



Association of State
Drinking Water Administrators

37th

Annual Conference

Scottsdale, Arizona - October 17 to 19, 2022

ASDWA Annual Conference 2022 Agenda

Sunday, October 16

- 5:00-7:00 Welcoming Reception (in-person only)
7:00-8:00 Young Professionals Off-Site Event

Monday, October 17

- 8:00-9:15 Networking Breakfast (in-person only)

9:30-10:30 Opening Session (in-person only)

- 10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 Lead (virtual option)

With the ongoing national spotlight on lead, and the unprecedented amount of funding now available for lead service line replacement, states continue to face and overcome the unique challenges posed by this contaminant. During this panel, states and EPA will discuss strategies they have used to overcome these specific challenges, contemplate the future of the LCR, and engage with the audience to identify ways in which the industry can achieve our common goal to be lead free.

- 12:30-2:00 Lunch break

2:00-3:30 Cybersecurity (in-person only)

Given the rise of high-profile cyber incidents at public water systems, states are taking action to increase resiliency within the sector. During this panel, representatives from state drinking water agencies will discuss unique approaches to addressing cybersecurity, including some of the challenges and lessons learned that may help others in developing their own programs.

- 3:30-4:00 Break

4:00-5:00 Water Availability (in-person only)

Water availability has continued to be a hot topic, particularly as the southwest continues to battle with a record-breaking drought. Addressing this problem will require innovative solutions. In this session, three states will discuss the challenges they are facing to ensure that their communities have sufficient, safe drinking water now and into the future.

- 6:00-9:00 Offsite social event
5:30 first bus departure.

Tuesday, October 18

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast with exhibitors (in-person only)

9:00-10:30 Small Systems/Disadvantaged Communities (in-person only)

With the Biden Administration's renewed emphasis on increasing infrastructure funding and environmental justice, state drinking water programs are facing both opportunities and challenges with expanding on their successes to help small and disadvantaged PWSs address needs for upgrading, maintaining, managing, and sustainably operating their systems.

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 PFAS (virtual)

EPA has been moving quickly with numerous actions to address PFAS, including the release of four new health advisories. Although non-regulatory, these health advisories have brought implementation and communication challenges as states work with their water systems and the public to address detections of PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and PFBS. Alongside federal actions, individual states have been working hard to address PFAS contamination. In this panel, hear from three primacy agencies as they discuss the ongoing challenges and successes they have experienced while tackling PFAS.

12:30-2:00 Lunch break

2:00-3:30 Climate Change (in-person only)

Prolonged drought in some areas and an increase in flooding frequency and intensity in others has added to the challenges facing the water sector. This session will explore ongoing mitigation efforts state drinking water programs are implementing, while also highlighting the hurdles states are encountering. The audience is encouraged to bring their unique challenges and potential solutions to building climate resiliency.

3:30-4:00 Break

4:00-5:00 Workforce (in-person)

An aging workforce and high rate of turnover have been consistent patterns within the water industry and identifying solutions has proven to be difficult. During this session the audience will have an interactive discussion on ideas to improve leadership, hiring, retention, and training for both operators and primacy agency staff.

5:00-7:00 Reception with exhibits (in-person only)

Wednesday, October 19 – States and EPA Only

9:00-5:00 *Exhibit Teardown*

8:00-9:00 Breakfast with exhibitors with Prize Drawing (in-person only)

9:00-10:30 Drinking Water Hot Topics (in-person only)

ASDWA has asked each Region to identify one or two drinking water hot topics not already on the agenda. After a brief introduction of each topic, the audience will participate in a live vote on the order of topics to discuss.

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 Upcoming Regulatory Changes (virtual option)

A series of new regulations and revisions (LCRI, PFAS, MDBP, CCR, Water System Restructuring Rule, etc.) are scheduled over the next few years, and in order to be prepared for implementing those changes, states need to be engaged early and often in the regulatory development process. Panelists from EPA will outline a variety of upcoming regulations, detail opportunities for engagement, and respond to questions from the audience.

12:30-1:30 Lunch Buffet

- 1:30-3:00** **Infrastructure/BIL (virtual option)**
As the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) approaches its one-year anniversary, states are working hard to apply for and roll out the first round of funding. To assist with this, EPA has been working on launching three new pilot programs to help communities access these funds. Panelists from EPA will provide updates on the Agency's work to support BIL and the technical assistance programs, as well as answer pressing questions from the states.
- 3:00-3:30 Break
- 3:30-5:00** **Emerging Contaminants (in-person only)**
In addition to contaminants with NPDWRs, states are also challenged with addressing unregulated contaminants detected in their water. States and EPA have taken a variety of approaches to address contaminants of emerging concern, and during this session there will be an interactive discussion on four emerging contaminants identified by the audience using a live poll.
- 5:00-5:15 **Wrap-up and Adjourn (in-person only)**
- 9:00-10:30 President's Reception

For more information and registration, go to ASDWA's [Annual Conference Event Page](#).