NEWWA
New England Water Works ASSOCIATION

2026
Water Resources and Sustainability Symposium

Presented by the NEWWA Water Resources, Conservation, Groundwater, and Sustainability Committees

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 8:30 AM — 4:00 PM
Devens Common Center, Devens, MA

5.0 Training Contact Hours (TCHs). You must attend the entire symposium to earn TCHs.

Water Under Pressure: Balancing Growth, Demand, Affordability, and Alternative Sources

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.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS - "Data Center Siting: Issues for Local Communities" - MARY ANN DICKINSON, Land and Water Policy Consultant, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

TECHNICAL CONTENT AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS

"Advancing Water Reuse: Infrastructure, Modeling, and Implementation Insights from Naples, Florida"
"Water Reuse Drivers in Southeastern Massachusetts"
"The Challenges and Constraints of Drinking Water Infrastructure in a Growing Subregion"
"Thriving Under Pressure: Adding Additional Capacity and Partnering to Protect our Sources"
"Sustainable Benefits of New Bedrock Well Source in a Tapped-out Sand & Gravel System"
"Measuring Water Affordability in Maine: Assessing the Need for a Statewide Assistance Program"
"Closing the Affordability Gap in Water Infrastructure: Examples from the New England Water Infrastructure Network"

SEE THE FULL AGENDA AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

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REGISTRATION FORM
2026 WATER RESOURCES & SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM — OCTOBER 28, 2026

3 WAYS TO REGISTER!

Register online at newwa.org	Complete this form, scan, and return by email to Katelyn at ktodesco@newwa.org.	Complete this form and mail to NEWWA: 125 Hopping Brook Road, Holliston, MA 01746 Attn: Katelyn Todesco

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please print clearly.)

Name	Title	Nickname	
Company			
Address	City	State	Zip
Phone	Fax	Email	

SYMPOSIUM FEES

The discounted fee for NEWWA members is $200. Full price is $360. The discounted fee for watershed organizations, regulatory agencies, and NGOs is $130. Registrations received two days or less to the start of the symposium will be assessed a $20 late fee.

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE SYMPOSIUM FEE:

NEWWA Member @ $195 Non-Member @ $355 Non-Profit @ $125

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Personal Check (Payable NEWWA) Company Check MasterCard Visa AMEX Discover	TOTAL PAYMENT	

Credit Card #	Exp. Date	CSV	Signature

ADA: If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in one of NEWWA's events, please contact NEWWA at 508.893.7979 before the start of the event so proper arrangements can be made.
Dietary Restrictions: Please email KTodesco@newwa.org at least one week before the event if you have any dietary restrictions.
Photograph and Information Release: Photographs will be taken at this event. By registering for this event you agree to allow NEWWA to use your photo in any NEWWA-related publication or social media site.
NEWWA's Cancellation Policy: Any registration cancellation is assessed a $30.00 administrative fee. If you cancel within one (1) business day of the event or training you will be charged 100 percent of the original registration fee. This charge is non-refundable and non-transferable. Written refund/credit requests made for special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

QUESTIONS? Contact Katelyn Todesco, Events & Marketing Manager, at ktodesco@newwa.org.

SEE THE FULL AGENDA ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

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125 Hopping Brook Road
Holliston, MA 01746-1471

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Water Resources and Sustainability Symposium

Water Under Pressure: Balancing Growth, Demand, Affordability, and Alternative Sources
October 28, 2026
Devens Common Center, Devens, MA
5 TCHs

8:30 AM - Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM - Welcome and Introduction by Moderators – MATTHEW MOSTOLLER, District Manager, Acton Water District, and JENNIFER PEDERSON, Executive Director, Mass Water Works Association

9:15 AM KEYNOTE - "Data Center Siting: Issues for Local Communities" - MARY ANN DICKINSON, Land and Water Policy Consultant, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

This presentation will explore the many issues facing local communities when the data center applicant comes to town. Do local communities even have the necessary legal tools to make the right decision? Water is a particular concern that will be covered.

10:15 AM - "Advancing Water Reuse: Infrastructure, Modeling, and Implementation Insights from Naples, Florida" - JESSE CUMMINS, P.E., Project Manager, and BLAKE MARTIN, Vice President, Weston & Sampson

Water reuse has long been discussed as an efficient method to reduce potable water use, reduce consumer costs, properly manage the application of treated wastewater and provide an alternate source for irrigation relieving demand on the potable water system. Reuse allows application of water within infrastructure tailored to uses that don't require drinking water quality. Florida's extensive programs and efforts will be examined along with practical design and implementation challenges for the City of Naples. Costs, infrastructure design, hydraulic modeling requirements, and capacity issues determine a successful program.

10:45 AM - BREAK

11:00 AM – "Water Reuse Drivers in Southeastern Massachusetts" - KARILYN HEISEN, P.E., BC.WRE, Water Resources Engineer, CDM Smith

Indirect potable reuse is increasing in communities in Southeastern Massachusetts. This presentation will discuss key reasons utilities consider potable reuse, benefits, and regulatory challenges. Examples of indirect potable reuse include toilet flushing, aquifer recharge and irrigation for golf courses. Key factors when considering indirect and direct potable reuse including environmental protection, permitting and drinking water quality and quantity. The presentation will draw on examples from southeastern Massachusetts to illustrate the drivers and challenges in the water reuse process.

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11:30 AM – "The Challenges and Constraints of Drinking Water Infrastructure in a Growing Subregion" - AVANTI KROVI, Senior Regional Land Use Planner, and RODOSHI SINHA, Environmental Planner II, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

In Spring 2026, MAPC lead a preliminary research effort to understand current conditions and identify the most pressing challenges of drinking water systems in the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) subregion, made up of 13 municipalities northwest of Boston.

Early conversations within the subregion suggested that the current capacities of their water systems are a barrier to housing and economic development. Furthermore, these municipalities are reconciling with the environmental challenges that require more out of their systems, such as the increasing costs for treatment of PFAS. MAPC conducted research and hosted focus groups with stakeholders from local DPWs, water commissions/departments, planning departments, and conservation commissions across the subregion, summarizing the existing conditions and challenges of drinking water infrastructure.

NOON - Lunch

12:45 PM - Welcome Back and Introduction by Moderators - AMARA REGEHR, P.E., Project Engineer, CDM Smith, and BLAKE MARTIN, Vice President, Weston & Sampson

1:00 PM – "Thriving Under Pressure: Adding Additional Capacity and Partnering to Protect our Sources" - IAN ROHRBACHER, Water Superintendent, City of Rochester, NH

The City of Rochester relies on the 8,000 acre Berry's River Watershed to recharge a series of reservoirs the city uses to provide drinking water to its residents and neighboring communities. Safeguarding the watershed is essential to maintaining high quality source water. To ensure adequate supply, this presentation will describe the recently completed upgrades to its Round Pond Reservoir. In addition, the Gray Family and the City of Rochester agreed to a unique conservation structure that resulted in the City of Rochester acquiring 55 acres, a strategic piece of land to support existing water supply infrastructure. This presentation will discuss how working with regional land trusts can help utilities facing development pressure.

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1:30 PM – "Sustainable Benefits of New Bedrock Well Source in a Tapped-out Sand & Gravel System" - SHAWN CASE, Environmental Analyst, Water Supply District of Acton, MA, and RAY TALKINGTON, Ph.D., P.G., C.P.G., Vice President, Tighe & Bond, Portsmouth, NH

This presentation summarizes key considerations in developing new bedrock well sources of supply, the shifting motivations that accelerated its implementation, and the resulting long-term sustainability, operational, and water quality benefits. Sole dependence on sand & gravel sources placed increasing stress on the overburden aquifer, prompting AWD to pursue an alternate source. Without an easily accessible regional solution, we engaged our hydrogeo team to review bedrock opportunities.

An advantage of bedrock source exploration was the ability to conduct exploration on existing AWD land, near established distribution and treatment infrastructure, while simultaneously avoiding potential impacts to existing sources. The primary objective was to reduce stress on the overburden aquifer, improve overall water quality, and diversify groundwater withdrawals for long term sustainability.
Permitting and construction were expedited to address community needs related to PFAS. This case study demonstrates how deep bedrock wells can effectively expand supply while supporting sustainable groundwater management.

2:00 PM - Break

2:15 PM – "Measuring Water Affordability in Maine: Assessing the Need for a Statewide Assistance Program" – DAVE FOX, Vice President, Raftelis

Water affordability is an increasingly urgent issue facing utilities and regulators across the country, and Maine is no exception. Aging infrastructure, mounting regulatory requirements, and declining federal investment have driven water rates well above inflation in recent years, placing a disproportionate burden on low-income customers. Maine water utilities serve approximately 307,000 households; roughly 53,000 of them spend more than the widely accepted standard of 2% of household income on water service.

This presentation describes a study conducted by Raftelis for the Maine Office of the Public Advocate, in consultation with the Water Ratepayer Assistance Project. The study examined the nature and extent of water affordability challenges statewide, compared Maine to neighboring states and national benchmarks, and estimated that approximately $5.8 million per year in ratepayer assistance would be needed to bring low-income customers to the 2% affordability threshold. The study also evaluated program design options for a statewide water bill assistance program, including approaches to enrollment, administration, and award structure.The presentation will also provide an update on the State of Maine's efforts to advance a water affordability program since the report's publication in 2025.

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2:45 PM – "Aligning Infrastructure Investment and Water Rates for Long-Term Affordability: Town of Sharon's Approach" - BRION WYNN, Senior Project Manager, ALLIE GOLDBERG, P.E., Team Leader, Weston & Sampson, and ERIC HOOPER, P.E., Director of Public Works, Town of Sharon

Water utilities are facing a convergence of aging infrastructure, rising costs, workforce constraints, and expanding regulatory requirements. At the same time, customers and governing bodies are increasingly sensitive to rate impacts and affordability.

This presentation will highlight the Town of Sharon's approach to integrated capital planning and water rate setting—showing how long-range investment planning, financial forecasting, and rate design can work together to support infrastructure needs, maintain regulatory compliance, and promote predictable, affordable outcomes for customers.

3:15 PM - "Closing the Affordability Gap in Water Infrastructure: Examples from the New England Water Infrastructure Network" - LAURA COLLINS, Senior Program Manager, Water Infrastructure, New England Environmental Finance Center, and JEREMIAH WARD, Cooperative Development Institute

Affordability is one of the most pressing challenges facing small water systems and the communities they serve. Even when infrastructure improvements are necessary for public health, reliability, or regulatory compliance, many systems struggle to develop projects that are financially realistic for both the utility and its customers. This presentation will provide an overview of the New England Water Infrastructure Network (NEWIN), a program of the New England Environmental Finance Center, and its no cost technical assistance for communities and water systems across New England. It will explore how affordability shows up throughout the project development process, including defining infrastructure needs, evaluating project scope, understanding rate and customer impacts, identifying financing options, and helping communities avoid delays that can lead to larger costs later. The presentation will also examine where traditional funding programs, including the State Revolving Funds, may fall short. Some systems struggle to meet eligibility requirements, take on debt, manage application requirements, or fit neatly within existing program structures. In these cases, technical assistance providers can help communities identify alternative pathways, combine funding sources, phase projects, or reshape the scope to make the work more achievable.

Examples from NEWIN's work, including partnerships with NEWIN partner Cooperative Development Institute (CDI) and our network's assistance with manufactured housing communities (MHC's), will illustrate how these challenges affect small and nontraditional systems. The presentation will highlight the role of technical assistance providers in closing funding and capacity gaps and helping communities move toward solutions that are both technically sound and financially sustainable.

3:45 PM - Wrap-Up – BLAKE MARTIN, Vice President, Weston & Sampson