

NEHA NEWS

2025 Annual Report Highlights a Year of Growth, Leadership, and Impact



The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) has released its 2025 Annual Report, providing members, partners, and environmental health professionals with a comprehensive look at the association's work, accomplishments, and priorities over the past year. The report serves as both a reflection on the association's progress and a record of the collective efforts shaping the environmental health profession.

Published annually, the report documents our activities across education, credentialing, workforce development, advocacy, partnerships, publications, and member engagement. It also highlights how the association continues to support environmental health professionals working to protect communities through science-based practice, leadership, and collaboration.

"Annual reports are an important opportunity to reflect on where we have been, recognize the work accomplished by our staff, members, and partners, and demonstrate the value of investing in environmental health," said NEHA Executive Director Dr. David Dyjack. "The accomplishments highlighted throughout this report reflect the strength and resilience of our profession and our continued commitment to supporting environmental health professionals in meaningful and practical ways."

The 2025 Annual Report commemorates what we describe as a year of significant impact for the association and the profession overall. Throughout the report, readers will find examples of expanded training opportunities, strengthened partnerships, thought leadership initiatives, advocacy efforts, and continued investments in workforce development and professional resources.

The report is organized into several sections that collectively illustrate the breadth of our work and strategic priorities. These sections guide readers through major accomplishments and initiatives from the past year while also emphasizing the interconnected nature of environmental health practice.

Key sections include:

- Messages from our leadership reflecting on the year's accomplishments and future priorities
- Highlights of educational and workforce development initiatives

- Updates on credentialing and professional development programs
- Advocacy and government affairs activities supporting the environmental health workforce
- Publications, communications, and thought leadership efforts
- Partnership and collaborative initiatives with national, state, local, tribal, territorial, and international organizations
- Financial information and organizational investments
- Recognition of members, volunteers, and contributors who support the profession and our mission

Several themes emerge throughout the report, including workforce development, professional connectivity, innovation, and resilience within the environmental health profession. One recurring focus is the continued need to strengthen and support the environmental health workforce. The report highlights our efforts to expand access to education and training opportunities, provide practical professional resources, and support credentialing pathways that help professionals advance their careers and strengthen public health protections in their communities.

Another major theme is collaboration. The report showcases our partnerships with federal agencies, affiliate organizations, academic institutions, industry leaders, and environmental public health professionals across the country. These collaborations support a wide range of initiatives, including food safety, water quality, climate and health, vector control, emergency preparedness, and workforce resilience.

The report also emphasizes our ongoing role in thought leadership and advocacy. Through publications, educational programming, policy engagement, and member outreach, the association continues to elevate the visibility and importance of environmental health issues while supporting evidence-based decision-making and public health practice.

In addition, the report reflects our commitment to innovation and accessibility. Readers will find examples of expanded online learning opportunities, new educational resources, updated communication tools, and efforts to improve member engagement and professional networking.

The 2025 Annual Report also underscores the importance of documenting the profession's progress and preserving the association's history. By capturing milestones, emerging priorities, and organizational achievements, the report provides an ongoing historical record of the environmental health profession and the association's evolving work.

"Our profession continues to adapt to new public health challenges while remaining grounded in the core mission of protecting communities," said Dr. Dyjack. "This report reflects not only the work completed over the past year but also the dedication, expertise, and leadership of environmental health professionals nationwide."

The 2025 Annual Report is available online through our website. Readers can access the current report, along with previous annual

reports, at www.neha.org/annual-reports. We encourage members, partners, and environmental health professionals to explore the report to learn more about our ongoing initiatives, strategic priorities, and the collective accomplishments of the profession during the past year.

NEHA Thrive Helps Members Build Resilience for Today's Environmental Health Challenges

Environmental health professionals are being asked to lead through increasingly complex and high-pressure situations—from navigating evolving regulatory environments and emerging public health risks to communicating with communities, partners, and regulated entities during moments of heightened concern. As these expectations continue to grow, so does the need for professional support that goes beyond technical training.

NEHA Thrive was developed to meet that need.

Available exclusively to NEHA members, Thrive is a professional resilience and leadership program designed to help environmental health professionals strengthen the skills needed to lead, adapt, and sustain their work over time. The program was created in response to member feedback calling for additional support in leadership development, stress management, burnout prevention, and peer connection.

Through expert-led courses, moderated discussions, live micro-learning sessions, and interactive opportunities to engage with subject matter experts, Thrive provides practical tools for day-to-day environmental health work. The program combines science-informed strategies for managing stress with leadership-focused content that supports stronger decision-making, problem-solving, communication, and professional sustainability.

Thrive is delivered through The Courage Connection, an interactive learning and engagement platform that allows members to access resources, participate in discussions, and connect with peers. The program was developed in partnership with Lucy Houghton Professional Development, bringing together our understanding of the environmental health workforce with specialized expertise in leadership and resilience training.

One of the strengths of Thrive is its focus on the realities of environmental health practice. The program recognizes that leadership does not only happen in formal management roles. Environmental health professionals lead during inspections, community meetings, emergency responses, program decisions, difficult conversations, and moments when they must help others understand and act on public health information. Thrive supports members in building the confidence and resilience needed to meet those moments effectively.

The program also reflects a broader shift in professional development. As the environmental health workforce continues to address complex and evolving challenges, leadership capacity, adaptability, and well-being are increasingly recognized as essential components of a strong and sustainable workforce. Thrive helps address

these needs by offering profession-specific support that is accessible, practical, and grounded in member input.

For current NEHA members, Thrive represents an added member benefit and a new layer of professional support. Participants can explore leadership and resilience topics, join live learning opportunities, access practical resources, and learn from shared experiences across the profession.

By investing in programs such as Thrive, we continue to expand how our association supports the environmental health workforce—not only by helping professionals build technical knowledge but also by strengthening the leadership, resilience, and connection needed to sustain long-term public health impact.

Learn more about NEHA Thrive at www.neha.org/Thrive.

Apply by June 15 to Join a NEHA Program Committee

Environmental public health challenges continue to evolve, creating an ongoing need for collaboration, workforce engagement, and practical solutions that support professionals across the field. NEHA program committees help meet that need by bringing together environmental health professionals from government, academia, tribal communities, nonprofit organizations, and private industry to share expertise and advance environmental public health practice nationwide.

Applications are currently open for membership of our program committees, with the application period closing **June 15**.

Program committees support a wide range of priorities by identifying workforce needs, contributing subject matter expertise, strengthening professional resources, and helping guide educational and outreach efforts. Committee members also collaborate with partners across sectors to increase access to information, encourage evidence-based practices, and support innovative approaches to emerging public health challenges.

Applications are being accepted for the following committees:

- Tribal
- Informatics
- Preparedness
- Vector
- Food safety
- Rural and frontier
- Climate and health
- Private water and decentralized wastewater

Serving on a program committee provides environmental health professionals with opportunities to contribute to national conversations, collaborate with peers from across the country, and help shape resources and initiatives that support the profession. Committee participation also helps strengthen professional networks and encourages the exchange of ideas, experiences, and practical field knowledge.

Committee membership is open to NEHA members in good standing. Members serve staggered 2-year volunteer terms, with

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most terms beginning August 1, 2026. Active participation, including attendance at monthly meetings, is expected throughout the appointment period.

To apply, visit <https://forms.office.com/r/1vvQX7Bj1W>. Questions can be directed to programs@neha.org.

New Journal Site Strengthens Access for Readers and Support for Authors



The *Journal of Environmental Health* has launched a new site through Scholastica that brings together two important functions for the *Journal*: 1) manuscript submission and review, and 2) online indexing of published issues and articles.

As our core publication, the *Journal* advances the science and practice of environmental public health by publishing timely, relevant, and high-quality research and practical insights that inform decision-making, strengthen professional practice, and support a healthy environment for all. It serves as a trusted forum for disseminating evidence, elevating the practice, and fostering thought leadership to protect communities and strengthen environmental health systems.

The new Scholastica site supports that purpose by creating a more connected experience for authors, reviewers, members, and readers. For authors, the site provides an online manuscript submission system designed to streamline and simplify the submission, review, and communication process. For readers, the site serves as an indexing platform where current and past content can be accessed by article, issue, or section.

Through the manuscript submission system, authors are guided through uploading files, entering author information, and completing required disclosures. All manuscripts must be submitted through the online submission system via Scholastica. A complete submission includes manuscript metadata, author information, a cover letter, blinded manuscript files, and required affirmations. To support double-blind peer review, manuscript files should not include identifying author information, with the exception of the cover letter.

The new submission system also gives authors a more responsive way to follow their manuscripts. Authors can more easily check the status of their submissions and message the editorial staff through the system when questions arise. For *Journal* staff, the platform provides tools to better manage manuscripts and support a prompt review process.

The system is also connected to the *Journal's* publication side. If a manuscript is accepted for publication, the submission system integrates with the Scholastica indexing platform, helping ensure that the metadata submitted for the manuscript is correctly listed when the article is indexed. This connection supports accuracy, consistency, and discoverability after publication.

The indexing side of the Scholastica site provides a central online location for *Journal* content. Readers can browse all articles, view current and past issues, and explore content by section. The site includes peer-reviewed articles and recurring columns from our leadership, relevant federal agencies, trusted partner organizations, and subject matter experts and professionals in the field.

This structure benefits members and environmental public health professionals by making *Journal* content easier to find, browse, and revisit. Articles are indexed by title, author, publication date, article type, and abstract, allowing readers to quickly identify content relevant to their work, interests, and professional development needs. Issue pages also provide a way to view each edition as a whole, preserving the journal's monthly structure while expanding access to individual articles.

The site reflects the scope of the *Journal* and its focus on work that bridges research and application. We invites submissions from practitioners, researchers, educators, students, and policymakers whose work advances environmental health knowledge and its application. Submissions can include original research, applied and practice-based studies, systematic and narrative reviews, case studies, reports on innovative programs, management strategies, emerging issues, commentaries, policy analyses, and other contributions that offer insight into current challenges and solutions.

For authors, the new system offers clearer guidance, a centralized submission process, and improved communication. For peer reviewers and editorial staff, it supports manuscript management and review. For members and readers, the indexing platform strengthens access to content and helps preserve the *Journal's* role as a record of environmental public health research, practice, and thought leadership.

Together, these functions support the continued evolution of our *Journal* as both a publication venue and a professional resource. By integrating manuscript submission, peer review, article indexing, and issue access on a single platform, the Scholastica site helps advance the *Journal's* mission to support an effective environmental health workforce and to share knowledge that informs practice, policy, and future study.

Visit the new site at www.jeh.neha.org. 🌿