



EAST

Eastern Regional PFAS Policy Summit: Past, Present, Future

April 25-26 | Providence, Rhode Island

Description

Over the past two decades, as poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have emerged as a topic of major public health, environmental, and agricultural concern, federal and state lawmakers have responded by introducing or passing measures intended to study or remediate PFAS, or to ban their use altogether. In 2023, the pace of those measures picked up considerably — especially among eastern states — with dozens of bills proposed or enacted in state legislatures. Looking to 2024 and beyond, we can expect to see more regulations aimed at studying and mitigating the effects of PFAS. But how can lawmakers be sure of which policies reflect practical policy solutions; which policies are working, and which policies are not?

During this policy summit, hosted by The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference (CSG East), participants will compare specific state policies and approaches to regulating PFAS while also hearing various viewpoints from industry. The goal will be to map out practical solutions from public health, environmental, and agricultural perspectives. In particular, policy sessions will consider the reduction or elimination of PFAS in consumer products; the implementation of source reduction programs; the introduction of PFAS substitutes; the funding of PFAS study and remediation programs; and how existing and proposed legislation and regulations might — or might not — be appropriate for their home states.

Thursday, April 25

6-8 p.m.

Dinner | Symphony Ballroom A

Friday, April 26

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Breakfast | Symphony Ballroom A

8:30-8:45 a.m.

Welcome Remarks | Symphony Ballroom B

8:45-10 a.m.

Federal Overview

After opening remarks, attendees will hear a brief introduction to the EPA's approach to PFAS that focuses on water issues in the Northeast region.

Moderator:

Massachusetts State Senator Marc Pacheco; Chair, CSG East Energy and Environment Committee; Chair, State Legislative Climate Alliance

Speaker:

Ken Moraff, Director, Water Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1

10-11 a.m.

State Policy Overview and Commission Insights

This panel provides a general overview of current state policies and regulatory frameworks governing PFAS among states in the Northeast, including standards that have been enacted for drinking water, groundwater, and consumer products. What bills have been passed in the region and what do they cover? What are the key differences and similarities among states' approaches to regulating PFAS? What can be considered practical solutions in terms of assessing risk, developing monitoring requirements and enforcement mechanisms, and fostering interagency collaboration and stakeholder engagement?

Moderator:

Pennsylvania State Representative Greg Scott

Speakers:

Bill Kramer, Vice President and Counsel, MultiState

Gretchen Salter, Strategic Advisor and Consultant, Safer States

Sarah Woodbury, Vice President of Programs and Policy, Defend Our Health

11-11:15 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:15-12:30 p.m.

Remediation Strategies and Northeast Collaborations

This panel aims to explore the latest advancements and collaborative efforts in PFAS remediation across the Northeast region. With PFAS presenting complex challenges of environmental, economic, agricultural, and public health, innovative remediation strategies and multi-stakeholder collaborations are essential to effectively confront these challenges. Panelists will share insights and experiences from a variety of sectors, offering perspectives on the diverse array of PFAS remediation policies and approaches currently being implemented in the region. Through case studies, best practices, and collaborative initiatives, attendees will gain a better understanding of today's remediation policy landscape.

Moderator:

Terri Cortvriend, Rhode Island State Representative

Speakers:

Susan Forcier, Deputy Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

New Hampshire State Representative Wendy E. N. Thomas, Merrimack

Dr. Rainer Lohmann, Professor of Oceanography and Director, STEEP

12:30-1:00 p.m.

Lunch | Symphony Ballroom A

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Innovative Approaches and Challenges

This forward-looking panel showcases groundbreaking and visionary approaches that are shaping the future of PFAS management, regulation, and remediation while also exploring the nuanced challenges of regulating PFAS. Drawing upon the expertise of leading researchers, technology developers, industry representatives, and regulatory officials, the panel will delve into cutting-edge strategies and promising technologies that offer transformative possibilities for PFAS remediation and regulation, providing attendees with insight into the latest developments and emerging science that anticipate future PFAS policy approaches.

This panel will also explore PFAS as a large and varied class of chemicals—not all of which are the same—that may be found in a range of consumer products, from clothing to vaccines, for their unique and (in some cases) non-substitutable properties. Representatives from industry explain why and how PFAS are used, critical-use cases, broader supply chain concerns and future innovations.

Moderator:

Massachusetts State Senator Marc Pacheco; Chair, CSG East Energy and Environment Committee; Chair, State Legislative Climate Alliance

Speakers:

Timothy Randhir, PhD; Director and Professor, University of Massachusetts Water Resources Research Center

Heather Tenney, Program Manager, Toxics Use Reduction Institute, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Jake Wilhelm, Environmental Scientist and Certified Ecologist, GSI
Environmental

Roxy Kozyckyj, Senior Director of State Government and Regional
Affairs, AdvaMed

- 2:30-2:45 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 2:45-4:00 p.m. **Roundtable Discussion and Closing**
- 4:00 p.m. **Departure**

The Council of State Governments is a non-partisan organization of officials from the three branches of state government that provides members of any party and its regional offices a forum for our members to discuss and listen to policy ideas. While our members can propose specific legislation, as a non-partisan organization CSG does not promote model legislation or write bills for consideration, nor does it lobby for or against specific bills.

For a list of speaker bios, please scan this QR Code:



CSG East is grateful to AdvaMed for their generous \$5,000 support of this conference.