



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Innovation in food, energy and water collide at workshop

MWRD invites like minds to join them May 16 at Marquette University

- WHO:** National Science Foundation (NSF), Industry/University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC), Water Equipment & Policy (WEP) research center, Marquette University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and participants from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)
- WHAT:** Innovation at the Food-Energy-Water Nexus
- WHERE:** Marquette University's Eckstein Hall, 1215 W. Michigan St., Milwaukee, WI
- WHEN:** 8 a.m. (registration) to 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Interested in discovering how water innovation is flowing to new opportunities across the nexus of food, energy and water? Then come join the MWRD and other experts to learn how these emerging trends and technologies can offer new ideas and shape public policy. This interdisciplinary workshop draws from various backgrounds, including engineering, legal, scientific, environmental non-government organizations, interested citizens and policy wonks that offer unique perspectives on the food-energy-water connection. Organizers said the workshop will “provoke conversations about overcoming barriers to the implementation of innovative water solutions, stimulate ideas for focused academic research in the nexus, and drive the development of organizational policy and technology roadmaps.”

MWRD Managing Engineer Pinakin Desai, a certified energy manager, is scheduled to speak on a panel addressing energy use, recovery and minimization at water and wastewater utilities. Other sessions include water ethics, groundwater, and agricultural sustainability and food waste. A working lunch and roundtable discussion and breakout sessions will invite broad-based attendee participation. Attendees will also have numerous opportunities to network with experts, researchers and students.

The MWRD is one of the funding members of the WEP research center, which is also funded by its industrial members and NSF, and was formed by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Marquette University under the NSF I/UCRC program. The WEP research center uses the member dues to fund the research projects to address the needs of its industrial members with a low overhead cost of only 10 percent. A recent research project evaluated a menu of options for policymakers regarding how to minimize the application of salts for winter deicing and strike a balance between the safety of society and environmental protection. Research outcomes from the WEP research center can be utilized by its industrial members, by Milwaukee's Global Water Center or by Chicago's Current to attract water-related business to the area and benefit the MWRD. Launched in 2016, Current is a partnership between the city of Chicago, the MWRD and World Business Chicago to serve as a platform for the Chicago region's water industry to leverage its strengths for greater economic impact.

To learn more about the scheduled panels and register, visit www.law.marquette.edu/current-students/innovation-food-energy-water-nexus or click [here](#).

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.