

Water Resources and Sustainability Symposium
**Water Under Pressure:
Balancing Growth, Demand, Affordability, and Alternative Sources**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The New England Water Works Association and its Water Resources, Groundwater, Conservation, and Sustainability Committees are seeking presentations for the Water Resources and Sustainability Symposium. The symposium will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Devens Common Center in Devens, MA. This year, the Symposium will explore emerging stressors on water resources and the role of new and alternative water supplies in maintaining reliable, sustainable, and affordable water systems.

The abstract submittal deadline is **May 15, 2026**. Abstracts should be 150 words or less. Presenting authors will receive a discounted symposium registration. Please provide contact information for the presenting author and/or primary person to contact regarding your abstract.

Water Resource Stressors

Stressors affecting water resources may include, but are not limited to affordability, housing growth, and expanding data center and technology demands. Presentations may address the following topics:

Affordability

- Programs focused on improving the affordability of water services for utilities and customers
- Case studies demonstrating how utilities are navigating water affordability challenges
- Discussion of recent publications, research, or guidance on water affordability (e.g., AWWA and others)
- Regulatory impacts on utility costs

Housing

- State-level considerations for how housing growth is addressed within water resources regulations and policy
- Projects focused on infrastructure needed to meet new demands from housing development and other growth sectors
- Programs designed to assist utilities in addressing increased demand from new housing
- Case studies showing how rising housing projections are impacting water utilities

Data Centers and Technology

- Studies evaluating the impacts of data centers on water resources
- Community experiences assessing the feasibility and implications of data center development
- Approaches to water resources planning in relation to new data centers and technology-based demand
- Energy facility siting on water resources

New and Alternative Water Supplies

Presentations may also focus on innovative and alternative water supply strategies that can help offset growing demands and reduce stress on existing sources, including:

- Case studies of water reuse projects
- Key considerations for planning, permitting, and implementing water reuse projects
- Case studies and applications of rainwater harvesting or greywater reuse
- Examples of regionalization of water supplies and shared infrastructure
- Examples of new supply development such as deep bedrock wells, river sources, or desalination

How to Submit Your Abstract

To submit an abstract, scan the QR code or click the URL to submit an abstract via NEWWA's abstract submission portal, powered by OpenWater. All users will create an account to use the portal. Note that this account is not the same as your NEWWA.org user account. If you have questions, please contact Mary Quigley at mquigley@newwa.org or 508-893-7979 x224.

Thank you for your interest in the NEWWA Water Resources and Sustainability Symposium.

Submit an Abstract - Deadline May 15, 2026

Scan the QR code or follow the URL to submit an abstract via OpenWater.

<https://newwa.secure-platform.com/site/solicitations/102064/home>



NEWWA Policy on Speaker & Moderator Fees & Expenses

For in-person symposia, complimentary registration will be provided to one speaker per presentation. Additional speakers will receive the member-discounted registration rate. Committee members who are attending and moderators will be offered 50 percent off the member-discounted registration rate.