

SUSTAINABILITY OF DECENTRALIZED SYSTEMS IN NEW ENGLAND

2025
SPECIALTY
CONFERENCE
& WORKSHOP
SERIES



September 8, 2025 • Publick House, 277 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566

The NEWEA Small Community Committee, in collaboration with the Sustainability Committee, is pleased to host a specialty conference focused on the sustainability practices of decentralized wastewater systems.

Decentralized wastewater treatment offers numerous benefits for communities. This event will explore how these systems can be designed and operated with sustainability at the forefront. Presentations will highlight successful strategies and technologies implemented throughout New England.

Attendees will hear from a diverse panel of speakers representing governmental agencies, consulting firms, and other key stakeholders in the field.

Following a morning of engaging presentations, attendees are invited to participate in a tour of a local wastewater treatment facility to see sustainable practices in action.

Town of Sturbridge WWTF Tour

The Town of Sturbridge upgraded its Wastewater Treatment Facility to a BioMag/CoMag system to modernize the 40-year-old plant and to process an influent flow that was anticipated to continue to grow into the future. The BioMag/CoMag system, which mixes magnetite with wastewater, produces an effective treatment process in a smaller footprint than traditional activated sludge processes. The Town was able to use funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and spent \$3 million less than the \$20 million budget. Sustainable elements implemented during the upgrade included the capture of blower heat for buildings and stormwater management practices that have a low impact on the environment.

This event is pending approval for 5.5 training contact hours (TCHs) for wastewater operators.

REGISTER ONLINE: <https://2025-small-communities-sustainability-conference.events.newea.org/>

REGISTRATION RATES: NEWEA Members \$149, Small Community Members* \$129 and Non Members \$249. Rates increase \$50 after 8/22/25. See online registration for more rates. Space is limited. *Registration fee includes continental breakfast, breaks and lunch.*
**Must work in a facility with a daily flow of <1 mgd.*

CANCELLATION POLICY: Request for cancellation/refund must be submitted IN WRITING prior to the event. A \$75 cancellation fee will be applied for cancellation/ refund requests received prior to 8/22/25. No refunds requested after 8/22/25 will be issued for cancellation.



AGENDA

Monday, September 8, 2025

- 8:00 am** Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30** **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
 - Deborah Mahoney, NEWEA President
 - Dennis Hallahan, Chair, NEWEA Small Community, Infiltrator Water Technologies
 - Maeve Carlson, Chair, NEWEA Sustainability Committee, Wright-Pierce
- 8:45** **Toward Better Decentralized Wastewater Treatment in Southern New England**
 - Laura Erban, US EPA
- 9:30** **Decentralized Water Resource Recovery Facilities Serve a Sustainable Role in Solving Suburban and Rural Wastewater Challenges**
 - David Formato, Fuss & O'Neill
- 10:15** Coffee Break
- 10:30** **Groundwater Flow and Nitrate Migration in Coastal Charlestown, Rhode Island: A MODFLOW-based Simulation Approach**
 - Shahriar Bin Shahid, University of Rhode Island
- 11:15** **Sustainable Storage Tank Design, Maintenance, and Inspection for Small Wastewater System**
 - Thomas Heller, Tighe & Bond
- 12:00 pm** Lunch (provided)
- 1:00** **Town of Sturbridge WWTF Tour**
 - Shane Moody, Veolia
- 3:00** Adjourn

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