

Preparing a Good Abstract

An abstract is a short summary of your paper or presentation, usually about a paragraph (c. 6-7 sentences, 150-250 words) long. A well-written abstract serves multiple purposes:

- an abstract lets readers get the gist or essence of your paper or presentation quickly, in order to decide whether to read the full paper or attend the presentation;
- an abstract prepares readers to follow the detailed information, analyses, and arguments in your full paper or presentation;
- and, later, an abstract helps readers remember key points from your paper or presentation.

Example Abstract

Decentralized wastewater treatment and reuse represent critical infrastructure across the rural–periurban–urban continuum around the world. Effective, efficient, resilient, and equitable implementation of on-premise technologies and management systems is part of a One Water approach and necessary to protect public health and the environment, yet inconsistent delivery of essential public health services persists in many regions, including across states, tribes, and territories of the United States. We initiated a groundbreaking effort to understand challenges and to identify research opportunities related to the science and practice of decentralized wastewater. A horizon scanning exercise using a bottom-up and transparent key questions approach was performed, in which research needs were submitted by over 450 professionals working in academia, government, industry, and nonprofit organizations. We then further considered these research needs through facilitated focus group discussions and identified priority research questions through a consensus process during an in-person synthesis workshop. These key questions included technical and management topics, which were partitioned among six research categories: treatment, performance, and resource recovery; resiliency, efficacy, and sustainability; environmental quality and public health; assessment, monitoring, and operation and maintenance; implementation; and regulations, enforcement, and environmental justice. We offer recommendations to answer the priority research questions presented here; doing so promises to advance the science and improve the practice across rural–periurban–urban gradients.

Title: Education associated with the On-Site Waste Treatment industry at the University of Georgia

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Abstract: Flushing the toilet or pulling the plug in a sink starts the process of managing on-site wastewater in on-site waste disposals system (OWDS). In Georgia, on-site waste treatment is regulated by the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). Educating people from those at the Department of Public Health who permits and approves these systems, to the installers, to the pumpers, to the homeowners who use the systems need to know how the systems work. At the University of Georgia (UGA) we have and are developing an educational facility to provide education for the listed groups to help them better understand their role in the OWRS system. We have one demonstration and training facility and one being constructed at two of UGAs campuses. As mentioned, the facility has many of the items and demonstrations typically seen when permitting, installing, pumping, and using OWDS. This presentation will show how we are using the sites to educate participants in various education events to better understand OWDS and how to maintain them. Besides the on campus facilities, we also provide education outside the university with mobile educational presentations and displays. Join us for this presentation to learn what we are doing to help better educate persons associated with the OWDS.