

University of Manitoba Student Chapter of the Water Environment Federation (UMWEF)

UMWEF Poster Competition

Competition Guidelines

Winnipeg, MB

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1. Introduction

The UMWEF Poster Competition is the first poster contest organized by the University of Manitoba Student Chapter of the Water Environment Federation (UMWEF). The competition provides students and young professionals with the opportunity to showcase their research, exchange ideas, and network with professionals.

The UMWEF Poster Competition will occur during the 2025 Canadian Residuals & Biosolids Conference, organized by the Western Canada Water Environment Association (WCWEA). This event will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Winnipeg, MB, from October 20 to 22, 2025.

Individuals wishing to participate must submit an abstract related to a topic from the suggested list provided in the submission guidelines below. The UMWEF board will select the participants from the submitted abstracts and contact them via email to confirm their participation in the poster competition.

2. Conference and competition details

2.1. 2025 Canadian Residuals & Biosolids Conference

- Location: Radisson Hotel, 288 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB
- Dates: October 20 – 22, 2025

2.2. Abstract submission

- Submission deadline: Sunday, August 31, 2025
- Submission method: email to UMWEF@umanitoba.ca
- Contact: For inquiries and information, contact the UMWEF board at UMWEF@umanitoba.ca

2.3. Final decision, participants' confirmation, and poster submission

- Final decision: Accepted abstracts will be communicated via email on Friday, September 12, 2025.
- Participation confirmation: Authors must confirm their participation via email (UMWEF@umanitoba.ca) by Monday, September 22, 2025.

Please be aware that the hotel block reservation at the Radisson Hotel closes on September 19, 2025.

- Poster submission: An electronic file of the poster must be submitted to UMWEF@umanitoba.ca by Friday, October 3, 2025. This will provide the organization with enough time to print the posters.

2.4. Registration

- Registration is not mandatory for participants. Poster competition participants will have the opportunity to showcase their work during the scheduled times in the designated area.
- Participants interested in attending the 2025 Canadian Residuals and Biosolids Conference events (sessions and activities in the program) must register at the link <https://wcwea.org/index.php/events>.
- Participants should confirm their interest in attending the Conference events in the “Participation confirmation” email (see **2.3. Final decision, participants' confirmation, and poster submission**) in order to receive a discount code for their registration.

- Cost: CAD \$175.00 (after discount).

2.5. UMWEF poster competition

- Location: Radisson Hotel, 288 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB (specific location will be confirmed in future communications).
- Date and times: Tuesday, October 21, 2025. 9:45 am – 10:15 am, and 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm.
 - Poster printing and setup will be done by the organizers.
 - Presentation and judging will occur during the scheduled hours.
 - It is encouraged for participants to stay next to their posters during the scheduled hours.
 - Winners (first, second, and third place) will be notified by email on Tuesday evening. Winners must be present during breakfast on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.

3. Abstract submission

Authors must submit their abstracts for the poster competition to the provided contact information (UMWEF@umanitoba.ca) by the submission deadline.

The abstract must include the following information: abstract/poster title, primary author's name, co-authors' names if any, affiliation of each author and co-author (organization/institution), and contact information of the primary author (email and phone). The abstract must be a maximum of 300 words. It should summarize a research/project topic related to residuals or biosolids, including objectives, methods, results, and conclusions. Special emphasis should be placed on highlighting the relevance of the research/project for the industry (consider that the event will gather industry experts).

Suggested topics:

- Sustainable Land Application
 - Innovative biosolids-amended soil applications
 - Methane oxidation in biosolids-amended landfill covers
 - Land reclamation with residuals
- Resource Recovery & Reuse
- Public Health Surveillance in Biosolids: Lessons from COVID-19
- Odour Management
- Nutrient management
- PFAS and Emerging Compounds
- Co-digestion
- Beneficial use of Biogas and Bioenergy
- Thickening & Dewatering

Other topics related to water, wastewater, and biosolids might also be eligible for the competition, at the organizers' discretion.

3.1. Eligibility

All students in post-secondary education and water professionals aged 35 and younger are invited to participate.

4. Poster presentation

Participants are encouraged to remain by their posters during the competition. This setup will foster discussions with peers and industry experts, enabling an exchange of ideas and shared interests.

In the poster competition, authors will showcase their work to the judges. Each poster presentation is anticipated to last between 5 and 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

4.1. Technical Details

- **Poster specifications:** To ensure a high resolution of the printed poster and avoid image distortion, please ensure your electronic poster file is in PDF format and that the actual page size is 36" x 48" (91.4 cm x 121.9 cm). This will be the only size used in the printed posters.
- **Poster sections:** The following sections are expected to be included in the poster.
 - **Title Banner:** Must contain the poster's title, author(s) name(s), and affiliation.
 - **Introduction/objective**
 - **Experiment and methods**
 - **Results:** This section should be the major section of the poster.
 - **Conclusions:** This should be the second major section of the poster.
 - **References:** Main references used must be included (2 to 4 maximum).
- **Font:** Use a legible font style and size. The text must be readable from a 2 m distance.
- **Graphics and figures** must have a minimum line width of 1 mm.
- **Photos** must be 4" x 6" minimum.

4.2. Judging

Judging will be based on the following point system:

- **Poster quality:** 10 points. Judges will assess the poster's structure, visuals, readability, logical flow, and grammar, as well as its depth, originality, clear and concise technical information, and compliance with poster guidelines.
- **Oral presentation:** 10 points. Judges will evaluate the delivery and engagement, clarity of explanation, enthusiasm and communication, responses to questions, and compliance with the time limit (10 minutes).
- **Technological innovation and industry benefits:** 10 Points. Judges will assess the benefits provided to the industry of residuals and biosolids, as well as the innovation in the technology used.

- If there's a tie for the poster contest winner, the UMWEF president will appoint an extra judge to resolve the tie.

5. Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to the top three posters: first, second, and third place. Each winner will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

5.1. First place

The first-place winner will receive CAD \$500.00.

5.2. Second place

The second-place winner will receive CAD \$300.00.

5.3. Third place

The third-place winner will receive CAD \$200.00.

5.4. Registered participant benefits

All participants accepted into the poster competition and registering for the Conference will receive a discount code for CAD \$100.00 off the registration fee, along with access to all conference activities. Additionally, they will be granted a complimentary one-year membership to the Water Environment Federation (WEF).