30pm

Moving the Needle: What Actually Changes Consumer Behavior?

KANIKA GREENLEE (Confirmed)
Keep American Beautiful

CHARLOTTE PITT (Confirmed)
The Recycling Partnership

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Opening Reception

Royal Sonesta Hotel

Tuesday, October 27th

7:30am - 9:00am

Breakfast Available

9:00am – 10:00am

Emergency Waste Management: Handling the Unexpected

As the nation's emergency management agency faces an unprecedented future of change, how should local leaders be adapting their own policies to better prepare for severe and unprecedented events? Join us to hear from emergency management leaders on how local governments are managing emerging threats, ranging from cyberattacks and natural disasters.

Moderator

ANDREW KAYS (Confirmed)
President of MWMA
Executive Director, Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority

SECRETARY RUSSEL J. STRICKLAND (Confirmed)
Department of Emergency Management, Maryland

MATT COWLES (Confirmed)
Deputy Executive Director
National Emergency Management Association

10:00am – 10:45am **Future Trends in Solid Waste Management**

10:45am – Noon **Innovations in Technology Roundtable**

BRENDA HANEY (Moderator)
City of Denton

CONOR RIFFLE (Confirmed)
Solonic

Mill (Confirmed)

HOWARD LEFKOWITZ (Confirmed)
Cyllenius.ai

[Tuesday, October 27th](#) (continued)

12:00pm – 1:00pm **Luncheon (ULRI and Waste Management)**

1:00pm - 1:30pm Fireside Chat
ALEXANDER HELOU (Moderator)
Assistant Director, Bureau of Sanitation
City of Los Angeles

City of Younkers (Confirmed)

Nord Engineering (Confirmed)

1:30pm - 2:45pm **Safety Session**

2:45pm – 3:15pm

BREAK

3:15pm - 4:30pm

Circular Economy Roundtable: Wood, Textiles, and Beyond

This session will explore how local leaders are managing complex waste streams such as clothing textiles and wood. Speakers will explore disposal best practices, examine current challenges to circularity, and highlight innovative collection models and future recycling capacity for these materials.

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Reception - American Visionary Art Museum

Wednesday, October 28th

9:00am – 12:00 pm

Local Environmental Tours