



Maine Water Environment Association PFAS Position Paper

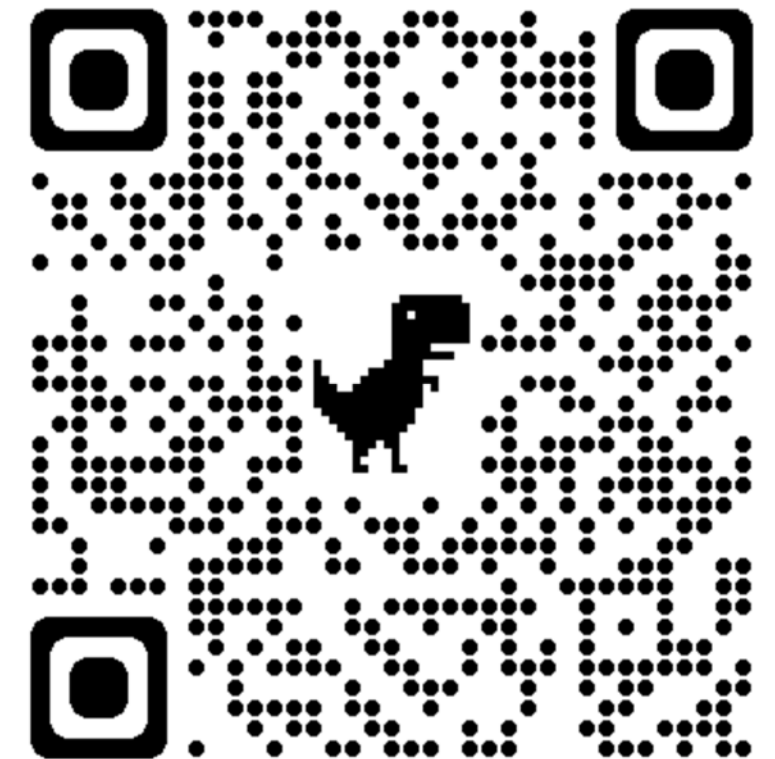
MeWEA supports science-backed PFAS policies that have been developed with input from key stakeholders

What is PFAS? PFAS are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, of which there are thousands of versions. ***PFAS substances have been used in a variety of everyday items, such as food packaging, waterproof products, firefighting foam, clothes, cosmetics, and many other items.*** These substances have been used since the 1950s, but because of advanced laboratory testing methods, have been found in soil, drinking water, and human blood. Although research remains ongoing about long-term health affects, PFAS substances have been found to bioaccumulate, and some studies have linked certain PFAS compounds to health impacts such as low birth weight and cancer.

Recent PFAS Legislation in Maine Our State has been leading the way in PFAS policies and legislation. With previous legislation like the Clean Water Act, Maine has a proud history of supporting a healthy environment by protecting our water resources. While MeWEA is proud of Maine's legacy, our organization wants to ensure that action is backed by viable solutions which our clean water community can implement. ***MeWEA encourages stakeholder engagement on all laws and regulations that require PFAS treatment in soil and wastewater.***

How Can PFAS Substances Be Treated? ***There is currently no approved method to treat PFAS substances in biosolids on a large scale.*** Innovative ideas have been identified, and some options are in pilot studies or early design phase. Types of treatment may be gasification and foam fractionation. However, these treatment options are not yet fully scaled and may be cost prohibitive.

What is MeWEA Doing? MeWEA is working with a wide range of stakeholders to identify innovative technologies to treat PFAS, regionalized options, and is working with the Department of Environmental Protection on next steps. MeWEA is also looking to enhance public outreach efforts to explain that ***wastewater utilities are receivers, not generators of PFAS.***



Where Can I Learn More? MeWEA offers educational resources about many topics, including PFAS substances. You can learn more by visiting our website, which includes a set of resources to other state, federal, and regional associations and their efforts regarding PFAS substances. <https://www.mewea.org/>