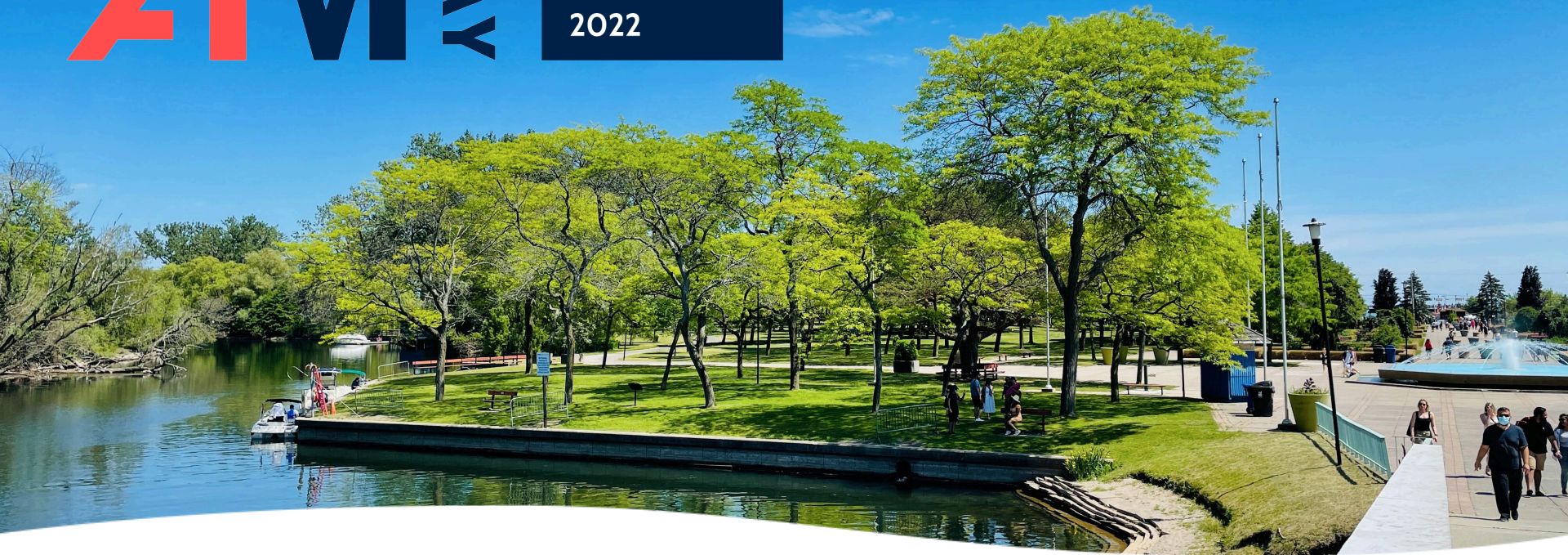




Water
November 24
2022



Toronto
Metropolitan
University

Urban Water
Research Centre



torontomu.ca/aimday

What is AIMday?

AIMday stands for Academic Industry Meeting day

- A multidisciplinary exchange of knowledge and ideas around a single theme
- Initiated and developed by Uppsala University, Sweden, in 2008
- Adopted by internationally renowned institutions:
 - University of Oxford
 - University of Cambridge
 - Plus universities in Brazil, South Africa, Europe and Canada
- Aims to find answers to questions posed directly by organizations
- Brings understanding and new perspectives to real-world problems

Outcomes

Since launching in Canada in 2017

83

Organizations
participated

211

Questions posed by
organizations

394

Solutions presented
by researchers

92

Collaborations
initiated and funded

Key features and benefits



Sector agnostic



**Highly effective –
strong results**



**Highly efficient – low in
cost, time, energy**



**Tailored one-hour
meetings**



**Connect with world-
class researchers**



**Toronto Metropolitan
University is the official
Canadian AIMday hub**

How does AIMday work?

- 1 Organizations register and submit their question(s)**
We work 1:1 with organizations to develop a research question to address their most pressing issues.
- 2 Academic researchers register**
We work with the academic community to find specialists to address the question.
- 3 Meeting day**
We schedule a tailored, structured one-hour workshop discussion between experts from organizations and researchers from universities.
- 4 Follow-up**
We provide assistance with forming collaborations to solve the challenges discussed during AIMday.

Meeting day – November 24, 2022

Industry questions define the meeting agenda:

- Researchers can sign up for questions by **November 11th**
- One question, one hour, experts only

Workshop attendees include:

- 1–3 company representatives who submitted the research challenge
- Researchers (9 max.) who signed up for that question
- Facilitator/Moderator
- Notetaker



Meeting day – November 24, 2022



Attend a tailored virtual workshop focused on a research question:

- Organization's question defines the meeting agenda
- Candid discussion
- Scheduled at your preferred time (when possible)

Explore potential ways to find a solution:

- Participants work together to solve organization's pain points
- Organizations and researchers get to know each other
- High likelihood of a constructive, fruitful discussion that could lead to longer-term collaboration

Plus:

- Organizations are encouraged to attend welcome address
- Networking opportunities with other attendees throughout the day

[View AIMday Water research questions](#)

How does AIMday work?

Typical breakdown of a session:

- Welcome and brief introductions
- Organization representative opens discussion with background about the research challenge (~10 minutes)
- Facilitated Discussion (~40 minutes)
 - ❑ Approach: respectful, non-judgemental / constructive
 - ❑ Space for everyone to participate
 - ❑ Notetakers present allow participants to focus on the conversation
- Highlights and recap of any potential ideas for collaborations / solutions (~5 minutes)



AIMday Water

**Hosted by Toronto Metropolitan University,
Urban Water Research Centre, Ontario Water Consortium
and Queen's University**

Participating organizations:

- City of Toronto
- Ontario Clean Water Agency
- Pathways Alliance (COSIA)
- Alberta Municipalities
- Bishop Water Technologies
- York Region
- SENTRY Water Technologies
- MTE Consultants Inc.
- Canadian Consulate General in Chicago
- Swim Drink Fish Canada
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Walker Industries

Date: Thursday, November 24, 2022

Location: Virtual (via Zoom)

Cost: Free



Research questions

Ontario Clean Water Agency

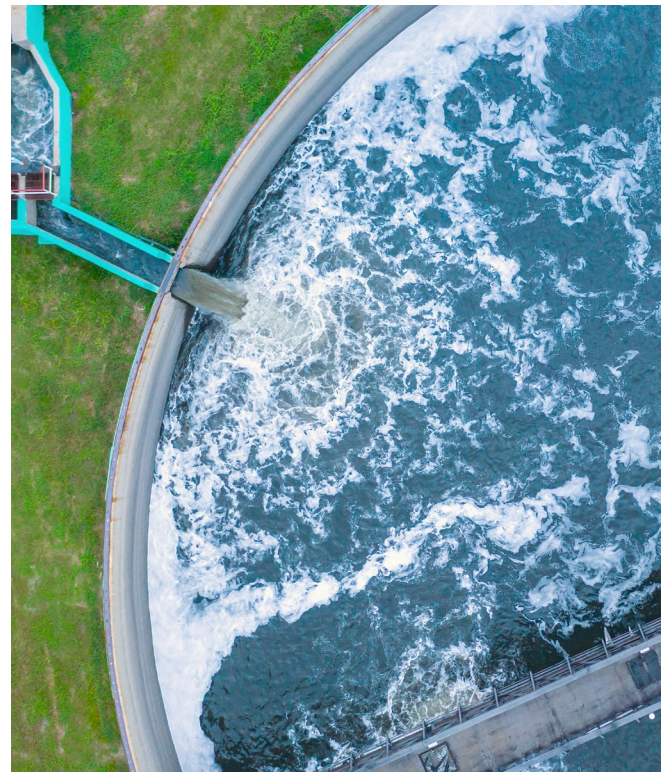
How can organizations better implement research findings into their operations?

Many organizations undertake research activities, but there is a gap in applying these research findings into their everyday operations. What are some best practices and approaches that small- and medium-sized organizations can implement to ensure that their processes are state-of-the-art and are evidence-based?

Alberta Municipalities

How can we measure progress of water/wastewater asset management and maintenance across municipalities in Alberta?

Alberta Municipalities' 300 members represent municipalities where 85% of Albertans live. They undertake advocacy efforts at the direction of their members. The maintenance of water and wastewater treatment facilities in light of changing federal and provincial regulations and limited resources continues to be an area of focus. We are currently reviewing our current water policies to standardize regulations, infrastructure and technologies for use in large and small municipalities throughout the province.



Research questions



Walker Industries

What are some of the most cost-effective technologies/processes that can treat municipal biosolids into high value byproducts?

Biosolids are solid organic matter recovered from the sewage treatment process. Effective management of biosolids serves as a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by providing renewable energy, reducing use of fossil fuels and energy-intensive fertilizers, and stimulating carbon sequestration in soils. For instance, treated biosolids application to agricultural land reduces reliance on synthetic fertilizer, improves soil holding structure, and raises water holding capacity. By using biosolids in agricultural applications, synthesis of commercial fertilizers and associated energy use is avoided.

York Region

There seems to be a lack of information on how climate models consider lake effect and how its influence on weather will change. How should municipalities build resiliency into the built wastewater infrastructure for regions impacted by the Lake effect as the climate changes?

Expressions of Interest

- Supports follow-up with companies
- Receive a link to an EOI for each question you participate in following the meeting
- What to include in an EOI:
 - ☐ What aspect of the question/discussion are you interested and wish to have follow-on discussion?
 - ☐ Proposed Solution / Methodology (describe how you would approach the question to collaborate with the organization)
 - ☐ What expertise do you have to contribute? Why should they be interested in continuing discussions with you?



Registration



Organization registration

Deadline to submit a question
is October 24, 2022



Researcher registration

Open October 28 through
November 11, 2022

[View AIMday Water research questions](#)

[Visit researcher registration page](#)

[Learn more about AIMday Water](#)

Contact

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Thank you.

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

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