



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2025 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference



“Clean Water Strategies at the Heart of it All”

We are pleased to announce that the **2025 Onsite Mega-Conference** will be held this fall in Sandusky, Ohio. The theme for this year’s conference is ***“Clean Water Strategies at the Heart of it All”***. Please consider submitting an abstract for a paper, presentation, and/or poster at our event.

The Mega-Conference is a combined effort between the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA), the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT), the State Onsite Regulators Association (SORA), and the host state affiliate, Ohio Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA). The Mega-Conference is the largest event of its kind and offers decentralized wastewater professionals the highest quality education and training available. **The 2025 event will be held October 19-22 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Sandusky, Ohio.** Sessions will be held October 20 and 21 with optional field trips on October 22.

Paper, Presentation, and Poster Options

Your abstract must fit into one of these categories:

Education

Inspection

Installation

Management/Maintenance

Policy/Regulation

Research

Safety

Technical/Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Septage Disposal

Service Provider

Soil Evaluation

Technology

Please consider writing a paper to serve as long-term documentation of the conference and important contributions to the onsite industry. Papers may also be included in NOWRA’s Onsite Journal. Conference organizers wish to encourage speakers from all aspects of the industry and are offering the following three presentation options:

1. **Oral research-based presentations:** These may be related to new technologies, monitoring, extension/outreach education, field assessment, or any topic that is related to onsite wastewater treatment. A presentation could come with or without a paper. (Paper submission highly encouraged.)
2. **Oral non-research related presentations:** These presentations could be about any onsite wastewater treatment-related topic including installation, maintenance, science about onsite wastewater treatment, maintenance, safety, septage disposal, environmental impacts, and related topics. Presentations must be clearly **non-sales** oriented. A presentation could be with or without a paper.
3. **Poster presentations:** These presentations could be on a research or non-research related topic about onsite wastewater treatment and recycling. The posters will be displayed during the conference in a prominent location.

A poster and oral presentation contest for Emerging Professionals will once again be held as part of the conference.

Paper and Presentation Review

All presentation slides and papers (if being submitted) will be included in the Conference Proceedings, must comply with formatting requirements, and will be reviewed by the NOWRA Education and Technical Practices Committees. Each presentation and poster must include the following disclaimer:

“The statements made by the speaker either verbally or written are the opinion of the author(s) and do not reflect those of NOWRA or the conference sponsors.”



Important Dates

March 31, 2025: Abstract submittals are due. Beginning Feb. 3, abstracts can be submitted to the Mega-Conference Abstract Portal at: http://www.nawt.org/call_for_abstracts.html

June 9, 2025: Authors will be notified of the Education Committee's selection and provided with instructions regarding paper, presentation, and/or poster criteria and format.

August 11, 2025: Draft paper manuscripts due for review by the NOWRA Education Committee.

August 18, 2025: Draft presentations due for review by the NOWRA Education Committee.

September 2, 2025: Comments and/or edited papers returned to the author. If re-review is required, they will be due on September 15, 2025.

September 2, 2025: Presenters must be registered for the conference and are responsible for covering their own registration and travel expenses. Failure to do so may result in removal from the agenda.

September 22, 2025: Final papers and presentations must be submitted in electronic format to be included in the proceedings and conference. If the paper and/or presentation is not received by this date, the topic and speaker *may be removed from the agenda.*

Instructions about the Abstract

The abstract can have a **MAXIMUM** of **250 words** and should include the following:

1. A sentence or two to introduce the topic and briefly state why it is important.
2. The objective(s) of the presentation/research.
3. Approximately three sentences describing methods or what has been done.
4. Highlighted results and then end with a final statement.
5. The presentation should **NOT** be a sales pitch but can be a product use presentation.

Presentation Slots

Each presentation will be allocated either 25 or 50 minutes. When submitting an abstract, you will be asked:

1. To identify the Category that best fits your submission.
2. What time slot you request (25 min or 50 min) and whether you would be willing to increase or decrease if needed to accommodate conference scheduling
3. To identify yourself as an Emerging/Young Professional.
4. Will you be submitting a paper for the proceedings? (highly encouraged)

Abstract Submittal Requirements

When submitting your Abstract, you will be required to submit the following information regarding your presentation:

Title of Presentation/Paper

Abstract Category: Education, Inspection, Installation, Management/Maintenance, Policy/Regulation, Research, Technical/AI, Safety, Septage Disposal, Soil Evaluation, Service Provider, and/or Technology

Presentation Format: Presentation with a paper, presentation without a paper, or poster

Brief Abstract: 250-word maximum description of the proposed paper and presentation

Author: Name of lead author and presenter including email and affiliation.

Emerging Professional: Is the author an emerging (young) professional?

List of Keywords: Must include 3-4 keywords to describe the presentation.

Target Audience: Is the presentation better suited for Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, or ALL practitioners?

Speaker Bio: A short bio of the lead presenter (150-word maximum) in paragraph form which includes education and relevant onsite/decentralized industry experience.

Completion of Data: Will all the data needed for your presentation/paper be complete and available at the time of presentation/paper submission?



Questions about a Topic or Conference?

If you have questions about the applicability of topics for the conference, please contact Education Committee Chair, Gary Hawkins, by email at ghawkins@uga.edu.

For questions about the conference in general, please contact NOWRA's Executive Director, Tom Groves, by email at: tgroves@nowra.org.

Conference Website: <https://www.nowra.org/conference/mega-conference/>

To submit an abstract for the 2025 Mega-Conference, please use the following link to submit your abstract(s) by March 31, 2025:

https://nawt.org/call_for_abstracts.html



All presenters MUST be registered for the conference and are responsible for covering their own registration and travel expenses to attend the conference.

***Thank you for your interest.
We look forward to seeing you in Sandusky, Ohio in October 2025!***

