PFAS in Wisconsin

Policy and Practice for Local Government Leaders

May 2, 2023

PFAS in Wisconsin is a collaborative workshop to prepare local leaders to understand, respond, and act to protect communities from the risks of PFAS contamination in Wisconsin.

PROGRAM AGENDA

Registration
8:30 - 9:25 am

Optional continental breakfast and networking

Opening Session
9:30 - 10:00 am

Welcome by Green Fire Executive Director Fred Clark, conference overview by Mike Koles of WTA

Keynote 1: Mayor Katie Rosenberg

Keynote 2: WDNR Secretary Payne,

Session 1 - PFAS Overview in Wisconsin
10:00 - 10:45 am

Agency experts from Wisconsin DNR and DHS will provide an overview of PFAS - What they are, why they are a risk, where they come from, and where they are found.

Facilitator: Mark Thimke

Speakers: Jim Zellmer, WDNR; Mimi Johnson, WDNR; Dr. Curtis Hedman, DHS

Break
10:45 - 11:00 am

Session 2 - Best Practices for Affected Communities
11:00 am - 12:15 pm

This panel discussion will focus on first steps in PFAS response, including effective crisis communications, immediate response actions, public health protection, and learning about available resources.

Facilitator: John Robinson

Speakers: Kyle Burton, WDNR; Michael Mucha, Madison Metropolitan Sewer District; Katie Rosenberg, Mayor of Wausau; Cindy Boyle, Town of Peshtigo

Working Lunch - Needs Assessment
12:15 - 1:00 pm

Attendees will participate in a real-time community needs assessment led by specialists with UW-Extension.

Facilitator: Samuel Pratsch and Chad Cook, UW-Extension

Session 3- Funding, Regulations, and Liability
1:05 - 1:50 pm

Learn about available federal and state funding for PFAS response, regulatory requirements for communities, communications best practices, and considerations of liability.

Facilitator: Lara Carlson

Speakers: Jim Richie, WDNR; Stephen Acquario, NY State Association of Counties; Erin Dickinson, Crueger Dickinson LLC

Session 4 - PFAS Treatment and Destruction
1:50 - 2:40 pm

Presenters will describe available treatment technologies for municipal and non-community drinking water supplies, as well as options for well-owners and rural communities.

Facilitator: Meleesa Johnson

Speakers: Shalene Thomas, WSP; Mike Ursine, TRC

Break
2:40 - 2:50 pm

Session 5 - Conference evaluation and future needs assessment
2:50 - 3:05 pm

We'll present future opportunities for affected communities to identify needs, and share resources.

Closing Acknowledgements
3:05 - 3:10 pm

Wisconsin's Green Fire Executive Director Fred Clark will give final acknowledgments.

Closing Summary
3:10 - 3:30 pm

Lance Pliml, WCA Board Chair, will give a final summary and discuss next steps.