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A&WMA Overview

The Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional organization that provides training, information, and networking opportunities to 9,000 environmental professionals in 65 countries. The Association's goals are to strengthen the environmental profession, expand scientific and technological responses to environmental concerns, and assist professionals in critical environmental decision making to benefit society.

Founded in 1907 by Canadian and American smoke inspectors, A&WMA's members include scientists, engineers, policymakers, attorneys, and consultants who work for governments, corporations, universities, consulting organizations, and law firms. A&WMA is divided into 33 regional sections, 67 local chapters, and 40 student chapters worldwide. Maintaining a neutral forum is vital to the Association, whose bylaws mandate balance by employment sector for membership on the board of directors.

Publications

One of the primary ways the Association helps members meet their professional goals is by providing environmental knowledge through its two monthly publications.

- The Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, A&WMA's flagship publication, is the oldest continuously published, peer reviewed, technical environmental journal in the world. In print since 1951, the Journal features the latest in cutting-edge research and technology.
- EM, the magazine for environmental managers, covers the environmental industry from a management, policy, and regulatory perspective, providing in-depth analysis of the issues affecting today's environmental professionals.

Professional Development

The Association, with its international headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, offers a series of conferences, workshops, and courses to help keep members up to date on new developments in the profession. The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the Association's largest yearly gathering and attracts more than 7,000 environmental professionals from around the world. Attendees gather to hear more than 800 technical papers on cutting-edge topics and view an exhibit in which more than 450 environmental businesses participate.

The Association also sponsors 12-15 specialty conferences annually on topics such as global climate change, emission inventories and measurements of toxic and related air pollutants; a dozen workshops on issues such as new source reviews, compliance assurance monitoring, and accident prevention and risk management; and more than 40 continuing education courses, including the Environmental Practices Review course which serves as a preparatory course for the QEP certification exam.

Other career advancement opportunities provided to A&WMA members include a job bank, an extensive Web site, and hundreds of publications on key air and waste issues.

International Scope

Although most Association members reside in North America, A&WMA has spearheaded an effort to build an international network of environmental professionals by establishing sections and chapters worldwide.

A&WMA has two sections in Mexico, as well as sections in Brazil, Europe, Hong Kong, the Phillipines, Taiwan and Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Singapore are chapters of the West Coast Section.

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Public Education

A&WMA has launched an active public education effort that revolves around its award-winning Teacher-Training Program. Through this program, A&WMA volunteers train teachers to instruct students on the environment. The teachers use the Association's Environmental Resource Guides, which provide educators with explanations of environmental problems and classroom exercises designed to illustrate environmental issues to students.

The Teacher-Training Program has been honored with awards from Renew America, the National Environmental Development Association, American Society of Association Executives, and Keep America Beautiful.

90+ Years

In 2002, A&WMA celebrates its 95th year of providing service to environmental professionals. The Association looks forward to continuing to provide environmental professionals with up-to-date technical, managerial, and regulatory information on air and waste issues. A&WMA is working to become the premier international environmental organization by promoting global environmental responsibility and enhancing the environmental knowledge and quality of information on which environmental decisions are based.

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