

2026 MWMA FALL SUMMIT

DRAFT AGENDA

(as of September 24, 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

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.
Moderator: Richard McHale

SCOTT PASTERNAK
National Solid Waste Consulting Lead
Burns & McDonnell

JEFF MCGARVEY
Vice President
Raftelis

ALAN MORRISON
Solid Waste Division Manager
Public Works Department, City of Orlando

Monday, October 26th (continued)

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.

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

Monday, October 26th (continued)

- 4:15pm – 5:30pm **Moving the Needle: What Actually Changes Consumer Behavior?**
How do we get people to actually change their waste habits? This panel dives into what works—and what doesn't—when tackling waste and improving public behavior. Featuring insights from industry experts and case studies from local municipalities, attendees will learn how communities are successfully educating residents to create lasting change.
- Moderator: TBD
- KANIKA GREENLEE (Confirmed)
Keep America Beautiful
- CHARLOTTE PITT (Confirmed)
The Recycling Partnership
- Case Studies: TBD
- 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 ***The Changing Waste Stream***
How will municipal waste streams shift in response to new materials, consumer behavior, and regulatory pressures? Emerging solutions for handling some needed but difficult-to-recycle materials.

Tuesday, October 27th (continued)

10:45am – Noon Innovations in Technology Roundtable

Moderator: BRENDA HANEY
Director of Solid Waste & Recycling
City of Denton

CONOR RIFFLE (Confirmed)
Solonic

Representative from Mill (Confirmed)

HOWARD LEFKOWITZ (Confirmed)
Cyllenius.ai

12:00pm – 1:00pm Luncheon - Lithium-Ion Batteries

Join us to learn more about the critical issues surrounding lithium-ion batteries and their lifecycle. Experts will unpack the science behind direct recycling alongside essential developments in battery safety and upcoming industry legislation.

DR. MIGO SZEMAN NG (Confirmed)
Principal Research Scientist
Electrochemical Safety Research Institute, ULRI

SCOTT HUTCHINGS (Confirmed)
Director of Government Affairs, Waste Management

1:00pm - 1:30pm Fireside Chat

ALEXANDER HELOU (Moderator)
Assistant Director, Bureau of Sanitation
City of Los Angeles

TBD
City of Yonkers

TBD
Nord Engineering

1:30pm - 2:45pm Safety Session

2:45pm – 3:15pm BREAK

Tuesday, October 27th (continued)

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.

Moderators: TBD

KEVIN DALY (Confirmed)
President, TurboHaul

SHAUN PRESTON (Confirmed)
Yardmaster / Recycling Coordinator
Urban Forestry Division, Camp Small

ALEX HUSTED (Confirmed)
CIO & Co-founder, Helpsy

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