



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

The SWANA Northern Lights Chapter 2026 Conference will take place April 22 to 24, 2026, at the Fairmont Palliser in Calgary, Alberta. This agenda is a living document and will continue to be updated as details are confirmed.

## Monday – April 20

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Landfill Operations Basics Training Day 1
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## Tuesday – April 21

8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Landfill Operations Basics Training Day 2
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8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Landfill Fire Management Training
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## Wednesday – April 22

8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration
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9:00 am – 11:30 am	<b>Workshops:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9:00-11:00 am:</b> Re-Treading New Ground – A panel discussion about tire shred for leachate drainage in landfills</li> <li>• <b>9:30-11:30am:</b> After the Last Good Night – a look at end-of-life options for mattresses</li> </ul>
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12ish to 1ish	Lunch on your own
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## Wednesday – April 22 (Continued)

1:15 – 4:15 pm (time TBC)	<b>Tour #1 – From Waste to Watts: Inside East Calgary’s Circular Systems</b> Featuring: Eco Centres, HHW Sorting Facility and the LFG-to-Energy Facility <i>Sponsored by Ambipar Response Canada Inc.</i>
(time TBC)	<b>Tour #2 – TBC</b>
1:30 – 4:00 pm (time TBC)	<b>Tour #3 – Turning Shingles into Solutions</b> Featuring asphalt recycling options in the City of Calgary. *Mandatory safety certification will be required (we will send a link for you to complete online). *PPE Required including steel-toed boots, hardhat and glasses.
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<b>Young Professionals Event</b>
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>Opening Reception</b>

**Thursday agenda on next page →**





Thursday – April 23		
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Registration</b>	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	
9:00 am – 9:15 am	<b>Conference Opening</b>	
9:15 am – 10:00 am	<b>Opening Keynote: Scaling Change for Circularity</b> <b>Wayne Hubbard, Chief Executive Officer of ReLondon (UK)</b> From London, UK, a global leader in circular economy policy shares how major cities can reduce waste, improve recycling, and transition to low-carbon systems at scale	
10:00 am – 10:30 am	<b>Tradeshow Opening and Networking Break</b>	
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Speaking of Change - What can we expect to see with EPR?</b>	
12:00 – 12:50 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
12:50 – 1:30 pm	<b>Annual General Meetings of the Northern Lights Chapter (NLC)</b>	
<b>1:30 – 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions #1</b>	
<b>Building Barriers That Nature Depends On: Landfill Construction &amp; Risk</b>  <b>What's under your landfill liner?</b> - <i>Michel Lefebvre, TetraTech</i>  <b>Unique Challenges to Siting a New Landfill in Old Crow, Yukon</b> - <i>Elisa Duma, Stantec</i>	<b>Tidying Our Tracks: Waste and Recycling Collections</b>  <b>Fullness Sensors in Commercial Waste Containers</b> - <i>James Nicholls and Jeff Gunderson, City of Lethbridge</i>  <b>People Occupying Waste Bins: The inherent dangers associated with occupying bins and the steps the City of Edmonton took to find occupants before collection</b> - <i>Jason Ratcliffe, City of Edmonton</i>  <b>Weigh Scale and Hauling Software Integration</b> - <i>Rocky Strong, Strong Automation</i>	<b>What Nature Has Been Doing All Along: Circular Economy</b>  <b>Breaking down barriers to scaling waste-to-value building materials</b> - <i>Iris Monner, CSA Group</i>  <b>Lessons Learned from Circular Economy Grassroot Projects</b> – <i>Erin Bird, Circular Calgary</i>





## Thursday – April 23 (Continued)

2:30 – 3:00 pm	<b>Networking Break &amp; Tradeshow</b>		
3:00 – 4:00 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions #2</b>		
<p><b>Unearthing the Story Below: Landfill Search Finding</b></p> <p>City of Saskatoon Search – <i>Scott Theede, City of Saskatoon</i></p>	<p><b>Planting Ideas That Change Behaviour: Communications</b></p> <p>Large-Scale Residential Outreach Program - <i>Monika Mojelski (City of Calgary) and Kentson Yan (Tetra Tech)</i></p>	<p><b>Giving Resources Another Life: Recycling, Reuse, and Food Waste</b></p> <p>Recycling and Reuse Public Space and Event Waste Diversion - <i>Lori McGillivray Moroz, City of Saskatoon</i></p> <p>Reducing Waste One Workshop at a Time: Leveraging Community Skills for Sustainable Reuse at the Edmonton Reuse Centre – <i>Liane Little, City of Edmonton</i></p> <p>Food loss in the Canadian supply chain - <i>Dr. Kelvin Tsun Wai Ng, University of Regina</i></p>	
4:00 – 4:15 pm	<b>Refreshment Top-Up</b>		
4:15 – 5:15 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions #3</b>		
<p><b>Tending a Human-Made Landscape: Landfill Operation</b></p> <p>Improving Landfill Efficiency and Sustainability Through Modern Machine Control and Operational Best Practices - <i>Paul Raj, Olio Technology Solutions</i></p> <p>DIY Drone Data Capture and Utilization for Enhanced Landfill Planning and Operation - <i>Aled Jones, Associated Engineering Alberta</i></p> <p>Reverse Osmosis Treatment of Landfill Leachate: Disruption of the PFAS Cycle</p> <p>PFAS in Landfills: Garbage In, Garbage Out - <i>Tim Abbott and/or Imad E. Touahar, AECOM</i></p>	<p><b>Behind the Scenes of a Low-Impact Summit: G7 Summit Experience</b></p> <p>Join us for an engaging panel exploring the exciting opportunities and challenges in food recovery and reduction, featuring insights from organizers, venues, health inspectors, chefs, and food recipients. Bon appetite!</p>	<p><b>Letting Nature Finish the Work: Compost</b></p> <p>Cold Weather Composting: Using Technology as an Aid – <i>Aaron Oszcewski, Sustainable Generation</i></p> <p>Calgary Composting Facility Expansion - <i>Pulkit Gupta and Jon Heinrichs, City of Calgary</i></p>	





5:00 – 6:00 pm	<b>Tradeshow Reception</b> End your day of learning by networking with your colleagues and exhibitors.
6:30 – 10:00 pm	<b>Banquet &amp; Entertainment</b>
10:00 pm until late	<b>Location to be announced</b>



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## Friday – April 24

8:00 – 9:00 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	
9:00 – 10:30 am	<b>Concurrent Sessions #4</b>	
<p><b>Designing Waste Systems for Future Generations: Future Landfill &amp; Innovation</b></p> <p>The Hartland RNG facility, developed in partnership with Capital Regional District (CRD) and FortisBC: from landfill gas to renewable natural gas - <i>Julie Flynn, Waga, Energy Canada</i></p> <p>Front End Engineering Design for Project Omega Integrated Waste Management Facility (Location: Middle East) - <i>Tom Jacklin, M.Eng., P.Eng. Worley Canada Services Ltd.</i></p> <p>Landfill Evapotranspiration Bio-Cover: Utilizing Natural Systems to Solve Engineering Problems <i>Joe Angevine, Foothills Regional Landfill &amp; Resource Recovery Centre, and Spencer Smith, Tetra Tech</i></p>	<p><b>Responding When Nature Rewrites the Plan: Disaster Debris</b></p> <p>When the Landfill is the Disaster Area - <i>Kendra Johnston &amp; Shawn McKay, Newell Regional Landfill</i></p> <p>Ashes to Action: Managing the Denare Beach Disaster Response - <i>Michelle Tomasiewicz, AECOM</i></p> <p>Ashes, Asbestos, and Albertans: Clearing the Way for Jasper’s Return Home - <i>Matt Rawluk, Claystone Waste Ltd.</i></p>	<p><b>Protecting People, Sites, and Systems Under Pressure: Risk Management &amp; Safety</b></p> <p>Moving Well at Work for collections and landfill staff: “A.K.T.S” of kindness for our employees’ physical health - <i>Andy Kitchen &amp; Adam Wasylshyn, Operational Services Employee Fitness &amp; Wellness Team, City of Calgary</i></p> <p>Best Practices for Mitigating Lithium-ion Battery Fires: Lessons from Edmonton and Path to Future Management - <i>Ibrahim Karidio, Dongdong Wei, Alireza Rajabpour, Hamid Zaman, Lena Aitken, City of Edmonton</i></p> <p>Unpacking the Disconnect: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program vs. Alberta’s Hazardous and Special Products (HSP) Framework - <i>Martin Ortiz, City of Calgary</i></p>
10:30 – 11:10 am	<b>Exhibit Viewing and Refreshment Break</b>	
11:10 am – 12:00 pm	<p><b>Keynote Speaker: Sergeant Katherine Strong, Canadian Armed Forces</b></p> <p>A Canadian Armed Forces Search and Rescue Technician shares real-world lessons on resilience, teamwork, and decision-making when conditions are at their worst.</p>	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Farewell Lunch &amp; Closing Remarks</b>	



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