



NW Chapter Newsletter

April 23, 2026

Welcome to the quarterly edition of the Northwest NAHMMMA Chapter newsletter! We are thrilled to connect with all of you through this newsletter, where we will share updates, events, and valuable insights about hazardous materials management in our region.

Our current leadership team is:

Chair: Lauren Scher (PaintCare)

Vice-Chair: Tessa Nania (Washington Department of Ecology)

Treasurer: Chad Ficek (Lane County)

Secretary: Heidi Zarghami (King County)

At-Large: Dave Nightingale (Special Waste Associates, Washington), Ethan Bean (Washington Department of Ecology), Maitri Dirmeyer (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

2026 NW NAHMMMA Symposium Reflections

More than 100 attendees came out to the Northwest NAHMMMA event in Tacoma, Washington to take part in training sessions, tours, and roundtable discussions. The tours led by David Nightingale to regional HHW facilities were a popular choice amongst attendees. Tour registration sold out for a second year in a row! Presentations are now available! Follow [this link](#) to learn more.

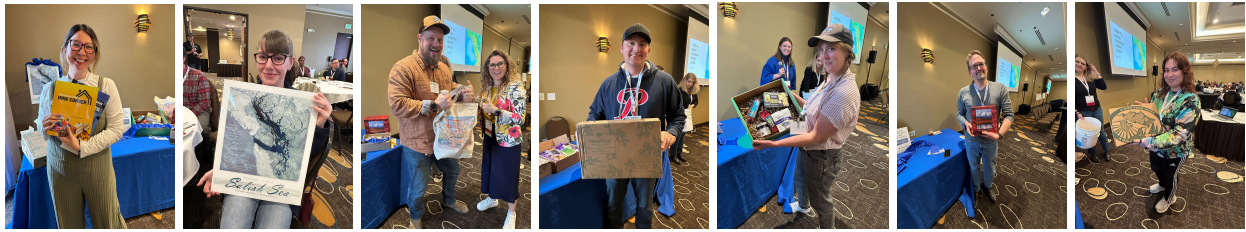
Social Networking Smash



NAHMMMA members had time to reconnect with old friends during the pre-event reception on 3/31 and had a chance to make new connections during the Social Speed Networking Activity on 4/1. Attendees told the planning committee that the networking activity was their favorite part of the event, one saying “I really enjoyed the social networking activity. The questions were really fun and the answers [from other participants] were really interesting.”

Congratulations Symposium Prize Winners!

Britt McGrath, Bryan McKinnon, Bob Bernhard, Maria Machado-Granison, Jakob Hughes, Amy Simmons, and Chelseah Brown were the 2026 prize winners. This year the Fun Committee chose “Made In...” gift boxes representing each Northwest region: Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, and one prize to represent the host city of Tacoma, Washington.



Thank you Interchange 360 for sponsoring our event and making these fabulous prizes possible, to Arcwood, and to David Nightingale for the generous donation of HHW Collection Facility Design Guide and Chronicle of the HHW Corner for one lucky prize winner!

Upcoming National NAHMMMA Conference October 11-15, 2026

Join us for the 41st Hazardous Materials Management Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. At the conference you and your colleagues will network, train, and transform! Scholarship opportunities will be available. Visit the 2026 NAHMMMA event webpage for updates:

https://nahmma.org/NAHMMMA_s_41st_Annual_Hazardous_Materials_Management_Conference

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

41st Annual Hazardous Materials Management Conference, Nashville, TN
October 12-15, 2026

DEADLINE **29**
May 2026

TOPICS/THEMES

- ✓ HHM & VSQG Programs
- ✓ Program/Facility Financial Operations
- ✓ Health & Safety
- ✓ Legislative & Regulatory Policy
- ✓ HHM Education/Outreach/Behavior Change
- ✓ Electronics/Vapes/Batteries
- ✓ Specific/Special Waste Management
- ✓ Design & Technology/Innovations/WTE
- ✓ PFAS/Waste Oil/Sharps
- ✓ Product Stewardship & Extended Product Responsibility
- ✓ Recycling/Diversion/Sustainability Programs
- ✓ School Hazardous Materials Cleanouts

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
May 29	Abstract submission Deadline
June 12	Abstract acceptance notification
June 26	Confirmation of Attendance deadline
August 28	Early Bird Registration Deadline
October 12-15	Presentations

Call for presenters now open! Deadline to submit: May 29, 2026, 9:59pm.

NAHMMA Prestige and Golden Bung Awards

Each year, NAHMMA awards its extraordinary members, and this year is no different. NAHMMA members and their communities deserve recognition. This makes the NAHMMA awards such a critical part of our conference every year. Submit a nomination for yourself or someone you know who deserves an NAHMMA Award. [Submit an award nomination by April 30, 2026.](#)

Jobs

[Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspector \(Environmental Specialist 3\) \(2 Positions\)](#), **Washington Department of Ecology**

Bellevue, WA

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction (HWTR) Program within the Department of Ecology is looking for two Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspectors in our Northwest Regional Office in Bellevue, WA. These positions conduct field investigations of businesses, industries and public agencies that generate, transport and manage hazardous waste, and help them improve their understanding of Hazardous Waste regulations in order to achieve voluntary compliance.

[Environmental Science and Hazardous Materials Lead \(TPS4\)](#), **Washington State Department of Transportation**

Shoreline, WA

WSDOT is currently seeking a Transportation Planning Specialist 4 (TPS4) to join the Northwest Region (NWR) Environmental Services Office (ESO) that protects Washington's environment and communities as part of operating and improving the state transportation system. This lead position supports the agency's mission, strategic plan goal areas, and safety of the traveling public by serving as a regional leader in hazardous materials and solid waste.

[Environmental Science and Hazardous Materials Management Program Supervisor \(TPS5\)](#), **Washington State Department of Transportation**

Shoreline, WA

WSDOT is seeking an experienced Transportation Planning Specialist 5 to lead the Hazardous Materials Management Program within the Environmental Services Office's Compliance Solutions Branch. In this position, you will lead and supervise a team that provides technical, regulatory, and coordination support for hazardous materials, contamination, and waste management throughout project design and construction.