GUIDELINES

For the Submission of Abstracts and Technical Papers for the 35th Annual CWWA Conference & Exhibition

October 12-16, 2026

Radisson Grenada Beach Resort

Welcome Remarks

Kenrick St. Louis

Conference Chair

Welcome to Grenada, the Spice Isle of the Caribbean. Grenada is proud to host the 35th Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Conference, scheduled for October 12–16, 2026, at the Radisson Hotel.

The theme of this year's conference is "One Caribbean – Transitioning to a Value-Driven Future." Our sector is evolving from one that simply provides water and sanitation services to one that positions itself as a driver of economic development in both the private and public sectors. This will be achieved by integrating people, processes, and fit-for-purpose technology to maximize value.

The Conference will bring together experts from the water, wastewater, and sanitation sectors, academia, and policy, and will provide a platform for enhancing the way our sector is managed today and into the future.
Your attendance at this Conference will support the change we want to see in our sector and help lay the foundation for the transformation required to prepare us for the challenges we face today and in the years ahead.

The Technical Sessions of this year's Conference are scheduled to take place from October 13–15, 2026. Join us in Grenada. We look forward to receiving your submissions to help enrich this event.

Thematic Area 1

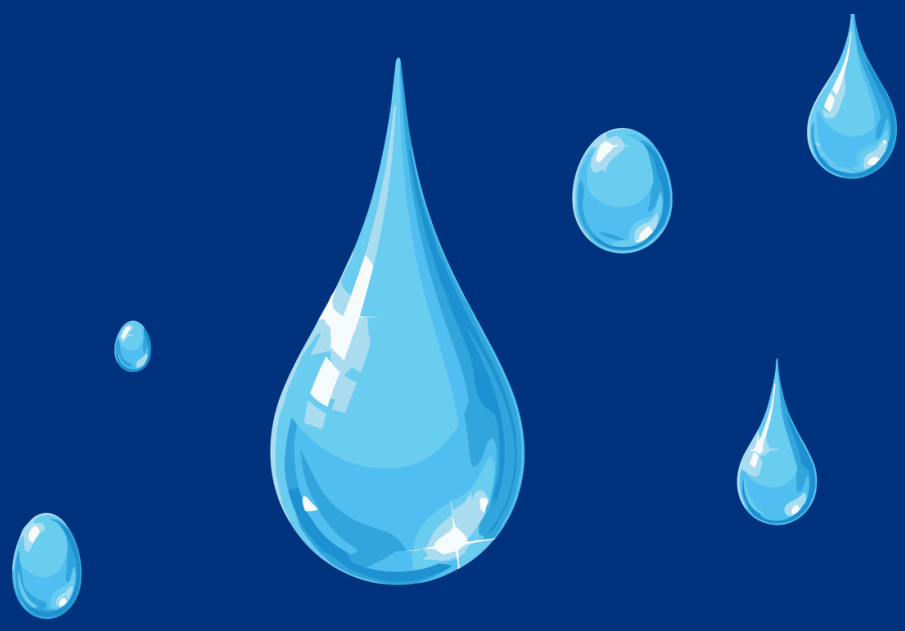
Empowering Integrated Water Management for Sustainable Prosperity and Climate Action

- Strengthening the Role of Water Professionals in Capacity Development: A Regional Collaborative Approach
- Incorporating Integrated Water Resources Management within the Caribbean Context: Embracing a Ridge-to-Reef Approach
- Addressing the Vulnerabilities of Water Systems in Caribbean SIDS to Climate Impacts (Tropical Cyclones, Floods, Droughts, and Salinization)
- Challenges and Opportunities for Applying Smart Water Management: From Concept to Practice—A Caribbean Outlook
- Nature- and Community-Based Approaches for Watershed Management in the Context of Climate Change and Climate Variability
- Integrated Coastal and Inland Water Management
- Strengthening Institutional Frameworks for Integrated Water Governance in the Caribbean and Beyond
- Balancing Tourism Development with Sustainable Water Use and Conservation
- Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)
- Adapting to Tourism and Urbanization Pressures: A Sustainable Approach to Increasing Water Demand
- Promoting Sustainable Groundwater Governance (Abstraction, Contamination, Water Scarcity, and Aquifer Recharge Using Stormwater and Treated Wastewater)
- Benefits of Cost-Reflective Water Tariffs for Socio-Economic Development: Regional Comparisons
- Enhancing Operational Efficiency Through Utility Benchmarking: Regional Perspectives and Beyond
- Risk Assessment and Management in Water Infrastructure in the Context of Climate Change and Other Threats
- Best Practices in Agriculture: Improving Water Use Efficiency in the Face of Climate Change and Exploring Non-Traditional Water Sources

Thematic Area 2

Innovative and Resilient Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Utility Operations

- Optimizing Operations and Maintenance through the Integration of Business Intelligence Systems and Artificial Intelligence
- Advancing Water Information Management Systems (WIMS): National and Regional Approaches
- Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on the Water Sector
- Action Plan for Regional Collaboration on Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Improvements: Successful Case Studies, Pilots, and Projects
- Effective Approaches to Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management: Case Studies, Innovations, and Advances in the Sector
- Cost–Benefit Analysis of NRW Reduction Strategies and How These Analyses Can Be Enhanced or Simplified
- Identifying Innovative Funding Mechanisms for Water Infrastructure Projects
- The Water–Food–Energy Nexus: Incorporating Smart Technology
- Desalination: Bridging Seawater and Potable Water Supply
- Employing Emerging Technologies in the Future of Water Supply and Management
- Opportunities in Water Resource Monitoring through GIS, Remote Sensing, IoT, and AI



Thematic Area 2 (contd.)

Innovative and Resilient Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Utility Operations

- Smart Meter Implementation: Key Challenges and Recommendations
- Strategic Solutions and Innovative Approaches to Overcoming the Challenges of Water System Expansion in Urban Areas and Rural Communities
- Implementing Green Infrastructure and Renewable Energy in the Caribbean and Latin America
- Decentralized Infrastructure as a Measure to Improve Resilience through Localized Supply: Highlighting Regional and International Case Studies
- Benefits of Preventive and Predictive Maintenance and the Unsustainable Nature of ‘Breakdown’ Maintenance
- Management of Critical Inventory and Spare Parts Using AI
- Effective Management of Aging Above- and Underground Infrastructure
- Leveraging SCADA and GIS for Smart, Resilient Water and Sewer Utilities
- Enhancing Energy Efficiency: Techniques and Best Practices in the Context of Climate Change and Climate Variability
- Cybersecurity for Water Utilities
- Impact of Unstable Energy Supply on Water Extraction and Distribution

Thematic Area 3

Advancing Clean Water and Sanitation Through Effective Wastewater Management and Pollution Control

- Nature-Based Solutions for Wastewater Management: Highlighting Maintenance Costs and Effluent Water Quality of Conventional Systems vs. Nature-Based Systems
- Water Quality and Emerging Pollutants: Are Enough Resources Allocated to Detecting and Treating Emerging Pollutants?
- Value-Added Benefits of Investment in Wastewater Management
- Identifying Innovative Funding Mechanisms for Wastewater Infrastructure Projects
- Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Collection Technologies: Options for Regional Implementation and Pilot Projects
- Improved Water Quality Monitoring, Testing, and Analysis Incorporating ISO Standards: Regional Case Studies
- Promoting Regulatory Compliance and Policy Development within the Caribbean
- Resource Mobilization to Support Wastewater Management
- Public Health and Water Safety: Improving Water Safety Plans and Highlighting the Negative Impacts of Non-Compliance
- Sludge Management: A Critical Look at Resource Recovery vs. Disposal
- Actions to Achieve SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Assessing Regional Status and Steps Toward Achieving the Target by 2030
- Achieving Sustainability through Wastewater Technology
- Closing the Water Cycle through Efficient and Innovative Technologies: Highlighting Wastewater as a Resource
- Wastewater Reuse Applications Within Peri Urban & Rural Communities
- Community-Based / Small-Scale Approaches to Wastewater Management

Thematic Area 4

Transforming Waste Management Systems for Climate Resilience, Circularity and Regional Sustainability

- Landfill and Leachate Management: Filling Plans, Surveys, Waste Characterization, and Pathways to Certification
- Designing Climate-Resilient Waste Infrastructure
- Disaster Debris Management Planning and Post-Disaster Waste Recovery: Regional Support and Structures
- Integrating Waste Management into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategies
- Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks and Enforcement in Small Island Contexts: Integrating Licensing, Auditing, Closed-Loop Systems, and Policing
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit-Refund Systems in the Caribbean
- Informal Sector Integration and Social Inclusion in Waste Systems
- Improving Waste Data Systems: Characterization, Tracking, and Reporting
- Digital Tools for Waste Collection Optimization and Performance Monitoring
- Coordinated, Inter-Island approaches to Waste Management (Bulk Transport and Management)
- Safe and Effective Management of Hazardous Waste (Medical, E-Waste etc.)

Thematic Area 4 (Contd.)

Transforming Waste Management Systems for Climate Resilience, Circularity and Regional Sustainability

- Using Data to Support Evidence-Based Waste Policy and Investment Planning: Business Intelligence Software, Dashboard Development, and Real-Time Reporting
- Moving from Pilots to Scale: Scaling Support, Critical Systems, and the Operationalization of Circular Economy Strategies
- Market Development for Recycled Materials in Island Economies: Developing Inter-Island Trade
- Regional Manufacturing, Reuse, and Repair Ecosystems
- Scaling Composting and Anaerobic Digestion in Tourism-Driven Economies: Composting as a Vehicle for Behavioural Change to Realize Effective Waste Diversion
- Integration of Organics Diversion with Climate Mitigation Goals
- Management of Batteries, Solar PV Waste, and Electric Vehicle Components
- Metal Recovery and a Full Lifecycle Approach to Vehicle Management
- Marine Litter Pathways and Land-Based Waste Leakage to the Ocean
- Microplastics, PFAS, and Contaminants of Emerging Concern
- Regional Colloboration for Waste Treatment, Recycling & Disposal
- Turning Sargassum from ‘Waste’ to Resource: Energy, Pharmaceutical, Compost & other Emerging Resource Options
- Waste-to-Energy solutions for Island Nations

Thematic Area 5

Fostering Inclusive Growth Through Community Outreach and Public Awareness

- Community Engagement & Social Equity: Inclusive planning and stakeholder participation to address inequities in water and wastewater services.
- Social & Community Empowerment: Using digital platforms and social media to improve awareness, transparency, crisis communication, and customer engagement.
- Empowering Customer Service Teams: Workforce development and leadership strategies to strengthen frontline customer service in water utilities.
- Improving Customer Service in Water Utilities: Systems, policies, and technologies that enhance customer experience, billing transparency, and complaint resolution.
- Youth Engagement in Water Stewardship: Education programs and youth-led initiatives promoting sustainable water management.

Thematic Area 5 (Contd.)

Fostering Inclusive Growth Through Community Outreach and Public Awareness

- Gender-Inclusive Community Engagement: Gender-responsive approaches that promote women's leadership and inclusive service delivery.
- Water Access in Remote Rural Areas: Innovative technical, financial, and community solutions for sustainable rural water services.
- Public Awareness on Water Metering: Education campaigns promoting metering for water conservation and demand management.
- Environmental & Social Safeguards: Protecting environmental and social standards in water and wastewater projects.
- Early Warning Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction: Strengthening preparedness and resilience through early warning systems for water-related disasters.

Thematic Area 6

Cross-Cutting and General Topics

- Measuring the Performance and Success of Water and Wastewater Systems Projects.
- Best Practices in Project Management for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure and Development Projects
- Safety Protocols and Risk Management in Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Emergency Response Planning and Disaster Risk Management for Caribbean Utilities
- Application of Climate Services and Climate Information for Improved Water and Sanitation Management
- Building Resilience to Climate-Driven Disasters in Water, Wastewater, and Waste/Sanitation Systems
- Planning, Operation, and Rehabilitation of Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Infrastructure
- Integrated Flood Management: Approaches in Urban and Rural Settings
- Centralized Data Management Systems: Benefits, Implementation Approaches, and Case Studies
- Promoting Organizational and Cultural Change for Improved Water and Sanitation Management
- The Role of the Water–Energy–Food Nexus in Climate Adaptation Strategies
- Strengthening Regional Governance and Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Utility Management
- Integrating Regional Development Frameworks into National Water and Sanitation Planning Agendas (RSAP, CWMAP, the CARICOM Common Water Framework, IWRM Regional Action Framework, etc.)

Dates To Remember

Submission Deadline

Abstract Submission: June 12th, 2026

Notification of successful acceptance of Abstract: July 3rd, 2026

Full Paper Submission: August 3rd, 2026

Final Presentation Submission: September 18th, 2026

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Authors wishing to present a paper should complete the Abstract Submission Form using the following link: ***2026 Abstract Submission Form.*** Each abstract must include:

- Paper title
- Selected thematic area
- Author name(s)
- Full contact details including institutional affiliation

Only the accepted abstracts will be published in the Conference Magazine. The text of the full papers accepted will be archived in CWWA records for access by Conference participants and members of the CWWA.

ABSTRACT FORMAT

1. **Length:** Abstracts are limited to text only and must be no more than 300 words
2. **Page Size:** Letter
3. **Spacing and Margins:** Double spaced with minimum margins at 2.54 cm (1 inch) all around.
4. **Fonts:** Arial at a size of 12 point
5. **Digital format:** Microsoft Word format
6. **Language:** English
7. **Emboldments:** Apply Emboldments, italics, underlining, superscripts and subscripts in your main text as you want it to appear in your final abstract.
8. **Title:** Type abstract title on a line with formatting as it would appear in the final paper
9. **Topic:** Place the thematic area from the list provided above the title
10. **Keywords:** Include four keywords relevant to the subject of the abstract.
11. **Author:** List presenting author first and include affiliation name, address, city, and country
12. Consideration will be given to **technical content, relevance, originality, and overall abstract quality.**
13. Authors should utilize the enclosed **Abstract Submittal Form**

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

1. A maximum of two abstracts per author may be submitted.
2. All Abstracts should be submitted electronically using the **Abstract Submittal Form.** ***Click for access to Submission Form***
3. If you have any challenges submitting the form electronically, kindly submit using the MSWord Form to: cwwatechnicalpapers@gmail.com
4. All submissions will receive electronic acknowledgement within 72 hours.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF SELECTED PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS ARE LISTED BELOW. THIS ONLY APPLIES TO ABSTRACTS THAT ARE SELECTED FOR PRESENTATIONS.

FINAL PAPER FORMAT

1. **Length:** Paper should not exceed 10 pages including text, photos, and graphics.
2. **Size:** Letter
3. **Spacing and Margins:** Double spaced with minimum margins at 2.54 cm (1 inch) all around.
4. **Fonts:** Arial at a size of 12 point.
5. **Digital format:** Microsoft Word or PDF format.
6. **Language:** English.
7. **Emboldments:** Apply emboldments, italics, underlining, superscripts and subscripts in your main text as you want it to appear in your final paper.
8. **Images:** Include all images (diagrams, charts, JPEG and GIF) to email resolution as you would want it to appear in the final publication.
9. **Title:** Type paper title on a line with formatting as it would appear in the final publication.
10. **Topic:** Place the Conference Thematic area selected from the list provided above the title.
11. **Author:** Each paper must be accompanied by names and affiliations of all authors; contact addresses for all authors (including email); a short biography of the presenter containing no more than 80 words; a digital copy of a passport photograph of the author/s.

FINAL PRESENTATION FORMAT

1. **Speaking Time:** Each presenter will be allocated 15 minutes.
2. **Question &Answer Session:** A Q&A session will be held for 10 minutes at the end of every oral presentation.
3. **Format:** Selected presenters will be required to use the official presentation template that will be provided by the organizers.
4. **Audio-visual Support:** Technical session rooms will be equipped with a projector, screen, and computer.
5. **Presentation Specifics:** Date, time and meeting room of presentations will be emailed closer to the Conference date.

Submission of Papers and Presentations: All final papers and presentations should be submitted electronically to **cwwatechnicalpapers@gmail.com**

All submissions will be acknowledged electronically. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 72 hours of submission, please contact the CWWA Technical Papers Committee via the following email address **cwwatechnicalpapers@gmail.com**

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PUBLICATION

CWWA has partnered with the West Indian Journal of Engineering (WIJE) to publish selected Papers from the 35th Annual Conference and Exhibition in a Special Issue of the WIJE. Suitable papers accepted at this year's Conference and Exhibition will be submitted to the WIEJ Editorial Board for review and publication. Selection criteria for publication in the Special Issue will include:

- Innovation and originality.
- Impact and significance.
- Presentation including paper organization, methodology, critical analysis, quality, style, sources and language use.

WEST INDIAN JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING

The West Indian Journal of Engineering (WIJE) is an international journal which has a focus on the Caribbean region. Since its inception in 1967, it is published twice yearly by the Faculty of Engineering at the University of the West Indies and the Council of Caribbean Engineering Organization in Trinidad and Tobago.