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AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
Northern & Central NJ Chapter

RUTGERS-CAMDEN
School of Business

Registration Now Open

Building Resilient Communities

4th Annual Fall Sustainability Conference

Rutgers University, Camden Campus

October 1 • 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

- Two Keynotes
- Climate Resilience & Workforce Sessions
- Round Tables
- Student Poster Event

Building Resilient Communities

4th Annual Sustainability Conference | October 1, 2026

In response to feedback, we received after our first ever Sustainability Conference in September 2023. We asked ourselves what some of the biggest climate-related impacts are that need collaborative discussions at a local level. This led to our annual conference showcasing leaders, technical sessions that cover the expansive topic of climate change impacts and trends and the next generation of leaders (students) . Our topics have included food insecurity, water policy, and waste minimization with speakers presenting a rich tapestry of industries and functions. Now you can participate in gathering stakeholder feedback and carving actionable goals to meet challenges exacerbated by climate change for your customers and communities.

SPONSOR PACKAGES & ROUNDTABLE OPPORTUNITIES

This is a first-of-its-kind format — an exciting opportunity to lead change. As sponsor, you carve and direct the roundtable conversation to meet your organization's goals.

Vision

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE	DAY OF CONFERENCE	POST-CONFERENCE
① **Pre-Registration** Attendees sign up for their chosen roundtable.	② **Live Roundtable** Attendees join the sponsor-led table. Sponsor drives the dialogue toward goals set for the RoundTable Topic.	③ **Action Items** Sponsor develops actionable next steps—implementable with or without attendee participation.

Round Table Topics

1. Water Utility Resiliency
2. Education
3. Sustainable Waste Management

Sponsorship is available for the following:

4. Supply Chain Resiliency
5. Consumer Perceptions & Sustainability
6. Healthcare
7. Food Security
8. Housing Affordability and Climate Impact
9. Innovation

Outcomes

Sponsor Goals Defined
Sponsor directs advancement of their sustainability objectives and community mission.

Community Initiatives Created
Sponsor engagement with industry professionals and local leaders & students to spark real, local impact.

Tangible Action Items
Sponsor concludes session with concrete next steps—not just conversation, but commitment to action.

Advance Goal
Sponsor has assembled a team of engaged stakeholders to advance change.

For more information, contact AWMA NJ Chapter Chairs
Chris Whitehead: chrisw@chriswhiteheadconsulting.com or Jyoti Agarwal:jagarwal@reworldwaste.com
For payments, contact Fran at FLindsley-Matthews@buckeye.com

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Sponsor Packages

Package	Investment
Exhibit Table + 2 Attendees	**$400**
Run Your Roundtable + 1 Attendee	**$500**
Exhibit Table + Run Your Roundtable + 2 Attendees	**$750 (save $150)**
Student Attendee (per person): You choose how many students you are supporting to give them career networking exposure.	**$40 (You choose RU or other universities connected to your organization)**

Upon acceptance by AWMA New Jersey Chapter:

COMPANY DESCRIPTION: Sponsors will be asked to submit a 50-word description for inclusion in the Conference Program.

SPONSOR LOGO: Sponsors will also be asked to submit a high-resolution (.eps preferred) company logo, which will appear on the conference website (with hyperlink to the company/firm), Final Program.

TABLETOP EXHIBIT INCLUDES: One (1) 6' draped table; 50-word description in Final Program.

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Building Resilient Communities
October 1, 2026 | 8:00 am – 4:15 pm
Campus Center, Rutgers University–Camden, New Jersey

8:00 am	**Registration and Breakfast**
8:45 am	**Welcoming Remarks** • Dr. Monica Adya, Dean, Rutgers Camden School of Business • Chris Whitehead & Dr. Jyoti Agarwal, Co-Chair, AWMA-NCNJ Chapter • Video message from Senator Andy Kim
9- 9:45 am	**Keynote Speaker** **Matthew Tejada, Senior Vice President, Environmental Health - NRDC** Chief visionary and strategist for NRDC's advocacy to protect human health
10 -10:45am	**Panel 1: Climate Risk Resiliency Planning & Execution for Communities** **Moderator: Chris Whitehead, Founding Principal, CWC** • Jane Brogan, Director, Cohn Reznick Advisory LLC • Amy Chester, Director, Rebuild by Design • Margie Hunter, Engineering Director, NJ American Water
11:00 am	**Panel 2: Workforce Development – Maximizing Opportunities in Already Overburdened Communities** **Moderator: Nicole Kuerzi, Director, Education & Workforce Development (Chamber of Commerce Southern NJ)** • Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Director, AI Career Whisperer • Cathy Yuhas, Team Lead, Workforce Innovation Partners, NJEDA • Dr. Jason Abreu – President, Atlantic Cape County Community College
12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	**Keynote Speaker** **Kate Georgiades, Vice President-Talent Management, Reworld Waste** Championing change and sustainability through talent management
2:00 -3:15 pm	**Industry Round Tables (Sponsored by Local Partners)** 1. Water Utility Resiliency- Sponsor and Chair: American Water 2. Supply chain resiliency – Chair: Dr. Mark Brennan, Rutgers School of Business (**Sponsor Open**) 3. Consumer Behavior & Sustainability Perceptions vs Reality - Chair: Yuliya Strizhakova, Rutgers School of Business (**Sponsor Open**) 4. Education - Chair: Richard Perello, Assistant Professor Environmental Science, Atlantic Cape County Community College (**Sponsor Open**) 5. Sustainable Waste Management – Sponsor and Chair: Reworld Waste 6. Healthcare - Dr Elizabeth Cerceo, Cooper Medical School, Rowan University, Director Climate Health & Associate Program Director Internal Medicine; Cooper University Health Care **(Sponsor Open)** 7. Food Security – Chair: Sophia Curcio, Vice President Campbell's Foundation (**Sponsor Open)** 8. Housing Affordability and Climate Impact – Carla Villacis, Research Project Coordinator, Walter Rand Institute (**Sponsor Open)** 9. Innovation – Kristen Foca, Deputy Director, Office of Senator Andy Kim (**Sponsor Open**) 1. Power and Energy – Robert Brabston, Executive Director, NJBPU (**Sponsor Open**)
3:15 pm	**Student Poster Session & Networking**
4:00 pm	**Closing Comments:** Dr. Richard Michelfelder, Rutgers Camden School of Business