



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Volume 60 No. 1

Winter 2024

2024 AEC

The 70th Annual Education Conference is only a few months away. Join us in Yakima, April 29-May 1. This year will highlight environmental health activities in the Eastern region. You'll find the agenda and registration information on [our website](#). Don't delay, **early bird registration ends March 22**. Check out the pre-conference offerings, a broad variety of educational sessions, poster presentations and speakers. We'll have networking opportunities and after-hours activities for you to enjoy too!

Do you have an EH colleague who:

- ◆ Significantly contributed to the advancement in the environmental health field within the last year.
- ◆ Has made important contributions to the field and to the Association resulting in a positive impact over multiple years.
- ◆ Or is a new teammate who has demonstrated a level of professionalism and dedication that makes them an asset to our profession?

[Nominate them by March 1!](#)

Giant thank you to our AEC Planning Committee and Megan McNelly, our Executive Secretary, for putting together this great conference and ensuring all stages move forward smoothly.

See you in Yakima!

Katie Lott and Anne Moen - Conference co-chairs

WSEHA Awards and WSEHA Board nominations are open until March 1st!

[Award Nominations](#)

[Board Nominations](#)

WSEHA AWARDS

2024

NOMINATIONS OPEN UNTIL 3/1/2024



JOHN NORDIN

OUTSTANDING SANITARIAN

SOMEONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THEIR DEEP COMMITMENT TO FIELD OF EH.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

SOMEONE WHO SHOWS EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

SOMEONE NEW TO EH (2 YEARS OR LESS) WHO HAS EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS

WWW.WSEHA.ORG

WSEHA Mailing Address & Contact Information

PO Box 721, South Bend, WA 98586
Website: www.wseha.org
Ph: 360.875.8058, F: 360.989.3997
Executive Secretary: Megan McNelly
megan@wseha.org

WSEHA Board of Directors

President - Susan Shelton

360.236.2650
susan.shelton@doh.wa.gov

President Elect - Sammy Berg

360.867.2568
Sammy.berg@doh.wa.gov

Immediate Past President –Nancy Bernard

360.236.3072
Nancy.bernard@doh.wa.gov

Secretary - Jennifer Garcelon

360.417.2347
jgarcelon@co.clallam.wa.us

Treasurer - Jesse Smith

360.414.5599 x6442
smithj@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Central Regional Vice President - James Rivard

509.457.7123
jriv461@ecy.wa.gov

Eastern Regional Vice President—Vikki Barthels

509.324.1475
vbarthels@srhd.org

Northwest Regional Vice President - Ethan Schmidt

(360) 370-7521
ethans@sanjuanico.com

Olympic Regional Vice President - Jodie Holdcroft

360.728.2302
Jodie.Holdcroft@kitsappublichealth.org

Southwest Regional Vice President - Jeremy Simmons

360.236.3346
Jeremy.simmons@doh.wa.gov

WSEHA Committee Chairs

Nominations and Awards Committee—Emily Hovis
ehovis@uw.edu

Publications Committee—VACANT

International Health Committee – Layken Winchester

Layken.winchester@kitsappublichealth.org

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Like [WSEHA’s Facebook page](#) ! Stay up-to-date with the goings-on in the field of Environmental Public Health.

Another way to keep up with what we’re doing is to join our mailing list. Go to wseha.org to join the mailing list or email Megan McNelly at megan@wseha.org.

**Next Newsletter Deadline:
Summer 2024**

The Washington State Environmental Health Association Newsletter is the official publication of WSEHA. Membership in WSEHA includes a subscription to the newsletter. Membership in WSEHA is not required for acceptance of articles in the newsletter.

Opinions expressed in articles published in the WSEHA newsletter should not be accepted necessarily as statements of policy or opinions of WSEHA.

DOH ON-SITE SEPTIC TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) Wastewater Management Section's Onsite Septic (OSS) Program ramped up capacity in early 2023. Since then, they started delivering a monthly webinar series and regular in-person site and soil evaluation courses across the state. Select webinars and all site and soil evaluation courses are open to industry professionals, allowing local health staff and industry to train side by side. Topics covered in 2023 webinars include the Microbiology of Wastewater, Ordinary High-Water Mark, and Waivers for OSS designs.

2024 is going to be an even bigger year for the OSS Program! Not only will they continue the site and soil courses and webinar series, but they have partnered with the Washington State Onsite Sewage Association (WOSSA) to develop more in-depth technical training to support local health needs. The partnership will produce extended webinar training sessions for more complicated topics, such as OSS design review. It will also support LHJ staff training through WOSSA's training program by paying for local health staff seats in the courses. In addition, the program's technical staff are also reaching out to each local health jurisdiction to set up in-person training sessions for county OSS staff. The goal is to visit each LHJ in 2024.

Below is a list of webinars for 2024. (This is subject to change. The current schedule is located on DOH's Government Public Health Systems Partner Resources training page for the OSS Program: [On-site Septic Systems Program \(sharepoint.com\)](#)):

Schedule:

- 1/31 - WAC 246-272A: Rule Revision Part 1
- 2/28 - Craft3 and Cultural Resources Reviews
- 3/27 - WAC 246-272A: Rule Revision Part 2
- 4/24 - Benefits of O&M (*extended training*)
- 5/29 - WAC 246-272A: Rule Revision Part 3 (if needed, will be an alternate topic if not)
- 6/26 - Certificate of Competency Exam Prep (*extended training, will be before WOSSA's CoC Exam Prep Course*)
- 7/31 - Statewide OSS Grants (CWSRF) and Local Management Plans
- 8/28 - Data BMPs and Data Sharing Using ArcGIS
- 9/25 - Troubleshooting Issues with Permitting and Installations (*extended training*)
- 10/30 - Non-Potable Water/Drinking Water Program
- 11/20 - OSS Design Review (*extended training*)
- 12/18 - WAC Update and OSS Q&A



Clean Water for Haiti, 2024 IHC Recipient (see page 4 for information)

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE



The IHC is excited to announce that the 2024 recipient is [Clean Water for Haiti!](#)

Clean Water for Haiti exists to provide Haitian families with access to clean, safe drinking water by building and installing biosand water filters. They are a registered 501(c)3 organization in the US, a registered charity in Canada, and a registered foundation in Haiti. Since 2001, they have installed over 40,000 filters, providing access to clean water at the household level for almost 2% of Haiti's population. Their base of operations in Haiti is located about 10 minutes south of St. Marc in a small farming community called Camp Marie.

The biosand filter is a great option for developing nations because it's a simple, yet effective technology that can be produced in country with local materials and local labor.

It's easy to use, doesn't have any moving parts, and is easy to maintain. For about \$100 US they can build a filter, deliver and install it, and provide a year of support to the family who owns it.

The IHC needs YOUR help!

-Donate to the silent auction! Items in the past have included: gift cards, experiences, getaways, books, gently used items and memorabilia, etc. Anything helps!

-Raffle baskets! The past couple have years have brought amazing creativity and friendly competition to the IHC room. Let's keep the trend going! IHC is encouraging all WSEHA board members, LHJs, and any individual with a creative spirit to donate your best raffle gift basket. For the past TWO years Kitsap Public Health and DOH earned bragging rights for the most money raised and most creative baskets, respectively. Who is going to break their winning streak?

-Can't make it to this year's AEC? You can still help by donating directly by visiting WSEHA's [IHC webpage](#) and clicking on the donation link.

Any additional questions about donating, volunteer opportunities, or the upcoming auction can be directed to Layken Winchester, IHC Chair. Thank you for your time and help in supporting Clean Water for Haiti!

Contact Info: Layken Winchester
Internationalhealth.WSEHA@gmail.com
(360) 728-2247



How you can help

- ⇒ Donate to the silent auction
- ⇒ Raffle baskets
- ⇒ Donate money





Washington State
Environmental Health
Association



Annual Education CONFERENCE

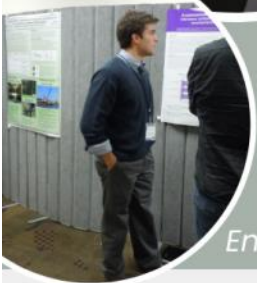
Innovating Today to Serve Tomorrow

APRIL 29–MAY 1, 2024

Yakima Convention Center
10 N 8th Street | Yakima, WA



FEATURING:



Policy & General
Environmental Health



Schools & Air
Quality



Food, Pools &
Living Environment



Water &
Wastewater

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Pre-conference offerings including:
 - Playground field trip
 - Water recreation facility training
- Over 30 presentations highlighting environmental health activities in our region!
 - April 29: L & afternoon sessions
 - April 30: B/L & full-day of sessions
 - May 1: B/L & morning sessions

WHY ATTEND?

Attending a conference is one of the best ways to increase skills and knowledge, as well as to make connections with professionals in the field of environmental health.

FOR REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.wseha.org/2024-annual-education-conference>