

PNCWA 2019

Building Professional Excellence in Water Quality®



PNCWA2019

2019 Sustainability Report



Overview

ORGANIZATION MISSION

PNCWA is the preeminent state association dedicated to education, dissemination of technical and scientific information, increased public understanding, and promotion of sound public laws and programs in the water resources and related environmental fields in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

PNCWA Mission Statement: Dedicated to protecting and enhancing water resources in the states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington. To achieve this, we promote the professional development of our members, the dissemination of information to the public and policy makers, and the advancement of science and technology needed to protect human health and the environment.

PNCWA Vision Statement: The Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association is a vibrant community sustaining healthy watersheds for future generations

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

The 2019 Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA) conference was held in Portland Oregon at the Oregon Convention Center September 9-11, 2019. The Annual conference is the region's largest water quality educational event and is the place to share innovative solutions, learn from the work of others and network with nearly one thousand of industry colleagues over the course of three to four days.

Vitals



ATTENDEE PROFILE

The PNCWA annual conference attracts environmental, civil and chemical engineers, educators, biologists, chemists, government officials, treatment plant managers and operators, laboratory analysts, equipment manufacturers and distributors, and students and young professionals involved in wastewater collection and treatment, stormwater management, and related fields.

Date	September 8-11, 2019
Location	Portland, Oregon
Venue	The Oregon Convention Center
# Attendees	1,115 Total registrations including exhibitors, technical registrations, single day, complete, and workshop only) 50 onsite registrations
# Sponsors	#21 Package Sponsors #2 A La Carte Sponsors #128 Exhibitor Booths
Event Features	Opening Session, Committee Meetings, 8 concurrent sessions, 20 committee meetings, Women's Networking Reception, First Time Attendee and All Attendee Reception, Exhibitor Reception, Operations Challenge, Exhibit Hall, Pedal For People Bike Ride, Depave Stormwater Service Project, Evening Offsite Networking Events, InFlow Meeting, Mentor Gathering, Student Posters, Awards Banquet, Continuing Education Credits, Off-site Facility Tours

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Sustainability Achievements

There are many areas that contribute to an event's overall sustainability, ranging from venue, accommodations, and food & beverage, to signage, collateral, and even marketing & communications. Greening an event involves a concerted effort across vendors and supply chains to help transform an industry. We are proud of our team's work to advance the following sustainability initiatives.



OREGON CONVENTION CENTER LEED PLATINUM CERTIFIED CONFERENCE VENUE

By hosting the PNCWA2019 conference at the Oregon Convention Center, PNCWA supported one of the most sustainable convention centers in the world. The Oregon Convention center is one of only two convention centers that is LEED Platinum Certified.

In addition through the OCCs partnerships with local non profit organizations, over 120,000 pounds of reusable goods have been donated and 46,600 meals have been donated



DEPAVE STORMWATER SERVICE PROJECT

A group of dedicated conference attendees removed asphalt in order to we make way for a large rain garden and native understory, on the day prior to the main conference. Volunteers also dug out two smaller rain gardens, which will help further manage all the roof water at Plaza 122. Over 400 native plants were later able to be planted, providing more green space to the community!



MAX RAIL PASSES

PNCWA and the City of Portland collaborated to provide complimentary passes, use the city's public mass transit system, to all conference attendees. If every attendee participated in taking mass transit over driving to the conference, it would reduce emissions by nearly 2,000KG CO2, which is enough to remove a car from the road for approximately 4,000 miles!



SUMMARY

The annual PNCWA conference continues to raise the bar as a conference that is focused on the attendee experience, community involvement, and progress with environmental, social, and sustainability initiatives. The conference committee is quick to volunteer resources – both financial and personal, to facilitate community impact. Year over year, the conference continues to increase their commitment towards progress.

PNCWA has a code of conduct, anti-harassment policies, and ensures that the conference is a safe space for all people. Through promoting their policies with the conference app and on the website, providing emergency response procedures in all breakout rooms and hiring medical staff to be on-site PNCWA2019 reflected their commitments to the attendees.



- The Oregon Convention Centers efforts to drive sustainability are nearly unparalleled other convention centers. PNCWA entered into a contract that held them accountable for reducing waste at the conference and restricted materials exhibitors and planners were allowed to bring in. Foam core signage, helium balloons and plastic bags are all prohibited. The OCC holds the PNCWA and all clients accountable for recycling and removal of pallets, vinyl banners, and carpet scraps!
- Following the success of eliminating printed programs in 2018, PNCWA continued to support saving over 39,000 sheets of paper through utilizing the conference website and app. The App was made more user friendly, creating a higher adoption rate of use and a lessened desire for hard copies.
- While the caterer for the Oregon Convention Center, Pacific Wild, is committed to using locally sourced ingredients in their menus, PNCWA ensured that attendees would see that locally sourced menu items were chosen by featuring at one of the breaks a well-known local delicacy: Voodoo Donuts. Through their newly started quarterly giving campaign Voodoo Donuts has donated over \$14,000 to non-profit organizations.



- PNCWA partnered with a local brewery, HUB to provide a donated Keg of beer that would be served at an off-site networking event. 100% of the pints purchased from this keg were donated to Water for People, a global nonprofit that helps bring people clean water and sanitation to their communities
- PNCWA supports featuring local wines and beers at their receptions. Through communicating the conference's value in sustainability, Pacificwild catering served local, keg wine from Coopers Hall Winery at the exhibitor's reception. This equates to 16.64 kg of CO2 saved by using one keg of wine
- This year's conference gift, given to the attendees was a product called Lifestraw, which provides the user the ability to safely drink water from any stream, lake, etc. With every lifestraw product sold, Lifestraw commits to providing clean drinking water to a child in Africa, for an entire year. PNCWA contributed to providing 150 students clean drinking water for five years!



From Local to Global

Key achievements are mapped to relevant SDGs (using MeetGreen's Guidelines) WCF Example Below

CONFERENCE SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
<p>Donation of leftover food. The Oregon Convention Center Donates all non-perishable left over food to local charitable organizations</p>	<p>SDG 2: Zero hunger</p>
<p>Condiments and beverages served in bulk.</p>	<p>SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production</p>
<p>Providing free public transportation to conference attendees</p>	<p>SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</p>
<p>Providing a conference gift that promotes and provided safe drinking water to 150 school children in West Africa for 5 years</p>	<p>SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</p>
<p>Incorporating the INFlow program into the 2019 conference. InFlow is a scholarship program that invites students from underserved minority groups to attend the conference for free</p>	<p>SDG 8: Decent work and Economic Growth</p>
<p>Reuse applicable existing signage, printing on both sides of the signs, and use of sustainable materials for new printing.</p>	<p>SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production</p>
<p>No bottled water served at event.</p>	<p>SDG 12. Responsible consumption and production</p>
<p>Participating in the Depave Stormwater Service Project</p>	<p>SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities</p>
<p>Incorporation of local / sustainable food on the menu.</p>	<p>SDG 3: Good Health & Well Being</p>

Event Scoring

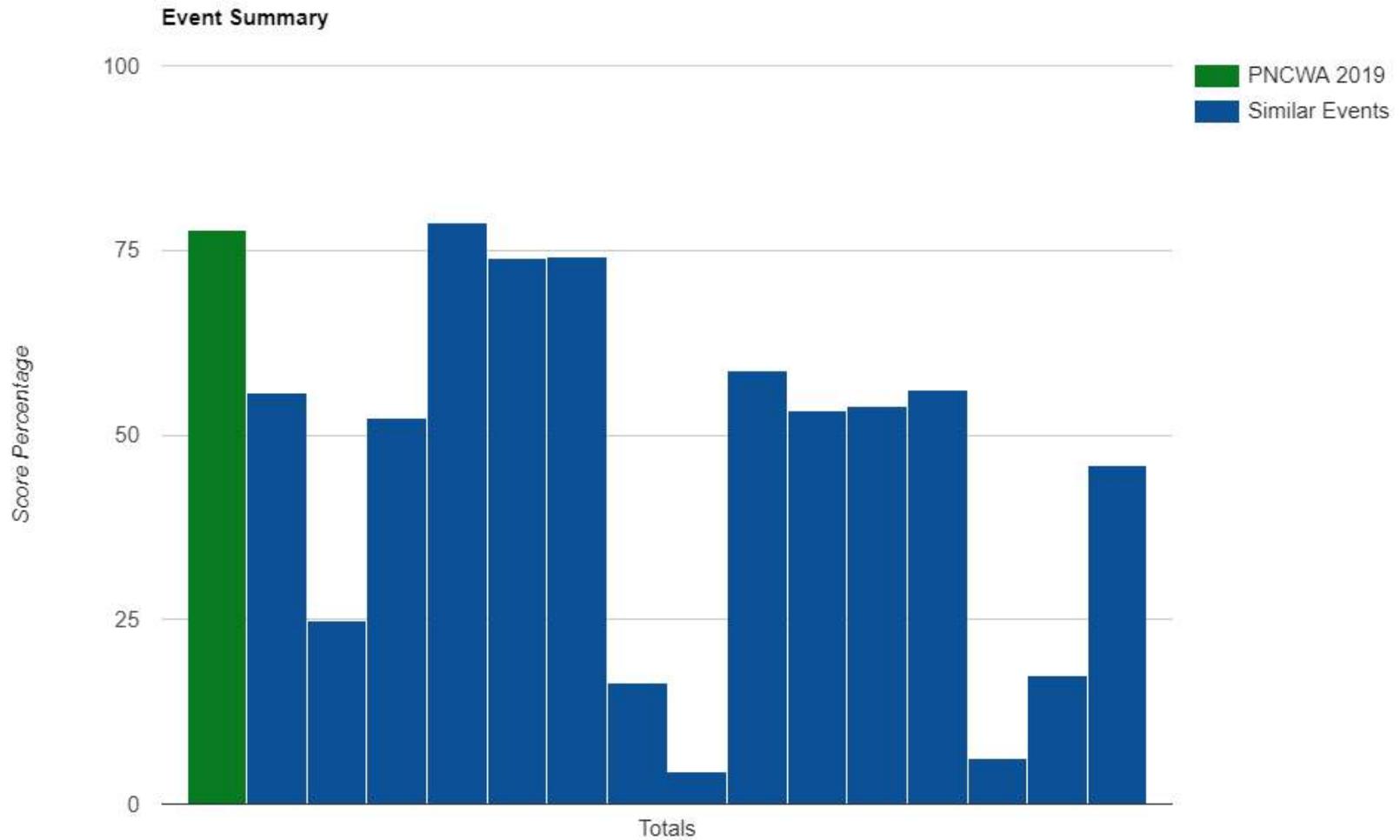


The score of 78% is an excellent score and one of the top scores across all MeetGreen.

The MeetGreen® Calculator 2.0 is a comprehensive tool available for benchmarking the sustainable elements of events. Using the Calculator allows CONFERENCE to capture valuable information throughout the event planning process in order to make it easy to see where successes lay and where improvements can be made.

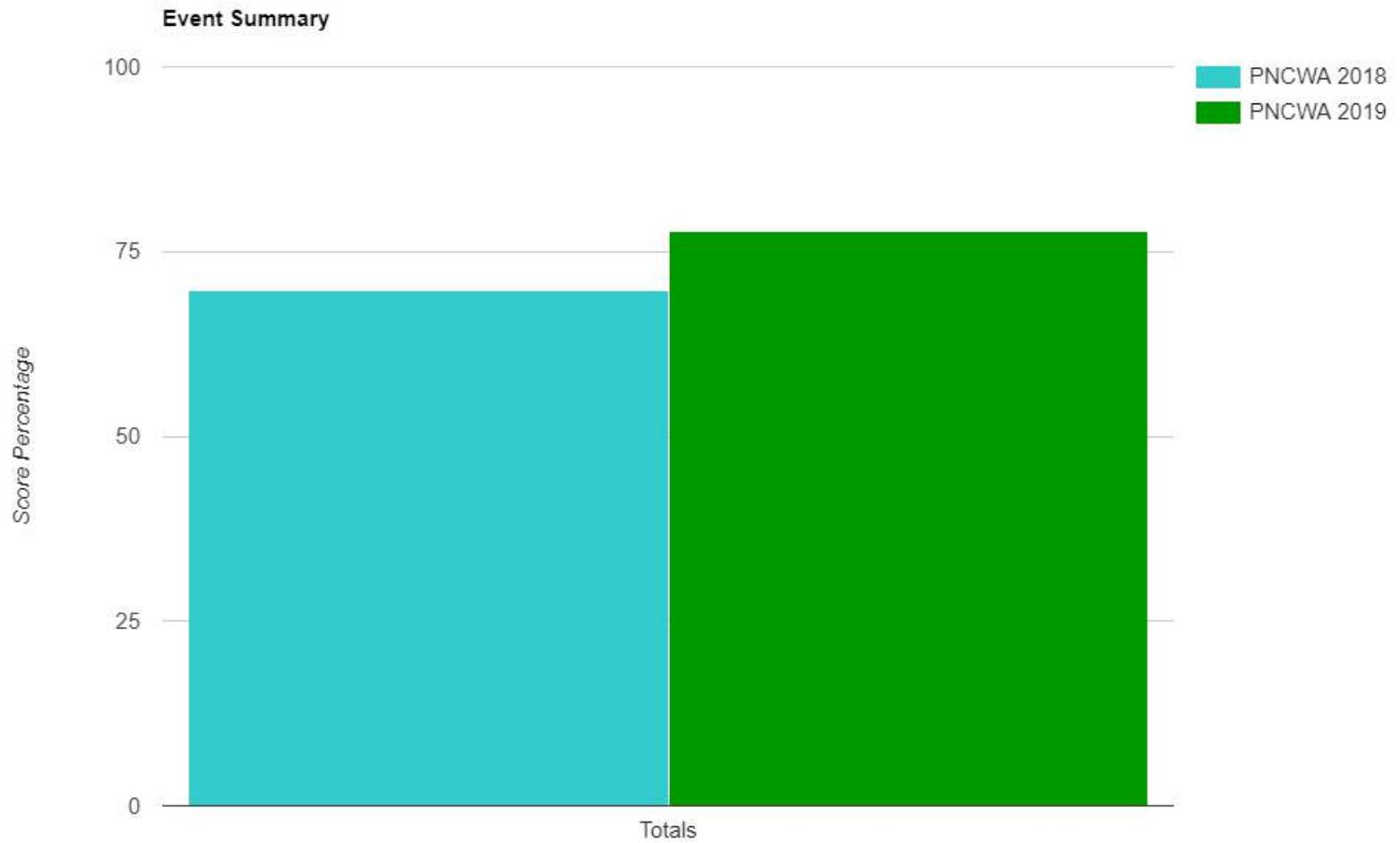
Those events that score highly are run by organizers who not only request sustainable practices, but also ensure that these requests are implemented through systemic processes, that procedures are tracked and that a high level of performance is achieved.





PNCWA2019

This report shows the **total calculator score for the PNCWA Conference** in comparison to similar structured conferences.



PNCWA2019

This report shows the total calculator score for the PNCWA Conference in 2019 in comparison to the PNCWA Conference in 2018

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Sustainability Opportunities

Event sustainability is inherently a long-term process. As such, it is an opportunity to innovate, and evolve at a pace that is congruent with your organization's resources and road map. The following pages offer a combination of practical next steps as well as some ambitious targets to help frame future event sustainability planning.



CREATE

Commit to greater attendee engagement by communicating your efforts. Keep a **green tagline** at bottom of any eblasts.

Consider a **waste management sponsorship** working towards a **zero-waste conference**.

At the outset of the 2020 conference, **identify 3 goals and desired outcomes** that relate to sustainability.

Continue to develop opportunities for inclusion of underserved minority groups to participate in programs through the InFlow scholarship program at the PNCWA2019 Conference

Consider the continuation of incorporating complimentary public transportation in negotiations with cities and venues when contracting with a venue.





Confirm event-specific priorities and measurement targets. This could be a first action-step for the sustainable event team.

Communicate opportunities and impacts.

Include a strategy for pre, during and post-event outreach to attendees and other stakeholders.

Incorporate one plant based only or vegetarian meal. 1,138 Litres of water per person would be saved by making this advancement. That is 4 bath tubs of water per person!

Consider ways in which the conference badge can be made **plastic free**.

Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association
410 followers
2w •

At PNCWA2019, volunteers partnered with Depave, a Portland nonprofit dedicated to reconnecting urban landscapes to nature, on a unique stormwater service project. The team transformed a parking lot in East Portland into a beautiful green ...see more

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Like Comment Share



Increase sustainability

Communicate with sponsors and exhibitors to ensure samples and promotional items utilize minimum packaging. Advance the greening initiatives for exhibitors.

Set a waste diversion from landfill goal with venue.

Request availability of kitchen and food waste composting onsite.

Provide a conduit for attendees to **participate in a carbon-offset program** and advocate for inclusion of **local, seasonal, and sustainable items on the menu.**

Draft an event sustainability policy to ensure that green practices are incorporated into all meetings. This process should be finalized and communicated to all stakeholders.



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Congratulations

**PNCWA on a successful event using
the earth's resources wisely!**

Special Thanks

Nan Cluss and Mike Rainey - For your years of dedication to promoting, encouraging and embracing social responsibility, safety, inclusion and sustainability at the annual conference!

The PNCWA2019 Conference Committee -for the many of hours of your volunteered time and commitment of the success of the PNCWA2019

The Oregon Convention Center - to your commitment to sustainability and for holding your clients and vendors accountable to environmentally sensitive practices

PEAK AV – for your commitment to providing PNCWA support year after year

Travel Portland – for promoting events in the city through sustainability initiatives for conference attendees to enjoy

Willamete Blueprint

Elana Cronin

HUB Brewery

Spirit of 77

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