

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4 • APRIL 2025

# The CW Tea



Monthly Newsletter from CWT Training Academy

## April Showers...Bring Really Weird Weather?

From record-breaking heat waves in the Midwest to unprecedented snowstorms in the South, 2025 has already been a year of weather extremes across the nation. Cities unaccustomed to heavy snowfall have been paralyzed by blizzards, while traditionally mild regions are experiencing sweltering temperatures more typical of desert climates. Severe storms, erratic tornado patterns, and prolonged droughts have left communities scrambling to adapt. In many places, aging infrastructure has struggled to handle increased rainfall, leading to devastating urban flooding.

**While some might dismiss these extremes as anomalies, the bigger picture is clear: our climate is shifting in unpredictable and dangerous ways.** Climate scientists have long warned that rising global temperatures could lead to more chaotic and extreme weather patterns. One of the most pressing consequences of this extreme weather is the growing stormwater crisis. Aging infrastructure in many cities is struggling to handle the volume of intense rainfall, leading to flash floods, overwhelmed sewer systems, and contaminated waterways. Urban areas with excessive pavement and poor drainage have suffered the worst, with stormwater runoff carrying pollutants into rivers, lakes, and drinking water supplies.

**As policymakers debate and cities adapt, construction, industrial, and municipal stormwater permit holders will likely take on more of the responsibility and scrutiny.** If 2025's bizarre weather has taught us anything, it's that nature is no longer waiting for us to catch up.

*Nathan Hardebeck, Owner of CWT and CWT Training Academy*



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MAILING  
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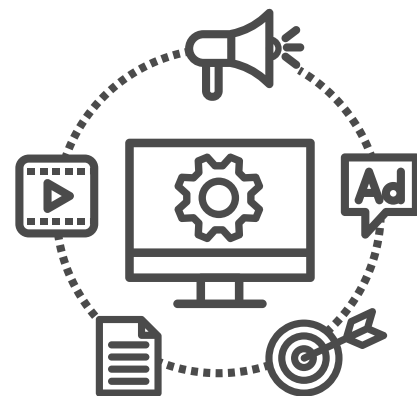
### Defenders Open House!

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# The Power of Digital Credentials in Stormwater Career Advancement

In today's competitive job market, professionals in the stormwater industry must continuously expand their knowledge and showcase their expertise. **Digital credentials (aka verifiable, shareable, and secure certificates) have become a key component in career growth, offering learners a way to demonstrate their skills and stand out to employers.**



## WHY CREDENTIALS MATTER FOR CAREER GROWTH

Earning industry-recognized credentials signals to employers, clients, and peers that a professional has the necessary skills and training to perform at the highest standards. In the stormwater field, where regulatory compliance, environmental protection, and evolving best practices play a critical role, having certified knowledge isn't just a benefit—it's a necessity.



### **Professional Visibility**

Credentials can be added to resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and job applications, making them a powerful tool for career progression.



### **Instant Verification**

Unlike paper certificates, digital badges and transcripts are easily accessible and verifiable by employers.



### **Education Tracking**

They provide a clear record of ongoing professional development, supporting lifelong learning in a field where regulations and technologies are evolving.

**At CWT Training Academy, we recognize the value of professional credentials and offer digital certification solutions through Accredible, enabling learners to:**

- Earn Digital Credentials for Every Course Completed
- Build a Professional Transcript
- Stand Out in the Job Market

## **READY TO TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL?**

If you want to build your digital credentials and elevate your stormwater career, explore CWT Training Academy's courses and start earning certificates that matter!



 [www.cwtacademy.com](http://www.cwtacademy.com)

 [info@cwtacademy.com](mailto:info@cwtacademy.com)

In a significant decision for the NPDES community, SCOTUS ruled in *City and County of San Francisco v. Environmental Protection Agency* that the EPA cannot impose broad “end result” provisions in NPDES permits. This 5-4 decision clarifies that **permit holders cannot be held responsible for overall water quality conditions beyond their direct discharges and compliance measures.**

Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the majority, emphasized that the Clean Water Act (CWA) mandates the EPA to specify clear, enforceable permit conditions rather than imposing undefined responsibilities for meeting water quality standards. **The ruling is expected to impact NPDES permit holders by ensuring that regulatory requirements focus on defined pollutant discharge limits and site-specific compliance measures rather than overarching water body conditions.**

## Policy, Compliance, and Regulatory Corner



*Helping you navigate change in 2025*

This decision reinforces the principle that **NPDES permits must provide clear, attainable requirements**, giving municipalities, utilities, and industrial dischargers more regulatory certainty. Moving forward, the ruling may shape how state and federal agencies draft permit conditions, requiring a more targeted approach to water quality enforcement. For NPDES professionals, this ruling underscores the importance of well-defined permit terms, ensuring compliance obligations remain within the scope of an entity’s direct discharges. It also highlights the ongoing balance between environmental goals and practical regulatory enforcement under the CWA.

### SPOTLIGHT ON: Lawn Care Pollution

As spring approaches, so too does the need to maintain landscaping! Traditional lawn care practices, however, may have unintended environmental consequences—especially when it comes to stormwater pollution. Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides commonly used often wash off during rainstorms, flowing into storm drains and eventually reaching rivers, lakes, and other water bodies. This runoff can lead to harmful algal blooms, water contamination, and disruptions to aquatic ecosystems.

Excess nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers fuel the rapid growth of algae, depleting oxygen levels and harming fish and other wildlife. Pesticides and herbicides can be toxic to beneficial insects, amphibians, and even humans when they enter drinking water supplies. Additionally, green spaces with short grass and little organic matter do a poor job of absorbing rainwater, increasing the risk of flooding and erosion on your sites.

As the impact on our environment grows, more permitting authorities across the country are considering, or are implementing, water quality limits for these chemical contaminants!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Trainings, conferences, fun, and other happenings to keep you in the know in 2025

Travel restricted?  
Check out our on-demand training or schedule a private course today!

We are booking our public, private, in-person, and virtual courses and trainings for 2025 now! Reach out to [info@cwtaacademy.com](mailto:info@cwtaacademy.com) or visit [cwtaacademy.com](https://cwtaacademy.com) to check out all of our event offerings

Come see CWT!!

Other Events and Happenings

- ISGP 2025 Workshop Tour  
Various Dates/Locations, April-July (see next page)
- Ohio Stormwater Conference  
May 8-9, Sandusky, Ohio
- Washington Municipal Stormwater Conference  
May 20-21, Vancouver, Washington (see flyer)



- 2025 National Stormwater Policy Forum  
April 7, Washington, DC
- EarthX Symposium 2025  
April 21-25, Dallas, Texas
- Municipal Wet Weather Stormwater Conference  
April 28-30, Charlotte, North Carolina
- CA - ACWA Spring Conference  
May 13-15, Monterey, California





Live &  
On Demand



# 2025 ISGP Workshop

*I was in your class earlier this week for the Industrial Stormwater Permit overview. I thought your class was very informative and my colleague and myself took a lot away from those hours. Thanks a lot! – William M*

## Live Workshop Description

This is a full day workshop that covers the new 2025 WA Industrial Stormwater General Permit requirements and goes in depth on programmatic elements such as SWPPP requirements, sampling plan and BMPs to build a successful stormwater program at your facility.

**The workshop is for permittees only to allow a safe space place for tough questions.**

To register go [CWTAcademy.com](https://CWTAcademy.com) or contact [info@CWTAcademy.com](mailto:info@CWTAcademy.com).



## Current Locations

Bellingham - April 30

Vancouver - July 15



## Can't Make a Live Event?

The Academy offers on-demand courses that can be taken from any smart device so you can fit it into your schedule.

[WWA0106 CISL-WA](#)

[WWA0107 Overview of the 2025 ISGP](#)

## Interested in hosting?

We are seeking new locations through August of this year.

Check the website for new dates and locations!

[CWTAcademy.com](https://CWTAcademy.com)



# WASHINGTON STATE MUNICIPAL STORMWATER CONFERENCE

**MAY 20-21**  
**VANCOUVER, WA**

**MUNICON**  
**2025**



**FEATURING!**



**LEARN MORE AND**  
**REGISTER HERE**

## **MUNICON TOPICS**

### **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Meet the CWT  
Academy Stormwater  
Defenders!

### **BMP DESIGN AND RESEARCH**

Learn about 6PDD,  
bioswales, BMP sizing,  
and more

### **PERMIT COMPLIANCE**

Hear the latest from  
policymakers and your  
peers on compliance

Municon promotes broad communication, coordination, and sharing of valuable municipal tools and approaches to stormwater management from permittees and professionals across the state. Over five conferences Municon has delivered 181 presentations in 27 tracks attended by more than 2,100 stormwater management professionals.



**STORMWATER DEFENDERS**



**PEN** *House*

## **JOIN US FOR THE STORMWATER DEFENDER HEADQUARTERS OPEN HOUSE**

**OUR  
MISSION IS  
YOUR  
MISSION!**



**PUT US TO  
WORK FOR  
YOU!**

### **May 20, 2025 5:00p Networking Event**

This event will provide you the opportunity to learn how the Stormwater Defenders and PUDLE Outreach can support your program. You can get your picture with a Defender, look through outreach materials, discuss customizable options, peruse the Stormwater Geek Wear Collection, and most importantly, explore the virtual headquarters at this networking event.

Unable to attend in person? No problem - Register along with others around the country to visit the open house! This is your opportunity to help shape this first-of-its-kind virtual space.

We can't wait to take you on a tour of the Stormwater Defenders Headquarters during this fun and influential Open House!

If not able to attend MuniCon, but still want to participate, please register at:

**[WWW.STORMWATERDEFENDERS.COM](http://WWW.STORMWATERDEFENDERS.COM)**