



Navigating EHS Challenges in the Food Industry



Midwest Environmental Compliance Conference (MECC)
Overland Park, KS | September 16, 2025



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Introduction

- EHS leaders from the food industry share insights, lessons learned, and strategies for overcoming today's pressing EHS challenges
- From supply, to manufacturing, to distribution
- Panelists:
 - Adam Hammes, SGS North America
 - Drake McGruder, Anchor Glass Container Corporation
 - Adam Platt, Conagra Brands
 - Brock Wilson, US Foods
- Time for Q&A with attendees
- Moderator: Joe Tell, KTL

Adam Hammes



Vice President,
Sustainability
Assurance - SGS
North America



- Corporate ESG/sustainability professional
- Specialized expertise in ESG scoring and improvements, 3rd-party GHG verification, and ESG/CSR/sustainability strategic planning
- Published author of two books on sustainability
- Masters, Business Administration
- **SGS is one of the world's leading inspection, verification, testing, and certification companies**

Drake McGruder



Director, EHS –
Anchor Glass
Container
Corporation



- 20 years of EHS, engineering, and quality experience
- Specialized expertise in operational risk management, environmental compliance, employee safety, and security
- Lean Six Sigma Green Belt
- M.S. in Engineering – Safety and Environmental
- Anchor Glass is a leading North American manufacturer of premium specialty glass packaging products



Adam Platt, PE



Director, EH&S/
Environmental –
Conagra Brands



- Background in supply chain operations, engineering, EHS/environmental affairs, sustainability, and management
- Develops, leads, and implements Conagra's EHS/environmental compliance and supply chain sustainability programs for food manufacturing operations
- MBA and M.S. in Civil Engineering
- Conagra Brands is one of North America's leading food companies, with brands including Birds Eye®, Duncan Hines®, Healthy Choice®, Reddi-wip®, Slim Jim®, and many more



Brock Wilson



Director, EHS Field
Leader – NE Region
– US Foods



- Experienced health, safety, and risk management professional
- Specialized expertise in EHS/risk management strategy, site-level EHS integration, continuous improvement, lean manufacturing, PSM, audits, behavior-based safety
- M.S. in Public Health – Industrial Hygiene
- US Foods is one of America's great food companies and a leading food service distributor, partnering with approximately 250,000 restaurants and food service operators

Key Topics

External and Regulatory Environment

- Shifting regulatory and enforcement priorities (e.g., effluent guidelines, PFAS, state-led oversight)
- Uncertainty in climate and sustainability policy (GHG, EJ, ESG reporting, renewable energy)
- National initiatives on chemical safety and PSM compliance
- Evolving safety trends and focus areas



Adam Hammes
SGS



Drake McGruder
Anchor Glass



Adam Platt
Conagra Brands



Brock Wilson
US Foods

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Key Topics

Organizational Strategy and Operations

- Innovating training and strengthening safety culture
- Harnessing IT, software, and artificial intelligence
- Integrating EHS and food safety programs
- Managing supply chain pressures and supplier performance



Adam Hammes
SGS



Drake McGruder
Anchor Glass



Adam Platt
Conagra Brands



Brock Wilson
US Foods

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How did they do?

Let's ask ChatGPT! 

Question: What are the top five challenges facing environmental, health and safety managers in food companies today?

Answer: Here are five major challenges that Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) managers in food companies are facing today—pulled together from current industry reports, surveys, and trend-analyses...



ChatGPT Top 5 Challenges

1. **Regulatory complexity** – Constantly evolving food safety, worker safety, and environmental rules across jurisdictions
2. **Workforce & culture** – High turnover, training gaps, and difficulty embedding a strong safety culture
3. **Supply chain & traceability** – Ensuring supplier compliance, allergen control, and end-to-end product transparency
4. **Data & digitalization** – Outdated manual systems; need for real-time monitoring, analytics, and tech integration
5. **Sustainability pressures** – Reducing waste, water, energy, and emissions while balancing cost and compliance



Questions?