

FLORIDA BEACON

From the Desk of...
Amy Guilfoyle



Florida Association of
Environmental Professionals
Winter 2018



Happy New Year Friends

I hope this message finds you happy and healthy as we begin 2018. I have been very fortunate to serve as the President of FAEP for the last three years. When I was encouraged to become more involved with the organization years ago, I truly did not know the impact it would leave on my career and how expansive my network would become. I have gotten to meet members from across the state and been involved in planning the Annual Conference and Training Symposiums. It has been a very worthwhile experience and I would encourage everyone to become more involved in their local chapters as well as the State chapter. So with bittersweet feelings, I would like to announce the new board members for 2018. In addition, I would like to sincerely thank the outgoing board members for their participation throughout 2017: Mary Gutierrez, Past President; Debbie Madden, Treasurer; and Chasidy Hobbs, Northwest Chapter Representative.

Also, a special thank you goes out to the Tallahassee Chapter for hosting the 2017 conference. The feedback on that conference has been very positive and attendance was high. The Central Chapter will be hosting the 2018 Conference - Please mark your calendars for Sept. 19 – 21, 2018 in Orlando.

If you would like to become more involved with FAEP, please contact me at amy.guilfoyle@ppmco.com.

Sincerely,
Amy L. Guilfoyle
FAEP Past President

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Check the last page of this newsletter to determine if you qualify for a discount on your membership!

Next FAEP Board Meeting!!
The next FAEP Board of Directors Meeting
is February 26, 2018 at 12:00 dial:
605-475-4000 (code 607028#)

Find out more about FAEP
Member's Benefits at our website:
WWW.FAEP-FL.ORG

FAEP Board Member Spotlight

FAEP will be spotlighting your board members throughout the year in selected newsletter editions. We hope this helps members of our association have a better understanding of board member roles and responsibilities, as well as who we are outside of “the office”. In this edition we introduce you to:

Tim Perry

What is your occupation?

Environmental attorney with Oertel, Fernandez, Bryant & Atkinson, P.A.

Where do you live?

Tallahassee

Do you have pets?

One dog, a Brittany Spaniel

How long have you been an FAEP member?

About 5 years

What do you like best about FAEP?

I really enjoy the educational aspect of the organization. Every other month my local chapter has a speaker. I think I’ve only missed one or two of those events because I just love hearing about what people are doing in their field of expertise.

Have you had an especially good experience with FAEP?

I have been so lucky to serve on the state board as Treasurer and Vice-President, and also as the Treasurer and now President of my local chapter in Tallahassee. This has afforded me the opportunity to meet and work closely with so many excellent Board Members located here in my hometown and throughout Florida. I would definitely recommend to anyone that they take a turn serving on a board.

What motivates you to jump out of bed in the morning?

The greatest thing about my job is I get to work on all kinds of different environmental projects for all kinds of clients. That really keeps things fresh and interesting for me. One day I might be working on complex issues involving helping a facility get its air, water, wastewater, or environmental resource permits. The next day could be something as simple as helping a homeowner get a permit for a dock behind their house.

What do you do in your free time?

I like to play golf, mountain bike, and go the FSU football games. I also enjoy coaching my son’s sports teams, and watching my daughter’s theater performances.

If you could make one change in the world to leave it as your legacy what would that be?

I have clients all over the state and I end up doing a lot of driving. So the thing that has been on my mind lately has been self-driving cars. I think it will make driving much safer, and a lot more enjoyable. I know it’s getting close to being achievable, but I would love to see the promise of the technology realized.

What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?

I would love to be a pilot. I love the feeling of getting off a plane in a new place.

What made you want to help the environment?

I have always had a special interest in science and nature. In my job I get to combine that interest with my training as a lawyer.



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TALLAHASSEE CHAPTER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO THREE FSU STUDENTS!

The Tallahassee Area Association of Environmental Professionals (“TAAEP”) hosts an annual writing competition as part of its mission to support the FSU Student Chapter of the FAEP, and to promote educational opportunities for future environmental professionals.

Students who are pursuing a degree in engineering, geology, environmental science, biology or a related field to the various practice areas that make up the TAAEP membership are eligible to enter. Entries were due in October 2017 on one of three topics: 1) Promoting conversion from septic tanks to sewer systems; 2) Improving a land-locked city's resiliency to climate change; and 3) Ideas for legislation that would improve the environment in Florida.

In December 2017, the TAAEP and the FSU Student Chapter of the FAEP held a joint mixer where the winners of the writing competition were announced. After blind judging by TAAEP Board Members, three scholarships were awarded:

- First place scholarship of \$500 to **Brianna Garis**,
- Second place scholarship of \$250 to **Anna Johnson**, and
- Honorable mention of \$125 to **Natasha De La Cruz**.

This is the second year in a row that Brianna Garis has secured first place in the writing competition. If you would like more information about TAAEP's writing competition, please contact TAAEP President, Tim Perry, at tperry@ohfc.com.

NORTHEAST CHAPTER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO FSCJ STUDENT

The Northeast Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (“NEFAEP”) issues a scholarship annually through our members (membership dues as well as sponsorships and other fund raising events). Scholarships are one way NEFAEP endeavors to help bring more professionals into the environmental field of study. They are a powerful investment in the community and they open the door to life-changing opportunities for deserving students.

The scholarship is not limited to a specific college or department; however, the applicant must be a member of NEFAEP, enrolled in a program that has an environmental or ecological focus, as well as demonstrate a commitment to academics. After judging by the NEFAEP Board Members, a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to **Ms. Roxanne Fuller** of the **Florida State College at Jacksonville** (FSCJ).

If you would like more information about NEFAEP's scholarship, please contact NEFAEP President, Killian Eckert, at keckert@mechlingeng.com.



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Shout Out
to the Central Chapter Chapter
of FAEP for hosting the
2018 FAEP Annual Conference
Save the Date
September 19 – 21, 2018

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In Mussels Across the Globe, Evidence of the Spread of Plastic Pollution

Scientists have discovered tiny bits of plastic in mussels in oceans across the globe, from supposedly pristine Arctic waters near Norway to the coasts of China, Chile, Canada, Britain, and Belgium, [Reuters reported](#). The findings from several recent surveys are the latest evidence that plastic pollution isn't just ending up in marine environments, but also in the food we eat.

"Microplastics have been found in mussels everywhere scientists have looked," said Amy Lusher, a scientist at the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA).

In a [study released earlier this month](#), Lusher and her colleagues at NIVA reported finding plastics in more than 76 percent of blue mussels sampled at various points along the Norwegian coast. Each mollusk contained on average 1.8 pieces of microplastic — fragments measuring smaller than 5 millimeters long.

Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

Rivers Carry Plastic Debris Into the Sea

Minute plastic particles can be found in the water in virtually every sea and river. This constitutes a serious and growing global environmental problem. There are enormous quantities of input each year and plastic weathers only very slowly. Marine life can be harmed by the tiny plastic particles floating in the water. One example of how this happens is when fish, seabirds or marine mammals mistake the particles for food and consume them. "It is still impossible to foresee the ecological consequences of this. One thing is certain, however: this situation cannot continue," says Dr. Christian Schmidt, a hydrogeologist at the UFZ. "But as it is impossible to clean up the plastic debris that is already in the oceans, we must take precautions and reduce the input of plastic quickly and efficiently."

However, in order to take practical measures to reduce plastic input, it will be necessary to answer the initial questions: Where does all the plastic come from anyhow? And how does it get into the sea? Schmidt and his team addressed these questions in a study that recently appeared in the current issue of *Environmental Science & Technology* journal. For this purpose, the researchers analyzed various scientific studies that examined the plastic load -- that is the quantity of plastic carried by the water -- in rivers. They converted the results of the studies into mutually comparable datasets and determined the ratio of these figures to the quantity of waste that is not disposed of properly in the respective catchment area. "We were able to demonstrate that there is a definite correlation in this respect," says Schmidt. "The more waste there is in a catchment area that is not disposed of properly, the more plastic ultimately ends up in the river and takes this route to the sea." In this context, large rivers obviously play a particularly large role -- not only because they also carry a comparatively large volume of waste on account of their larger discharge. Schmidt says, "the concentrations of plastic, i.e. the quantity of plastic per cubic meter of water are significantly higher in large rivers than small ones. The plastic loads consequently increase at a disproportionately higher rate than the size of the river."

The researchers have also calculated that the ten river systems with the highest plastic loads (eight of them are in Asia and two in Africa) -- areas in which hundreds of millions of people live, in some cases -- are responsible for around 90 percent of the global input of plastic into the sea. "Halving the plastic input from the catchment areas of these rivers would already be a major success," says Schmidt. "To achieve this, it will be necessary to improve the waste management and raise public awareness for the issue. We hope that our study will make a contribution to a positive development so that the plastic problem in our oceans can be curbed in the long run."

In future investigations, the UFZ team intends to find out how long plastic debris takes to reach the sea once it gets into a river. Does it take only a few months or even decades? "It is important to be aware of this as the impact of a measure becomes apparent only with a corresponding time delay as existing pollution has yet to be washed into the sea," explains Schmidt. "Only when we are aware of roughly how long plastic debris remains in the respective river system will it also be possible to assess a measure to improve the waste management system in the catchment area."

From Science News

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People's Love of the Seas Could be the Key for Plastic Pollution Solution

Tapping into the public's passion for the ocean environment could be the key to reducing the threats posed to it by plastic pollution, a new report suggests.

Millions of tons of plastic particles accumulate in our seas each year as a result of human behavior, and once there they have a potentially detrimental effect on marine life.

But reversing this trend, and finding ways to maintain both the health of our oceans and the human benefits associated with it, is a complicated task.

Writing in *Nature Human Behavior*, academics from the University of Plymouth and the University of Surrey identified recent examples where public pressure has led to policy change, including levies on single-use plastic bags and bans on the use of microbeads in cosmetics.

But while these are steps in the right direction, they are not addressing either the root causes or lasting effects of the problem, with the report saying there needs to be a more joined-up and interdisciplinary approach going forward.

Dr Sabine Pahl, Associate Professor (Reader) in Psychology and lead author on the report, said: "The public's love of the coast is obvious, so it stands to reason that they would play a role in preserving its future. Plastic pollution is a problem for all in society and while there are solutions out there, they must be socially acceptable as well as economically and technically viable. We need to work together across disciplines and sectors to build on the strength of humans to facilitate change."

Dr Kayleigh Wyles, Environmental Psychology Lecturer at the University of Surrey, added: "From previous research we know that people appreciate and value the importance of the ocean and see marine litter as a global problem. Yet, the challenge is connecting the dots. So many of our behaviors and decisions contribute to this problem (and optimistically to the solutions), but at those particular points of time, we often don't think of how they can impact the environment. Using behavioral sciences to understand drivers of human behavior will therefore help support ongoing initiatives that can look to clean up our environments."

The authors of the report have previously collaborated on research which demonstrated that marine litter can undermine the benefits of coastal environments.

In this study, they say ocean plastic pollution poses similar challenges to other environmental threats because the symptoms are often considered remote from the largely land-based causes.

This has been linked to a perceived lack of urgency to tackle the problems, but the academics says it should in fact be used as an incentive to encourage people to act.

They suggest the public could potentially become motivated if powerful images were carried on everyday products, similar to that already being used on cigarette packaging.

However, they warn that such 'fear' appeals cannot be seen as a complete solution and that any successful campaign would need to make people appreciate the problem and that they can play an important part in the solution.

Professor Richard Thompson, Director of Plymouth's International Marine Litter Research Unit, was a significant contributor to the UK Government's inquiries into both microplastics and the use of microbeads in cosmetics. He added: "There is now considerable awareness of the problem of litter at sea. But this is merely a symptom of a much more systemic problem driven by production, use and disposal of plastics on the land. To make progress here we need behavioral change right along the supply chain and our paper indicates some of the key actions that are needed."

From Science Daily

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With China's Ban on Waste Imports, Europe Announces New Recycling Initiatives

In the wake of China's ban on the import of foreign garbage, which took effect on January 1st, countries across the globe are scrambling to figure out what to do with the thousands of tons of trash piling up at their ports. Now, Europe has announced it is launching an aggressive new recycling initiative to reduce plastic waste and garbage exports.

The project will take aim at "single-use plastics that take five seconds to produce, you use it for five minutes, and it takes 500 years to break down again," Frans Timmermans, vice-president of the European Commission, told The Guardian.

European policymakers are designating more than \$120 million for research into better plastic designs, durability, and recyclability; mulling a ban on microplastics often found in cosmetics and other personal care products; tightening port regulations to prevent the disposal of waste into the ocean; and considering taxing single-use plastics.

Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

San Diego Padres' ballpark is about to get baseball's biggest solar power system

- Petco Park is getting a 336,520-watt solar power system.
- The San Diego Padres say it will be Major League Baseball's biggest solar power system.

Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres baseball team, will soon have a 336,520-watt solar power system. The project will be made up of 716 high efficiency, 470 watt SunPower solar modules, the Padres said this week.

The system, from Sullivan Solar Power, will be the biggest in Major League Baseball and produce more than 12 million kilowatt hours of solar power over the next quarter century, the team said. Installation of the panels is underway and is expected to be completed by March.

Erik Greupner, the Padres' chief operating officer, said the team takes pride in continuing to make Petco Park "the most energy efficient and sustainable facility possible."

San Diego has set a target of using 100 percent renewable energy citywide by 2035. Mayor Kevin Faulconer commended the Padres for "turning the best ballpark in the country into one of the most environmentally friendly."

Faulconer said Petco Park will become a model for the rest of Major League Baseball as well as "an example for other San Diego businesses to follow."



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WINTER FAEP REGULATORY UPDATE

As we move into 2018, the Trump administration continues to change and reprioritize major aspects of the federal environmental regulatory scheme. On the **Waters of the United States (WOTUS Rule)** front, although EPA already issued its proposed rescission of the Obama administration's WOTUS Rule, the agency is still working on its replacement, which will govern U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA jurisdiction over federal waters. EPA Administrator Pruitt has indicated that a new jurisdictional rule, which is expected to limit federal jurisdiction vis-à-vis the old rule, can be expected in April. And EPA will soon seek comment on a how it should replace the **Clean Power Plan (CPP)**, which it recently proposed scrapping. It was initially unclear whether EPA would simply repeal the CPP or propose a replacement. But recent court filings and congressional testimony suggest EPA is leaning towards suggesting a narrower replacement rule.

One of Administrator Pruitt's first major goals was initiating a review and reprioritization of EPA's **Superfund** program. To that end, and following up on agency's July Superfund Task Force Recommendations, EPA released [a list of 21 Superfund sites](#) "targeted for immediate, intense action." Though EPA intends to "spur action" at these sites, the listed sites will not receive any additional funding. The list includes sites across the country, but none in Florida.

EPA is also **limiting the use of "sue and settle" agreements**. In an October directive, Administrator Pruitt [ordered agency staff](#) to move away from the practice, whereby EPA enters into settlement agreements containing binding deadlines for issuing regulations or undertaking ameliorative actions. Now before settling a case, EPA must, among other things, publish a proposed settlement, accept public comments, and exclude recovery of litigation costs.

Clean Air Act **new source review (NSR) permitting requirements** are changing, too. On December 7th, EPA [issued guidance](#) providing that, absent clear error, it will defer to an owner or operator's pre-project NSR applicability analysis. This replaces EPA's practice of sometimes requiring NSR for facilities the agency, under its own projections, believed would reach NSR emissions thresholds. Now, EPA will not "second guess" an owner or operator's emissions projections.

Finally, in January the U.S. Supreme Court will hear argument in *Florida v. Georgia*. Florida is asking the Court to equitably apportion the waters of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin and cap Georgia's use of those waters. A Court-appointed Special Master [recently recommended](#) that the Court deny Florida's request for relief.

[Kyle Robisch](#) is an environmental attorney based out of Venable LLP's Washington, D.C. office. He assists clients, including many in Florida, with regulatory compliance, permitting, and complex litigation. His practice focuses on federal and state environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. Before joining Venable, Kyle spent two years in Orlando clerking for the Honorable G. Kendall Sharp, United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. He is admitted to practice in Florida and is a proud graduate of the University of Florida. He can be reached at kwrobisch@venable.com or 202-344-4327.

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Ocean Plastic a Planetary Crisis

Life in the seas risks irreparable damage from a rising tide of plastic waste, the UN oceans chief has warned.

Lisa Svensson said governments, firms and individual people must act far more quickly to halt plastic pollution.

"This is a planetary crisis," she said. "In a few short decades since we discovered the convenience of plastics, we are ruining the ecosystem of the ocean." She was speaking to BBC News ahead of a UN environment summit in Nairobi.



Delegates at the meeting want tougher action against plastic litter.

- **'Shame and anger' at plastic pollution**
- **Plastic 'threat' to Scottish wildlife**
- **Chemical clue to why birds eat plastic**

Ms. Svensson had just been saddened by a Kenyan turtle hospital which treats animals that have ingested waste plastic. She saw a juvenile turtle named Kai, brought in by fishermen a month ago because she was floating on the sea surface. Plastic waste was immediately suspected, because if turtles have eaten too much plastic it bloats their bellies and they can't control their buoyancy. Kai was given laxatives for two weeks to clear out her system, and Ms. Svensson witnessed an emotional moment as Kai was carried back to the sea to complete her recovery.

'Heart-breaking' reality

"It's a very happy moment," she said. "But sadly we can't be sure that Kai won't be back again if she eats more plastic. "It's heart-breaking, but it's reality. We just have to do much more to make sure the plastics don't get into the sea in the first place."

Caspar van de Geer runs the turtle hospital for the group Local Ocean Conservation at Watamu in eastern Kenya. He had demonstrated earlier how uncannily a plastic film pulsating in the water column mimics the actions of the jellyfish some turtles love to eat. "Turtles aren't stupid," he said. "It's really difficult to tell the difference between plastics and jellyfish, and it may be impossible for a turtle to learn." On a pin board he's compiled a grid of sealed clear plastic bags like the ones used at airports for cosmetics. Here they contain the plastic fragments removed from the stomachs of sick turtles. Half of the turtles brought here after eating plastics have died.

A huge table at the hospital is laden with an array of plastic waste collected off local beaches - from fishing nets and nylon ropes to unidentifiable fragments of plastic film. There's waste from down the coast as far as Tanzania - but also from Madagascar, the Comoros Islands, Thailand, Indonesia and even a bottle from far-away Japan. There's a score of mysterious white plastic rings which staff speculate are the rims of yoghurt pots, a plastic lighter. There are disintegrating woven plastic fertilizer bags, plastic straws - and much more.

Bite marks show some items like small sunscreen bottles have clearly been nibbled at by fish, because they look like potential food. Local people scour the beach daily for plastic waste. They want clean beaches, and they're aware that local hotels want the same. But along the high water line millions of the fragments of plastics are mixed in with dried sea grass, too small to be collected.

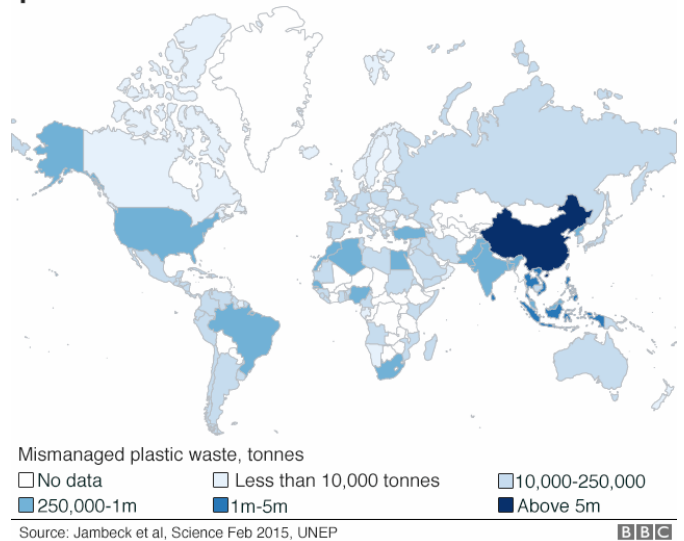
Gaining momentum?

"The scale of the challenge is absolutely enormous," says Ms. Svensson. She's backing a resolution by Norway this week for the world to completely eliminate plastic waste into the ocean. If all nations agree to that long-term goal it'll be considered a UN success. Certainly, it sounds more ambitious than the current commitment to substantially decrease waste inputs into the sea by 2025. But some environmentalists argue that the absence of a timetable for preventing waste is a huge failing.

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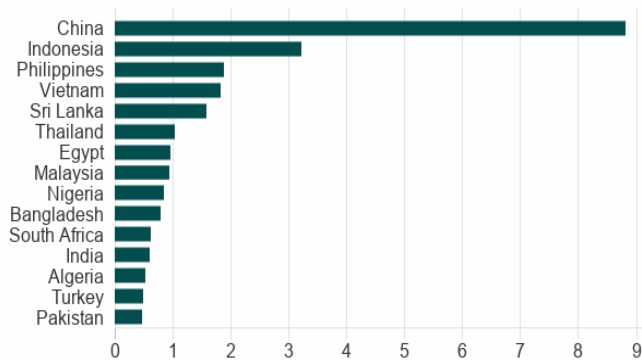
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Coastal countries contributing most to ocean plastic waste



Which countries produce the most plastic waste?

Top 15 countries worldwide that mismanaged plastic waste in 2010 (million metric tonnes)



Source: sciencemag.org

BBC

Tisha Brown from Greenpeace told BBC News: "We welcome that they are looking at a stronger statement, but with billions of tons of plastic waste entering the oceans we need much more urgent action. "We need manufacturers to take responsibility for their products - and we need to look at our consumption patterns that are driving all this."

Indonesia - the world's second biggest plastics polluter after China - has pledged to reduce plastic waste into the ocean 75% by 2025, but some observers doubt legal rules are strong enough to make this happen. Plastic waste is also on the agenda for this month's China Council - an influential high level dialogue in which world experts advise China's leaders on environmental issues. Kenya itself has banned single-use plastic bags, along with Rwanda, Tanzania and - soon- Sri Lanka. Bangladesh has had controls for many years, especially to stop bags clogging up drains and causing floods.

But bags are just one part of the problem - there are so many other types of plastic flowing through waterways. "The UN process is slow," Ms. Svensson admitted. "It could take 10 years to get a UN treaty agreed on plastic litter and a further two years to get it implemented.

"We have to progress through the UN because this is a truly global problem - but we can't wait that long. "We need to get much stronger actions from civil society, putting pressure on business to change - they can switch their supply chains very fast. And we need more individual governments to take urgent action too." She praised the BBC's Blue Planet series and urged other parts of the media to highlight the issue. Ms. Svensson said the ocean was facing multiple assault from over-fishing; pollution from chemicals, sewage and agriculture; development in coastal areas; climate change; ocean acidification; and over-exploitation of coral reefs. "This is a planetary emergency," she said. "I sense there is a momentum now about the need to act. We just have to be much faster."

As we left Watamu after Kai's joyous release, I turned back for one last glance at the Indian Ocean. A small boy tossed a plastic bottle over his shoulder into the sparkling water.

From www.bbc.com

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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
Southeast Recycling Conference and Tradeshow	Mar. 4 – 7, 2018	Orlando, FL
EUEC Energy, Utility & Environment Conference	Mar. 5 - 7, 2018	San Diego, CA
Emerging Contaminants Summit	Mar. 6 - 7, 2018	Westminster, CO
NGWA, Groundwater Fly-In and Water Resources Congressional Summit	Mar. 6 - 7, 2018	Washington, DC
Northeast Sustainable Energy Assn. Conference, Building Energy	Mar. 7 - 9, 2018	Boston, MA
National Association of Environmental Professionals	Mar. 11 - 14, 2018	Tacoma, WA
Greenprints 2018 (green building, sustainable development and policy in the Southeast)	Mar. 12 – 14, 2018	Atlanta, GA
2018 American Membrane Technology Association Conference	Mar. 12 – 16, 2018	West Palm Beach, FL
American Society for Environmental History 2018 Conference	Mar. 14 - 18, 2018	Riverside, CA
Environmental Information Assn. 2018 National Conference & Exposition	Mar. 17 - 21, 2018	San Diego, CA
AEHS Foundation, 28 th Annual Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, & Air	Mar. 19 - 22, 2018	San Diego, CA
Sustainable Water Management Conference	Mar. 25 – 28, 2018	Seattle, WA
Clean Waterways 2018	Apr. 4 – 5, 2018	St. Louis, MO
Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium and Field Trips	Apr. 11 – 13, 2018	Clemson, SC
33 rd Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology	Apr. 16 – 20, 2018	Ponte Vedra, FL
SAME 10 th Symposium on Design & Construction Issues at Hazardous Waste Sites	Apr. 18 - 20, 2018	Philadelphia, PA
AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition “Innovating the Future of Water”	Jun. 11 – 14, 2018	Las Vegas, NV
Florida Association For Water Quality Control	Jun. 13 – 15, 2018	Naples, FL
Georgia Association of Water Professionals	Jul. 15 – 18, 2018	Savannah, GA
ASME Power & Energy Expo	Jun. 24 - 28, 2018	Lake Buena Vista, FL
A&WMA 2018 Annual Conference and Expo	Jun. 25 -28, 2018	Hartford, CT
American institute of Professional Geologists National Conference	Sept. 8 – 11, 2018	Colorado Springs, CO
Florida Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference	Sept. 19 – 21, 2018	Orlando, FL
Association of Water Technologies	Sept. 26 – 29, 2018	Orlando, FL
METRA E2 Day	Oct. 18	Orlando, FL
2018 Groundwater Week	Dec. 3 – 6, 2018	Las Vegas, NV

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Did you know that FAEP provides a discount on our membership to employers who have 5 or more members? If your company or organization qualifies for the Group Membership you save \$5 on each FAEP new member or renewing member, lowering the FAEP membership fee from \$40 to \$35 for everyone from your company or organization. If your company or organization is on this list, you are eligible to join or renew at the discounted Group rate. The FAEP Board would like to extend a thank you to the following employers for supporting their employee's professional development and the FAEP mission:

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