



Building Resilient Communities
October 1, 2026 | 8:00 am – 4:15 pm
Campus Center, Rutgers University–Camden, New Jersey

8:00 am	Registration and Breakfast
8:45 am	Welcoming Remarks - Rutgers – Monica Adya, Dean, Camden School of Business - Chris Whitehead, Co-Chair, AWMA-NCNJ Chapter - Video message from Senator Andy Kim
9- 9:45 am	Keynote Speaker Matthew Tejada, Senior Vice President, Environmental Health - NRDC Chief visionary and strategist for NRDC’s advocacy to protect human health
10 - 10:45am	Panel 1: Climate Risk Resiliency Planning & Execution for Communities Moderator: Chris Whitehead, Founding Principal, CWC - Jane Brogan, Director, Cohn Reznick Advisory LLC - Amy Chester, Director, Rebuild by Design - Margie Hunter, Engineering Director, NJ American Water
11:00 am	Panel 2: Workforce Development – Maximizing Opportunities in Already Overburdened Communities Moderator: Nicole Kuerzi, Director, Education & Workforce Development (Chamber of Commerce Southern NJ) - Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Director, AI Career Whisperer - Cathy Yuhas, Team Lead, Workforce Innovation Partners, NJEDA - Dr. Jason Abreu, President, Atlantic Cape Community College
12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Keynote Speaker Trina Ellis, Vice President-HR, East Region, Reworld Championing change through talent management and Human Resource Operations
2:00 - 3:15 pm	Industry Round Tables (Sponsored by Local Partners) - Water Utility Resiliency- Sponsor and Chair: American Water - Supply chain resiliency – Chair: Dr. Mark Brennan, Rutgers School of Business (Sponsorship Available) - Consumer Behavior & Sustainability Perceptions vs Reality - Chair: Yuliya Strizhakova, Rutgers School of Business (Sponsorship Available) - Education and Workforce Development - Dr. Jason Abreu, President, Atlantic Cape Community College (Sponsorship Available) - Sustainable Waste Management – Sponsor and Chair: Reworld Waste - Healthcare – Dr. Elizabeth Cercero, Director of Climate Health, Cooper Medical School at Rowan University Sponsorship Available - Food Security - Sponsorship Available - Housing Affordability and Climate Impact – Carla Villacis, Research Project Coordinator, Walter Rand Institute (Sponsorship Available) - Innovation – Ben Giovine, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Senator Andy Kim (Sponsorship Available) - Power and Energy – Robert Brabston, Executive Director, NJBPU (Sponsorship Available)
3:15 pm	Student Poster Session & Networking
4:00 pm	Closing Comments