Zero Waste: A Stepping Stone to Sustainability

Paul Connett, PhD Executive Director (AEHSP) AmericanHealthStudies.org pconnett@gmail.com

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Personal Introduction

I first got involved in waste management 29 years ago when a trash incinerator was proposed for our area in Northern NY I had little idea then that this issue would take me to 62 different countries

Personal Introduction

In the beginning we were most concerned about the toxic emissions

AIR EMISSIONS



AIR EMISSIONS





Figure 3 Relative size of ultrafine particles compared with particles in traditional dusty trades.



BLOOD

Nano particles are so small they can easily cross the lung membrane

Figure 1 Relation between ultrafine particles and cellular structures in the lung. Idealised particles of 10, 1, and 0.1 µm are shown compared with a bronchial epithelium; note that the top end of the range of ultrafine particles (0.1 µm, 100 nm) is not really visible. On the right are shown the same three particles relative to cilia.

Nano Pathology

Once nanoparticles have entered the bloodstream they can easily cross the membranes of every tissue in the body.



Nano Pathology

They can even cross the blood brain barrier

Aggregati di Piombo, Bario, Cromo, Ferro e Silicio in Cervello.



www.stefanomontanari.net

"Even if we made incineration safe we would never make it sensible. It simply does not make sense to spend so much money destroying resources we should be sharing with the future." (PC)

Personal Introduction

Then we realized that they

 Were far too expensive (It takes approx.
 years for taxpayers to pay off the huge debt incurred)

2) Created very few jobs for the huge capital investment

- 3) Didn't get rid of landfills
- 4) Are a waste of energy, and

There are FAR BETTER ALTERNATIVES

Incinerators produce a toxic ash

 For every four tons of waste burned you get one ton of ash (or more)
 That nobody wants!

For every 4 tons of trash you get about one ton of ash



A "combined ash" landfill in Haverhill, Massachusetts



Incineration is a waste of energy!

About 4 X more energy saved by reusing, recycling and composting the various components in the discard stream – than burning them to create electricity

Dr. Jeffrey Morris, jeff.morris@zerowaste.com

Energy Comparison: Recycling versus incineration (ICF consulting, 2005)

material	Energy savings from recycling GJ/tonne	Energy output from incineration GJ/tonne	Energy savings recycling versus incineration
Newsprint	6.33	2.62	2.4
Fine paper	15.87	2.23	7.1
Cardboard	8.56	2.31	3.7
Other paper	9.49	2.25	4.2
HDPE	64.27	6.30	10.2
PET	85.16	3.22	26.4
Other plastic	52.09	4.76	10.9

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Much more goes up in incineration smoke than toxic pollutants!

Much more goes up in incineration smoke than toxic pollutants!



Personal Introduction

Between 1985 and 1995, over 300 incinerator projects were defeated in the U.S. and Canada.

A modern incinerator looks better, but...



It is attempting to perfect a bad idea

Our task in the 21st Century is not to get better at destroying discarded materials

But to stop making packaging and products that have to be destroyed!

Incineration is simply NOT sustainable

INCINERATION



Extraction

Production Co

Consumption

Waste



Personal Introduction

In 2013 I published a book based upon these experiences...



Foreword written by Jeremy Irons

TRASHED

LENEN RUS NEEDES

VANGELIS

TRASHED

IF YOU THINK WASTE IS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM ...THINK AGAIN

BEINEM FLUG volge: TRASED & DOCH-FERIER FLM volges or JERMI, ROBG sommer consist i norme or Videell's anten or normany Sein Bobbit BSC, TRUS BERVT & FEIER DECH an accus Gabrit Maller som or Janes consist rate coesies a Jane Trevell, vol normania or Tie Mell & Creativity Media march normanic Battini. Roberton sommer normen: Jermy Robe Canoda Brady Tritis Ingvit & Tim Wesel normer or Canoda Beart & Tritis Grevit with a constant of Canoda Brady



SUPPORTED BY





46.

JEREMY IRONS & CANDIDA BRADY INVITE YOU TO A PRIVATE SCREENING OF

ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH 2012

TRASHED

AT TRIBECA CINEMAS 54 VARICK STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10013 (NEAR CANAL STREET)

JOIN US AT 3PM FOR A SHORT Q&A SESSION SCREENING AT 3.30PM AND AFTERWARDS FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION ON WASTE SOLUTIONS

PLEASE RSVP TO HOLLY@BLENHEIMFILMS.COM BY AUGUST 10TH



2012

WINNER AUDIENCE AWARD MCVIEL THAT MATTER NAMETILE FESTIVAL 2012 Subtitle of the Book: "Untrashing the Planet One Community at a Time."

OUTLINE

- 1) A few words about Sustainability
- 2) Ten Steps to Zero Waste (including the 4th R)
- 3) Zero Waste Initiatives around the world
- 4) Fighting over-consumption

1. A few words about Sustainability

We are living on this planet as if we had another one to go to!

Sustainability

- We would need FOUR planets if every one consumed as much as the average American
- We would need TWO planets if every one consumed as much as the average European
- Meanwhile, India, China etc. are copying our consumption patterns
- Something has got to change and the best place to start is with waste

As far as sustainability is concerned

Every ton of waste that we landfill or incinerate takes us in the wrong direction

Whereas, every ton we

Compost,

Reuse,

Recycle, or

Avoid

Takes us in the right direction

The Waste problem will not be solved with better technology

But with
Better organization
Better education
and better industrial design
2. TEN STEPS TO ZEROWASTE

STEP 1.

1. Source Separation

Waste



Resources

STEP 2.

1. Source Separation

2. Door to Door Collection

The San Francisco system



Once a week pick-up

In Wales, some communities are serviced by collection systems which sort at kerb ("slow recycling")

Intelligent - from kerb to depot.





Capannori in Italy

LUNEDI	ORGANICO	
MARTEDI	MULTIMATERIALE	
MERCOLEDI	CARTA	
GIOVEDI	FRAZIONE RESIDUA	
VENERDI	ORGANICO	
SABATO	MULTIMATERIALE	



Hernani in Spain









HORARIO Y CALENDARIO DE RECOGIDA

	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado	domingo
9:00					rechazo		
23:00	envases ligeros	papel- cartón	orgánico	envases ligeros	orgánico	rechazo	orgánico









Calidad del compost



Pureza del 99,76 %



Door-to-Door collection in Brazil organized by Waste pickers co-operative





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STEP 3.

1. Source Separation

2. Door to Door Collection

3. Composting

Discarded organics hierarchy

- Feed people (see *The Stop* by Saul and Curtis)
- 2) Feed animals
- 3) Feed the soil
- Composting (and vermiculture) Hierarchy
- a) Backyard and onsite (institutions)
- b) Community composting (e.g. Zurich)
- c) On farms
- d) Centralized facility (also anaerobic digestion)

The Composting plant



Serving San Francisco

Composting plant



In Brazil

Local farmers use compost



The fruit and vegetables go back to restaurants in San Francisco





Over 200 vineyards use the compost

For restaurants it is 25% cheaper to put out clean organics than mixed waste



We must involve restaurant owners



STEP 4.
1. Source Separation

2. Door to Door Collection

3. Composting

Recycling facility on Pier 96







The separation lines





Separation shed in Brazil operated by Waste pickers co-operative



Material baled and weighed – ready to be sent to secondary user



Recovered material ready to be sent to secondary user



STEP 5.

Reuse and Repair Centers (Community **Centers**)





Urban Ore operating for 30 years

Grossing \$3 million per year
27 full-time well-paid jobs

















ReSource, Burlington, Vermont





Build it with Reclaimed VOOD M



ReSource, Burlington, Vermont







VIDEOS ONLINE

On the Road to Zero Waste see

www.AmericanHealthStudies.org

Kretsloppsparken – the Reuse Park in Gottenburg, Sweden.





18/09/2010 12:21

TURHUSET







07/06/2011 08:21



Kretsloppsparken Alelyckan

09

Krei





STEP 6.

Waste Reduction Initiatives

We have to minimize the residual fraction with...

Ireland

 Government put a 15 cent tax on plastic shopping bags
 reduced use by 92% in one year!



In Ontario, Canada

They have been REUSING glass beer bottles for over 60 years!
In Ontario, Canada



Italy

Several supermarket chains are providing dispensers which allow customers to refill shampoo and detergent bottles... Effecorta, A food store in Capannori, Tuscany, Italy



L'esperienza effecorta

www.effecorta.it

60 taps



Filiera Corta di prodotti sfusi e alla spina

REFILL SYSTEM FOR DETERGENTS



whether and

A property saided





No plastic bags used





TAP WATER INSTEAD OF BOTTLED WATER

GLASS INSTEAD OF PLASTIC BOTTLES

REUSABLE PAMPERS



Pannolino Ecologico Lavabile



STEP 7.



The "Pay by bag" system



The "Pay by bag" system



you pay!



Italia

Villafranca d' Asti (population = 3,000) went from 70% to 85% using "pay by bag" system



Step 8 Is the most important step For Zero Waste

8A. The Residual Screening Facility

Nova Scotia, Canada

These are built IN FRONT of the landfills

No waste can go directly to the landfill. It must first go through the screening facility











RESIDUAL SCREENING FACILITY













RESIDUAL SCREENING FACILITY



INTERIM LANDFILL for non-recyclable and stabilized organic fraction



8B. THE ZERO WASTE RESEARCH CENTER

RESIDUAL SCREENING & RESEARCH FACILITY





ZERO WASTE RESEARCH CENTER
RESEARCH CENTER

Recommend better designs to industry on packaging and products

THE RESIDUAL SEPARATION AND ZERO WASTE RESEARCH CENTER



The Message to Industry:

- If we can't reuse it, recycle it or compost it,
- Industry shouldn't be making it
- We need better industrial design for the 21st Century

On Jan 23, 2010 Capannori launched its Rifiuti Zero Research Center

Rossano Ercolini <u>Ambientefuturo@interfree.it</u>

338-28-66-215



FRAZIONE RESIDUA – Capannori Porta a Porta

1.	Tessili e cuolo	16.52 %
2.	Pannolini	13.95 %
3.	Materiale organico da cucina	10.56 %
4.	Altra plastica: non imballo	9.98 %
5.	Imballaggi cellulosici poliaccopiati	8.05 %
6.	Imballaggi poliaccopiati in plastica	7.45 %
7.	Imballaggi flessibili in plastica	6.81 %
8.	Materiale organico da giardino	4.64 %
9.	Imballaggi rigidi in plastica (non bottiglie)	3.23 %
10	Giornali (quotidiani e riviste)	2.54 %

REUSABLE PAMPERS



Pannolino Ecologico Lavabile





<u>Spettabile Lavazza</u>

Dal giugno 2010, il Comune di Capannori (Lucca, popolazione 46.000 abitanti e sede del distretto cartario più importante d'Italia) ha promosso il progetto "Passi concreti verso rifiuti zero"fondato sulla costituzione del **CENTRO RICERCA RIFIUTI ZERO**.

Tale Centro di Ricerca, dotato di un team operativo e di un Comitato Scientifico presieduto dal professor **Paul Connett**, ha lo scopo di STUDIARE la composizione del RIFIUTO RESIDUO "a valle" di raccolte differenziate che hanno raggiunto la media (certificata dalla Regione Toscana) dell'81%. A partire dallo scorso luglio il team operativo del Centro di Ricerca al cui interno operano sia esperti di gestione dei **rifiuti** che progettisti sono stati effettuati diversi sopralluoghi presso la stazione di trasferimento dei rifiuti del comune dove viene conferito il "rifiuto non riciclabile". Attraverso questi sopralluoghi condotti in collaborazione con il soggetto gestore ASCIT si è riscontrato una grande quantità di **CAPSULE DA CAFFE**. In merito il soggetto gestore ci ha confermato che l'indicazione che viene data alle utenze circa la gestione di tale imballaggio è quella della collocazione nel contenitore del "residuo" da inviare a smaltimento in quanto trattasi di plastica parzialmente contaminata dalla residua polvere di caffè.

Poiché il comune di Capannori nel **2007** è stato il primo in Italia ad approvare una DELIBERA RIFIUTI ZERO entro il 2020 collocandosi tra le numerose municipalità che a livello internazionale (soprattutto in California ed in USA cosi' come in Canada, Australia, Sud America ed adesso anche in Europa) perseguono questo obiettivo; poiché, altresi' la RD nel comune raggiunge livelli ottimali che testimoniano un alto livello responsabilizzazione dell'intera comunità *APPARE DI ESTREMA ATTUALITA' E NECESSITA' ACQUISIRE LA COLLABORAZIONE DELLE IMPRESE* PRODUTTRICI. Tanto più se la conseguenza dei loro prodotti è rappresentata da scarti non aventi alcuna alternativa alle operazioni di smaltimento. Per questo il CENTRO DI RICERCA ha aperto un "caso studio" su questa tipologia di imballaggio muovendo dalla constatazione DI UN **ERRORE DI PROGETTAZIONE** DELLO STESSO (vedi su www.rifiutizerocapannori.it) per aprire senza alcun spirito polemico un "percorso condiviso" per un suo "ripensamento" in grado di superare le "*criticită*" attualmente evidenziate dai sopralluoghi . Già, nel corso di un <u>seminario nazionale</u> tenutosi a Capannori il 20-21 novembre scorsi è stato avanzato un "*ventaglio*" di **ALTERNATIVE** a cui, cortesemente, <u>VORREMMO COINVOLGERVI</u> considerando anche la necessità da parte dei produttori di avviarsi sempre più nella direzione di **farsi carico dei propri prodotti** dalla "*culla alla tomba*".

In questo percorso di <u>RESPONSABILIZZAZIONE</u> risiede o meno la possibilità di vincere la "sfida della sostenibilità ambientale" a cui tutti (cittadini, imprese e enti pubblici) <u>siamo chiamati a rispondere</u>. **Una disponibilità vostra ad aprire un confronto costruttivo** sarebbe di grande rilevanza non solo per contribuire a risolvere una "criticità" relativa ad una corretta gestione dei materiali di scarto ma anche per avviare un processo positivo nella applicazione di una **RESPONSABILITA' ESTESA DELLE IMPRESE** legata a criteri di *sostenibilità ambientale* e di *eticità*.

Capannori ...



Il responsabile del Progetto Rossano Ercolini



ZERO WASTE

Community Responsibility = Reduce, Reuse, Recycle/Compost

The 4th R

The $4^{th} R =$

RE-DESIGN

ZERO WASTE

Community Responsibility = Reduce, Reuse, Recycle/Compost

Industrial Responsibility = Re-Design STEP 9.

9. Better Industrial Design

10. An interim landfill for biologically stabilized dirty organic fraction



10. Interim Landfill



10. Interim Landfill



This plan 1) Is better for the Economy... **MORE JOBS** 2) Is better for our HEALTH... LESS TOXICS 3) Is better for our UNIVERSITIES **MORE MEANING** 4) Is better for the PLANET... MORE SUSTAINABLE 5) Is better for our CHILDREN... **MORE HOPE**

We need 5 C's to underpin the 4 R's of Zero Waste

1) Common Sense Don't let the experts take your common sense away 2) Community We need to empower communities to protect their air, water, food, resources, their land 3) Creativity We can't expect to outmatch corporate looters for money, but we can beat them on creativity

We need 5 C's to underpin the 4 R's of Zero Waste

4) Children

We need to involve children early in public service and the struggle for sustainability

5) Communication

When we achieve any success – large or small –we must communicate it around the country and the world (video/internet)

Information – communication – motivationaction

3. Zero Waste Initiatives around the world

San Francisco

Population = 850,000
Very little space
50% waste diverted by 2000
80% waste diverted by 2011
ZERO WASTE by 2020 (or very close!)

In Berkeley, California They are using comic books to get the message out







Over 200 communities in Italy have endorsed Zero Waste Many have achieved over 70% diversion-

and some very quickly

Italy

Salerno (near Naples, pop 145,000) 18% to 72% in two years!

Italy

The hotel industry is very involved in the promotion of Zero Waste They too are using comic books and graphics artists to get the message out...





Flanders

This whole province in Belgium (population 6 million people) is getting 73% diversion

In Castelmonte in Sicily...

They are using donkeys to collect the recyclables








In Presteigne Wales...

They are using a low-tech community based program





















In the Philippines

they are organizing at the Barangay level...





In the Kamakatsu, Japan

At their recycling center the citizens separate into 28 different categories



In Cairo, Egypt

The Coptic Christian community (the Zabbaleen) have organized their community around the collection, separation, re-processing and remanufacture of simple products























CID


















Fighting Overconsumption

By the time a high school student leaves school, he or she will have watched over 350,000 TV commercials.

> Paul Hawken The Ecology of Commerce.

Myth versus Reality

- THE MYTH:
- The more you consume the happier you become
- THE REALITY:
- The more you consume the fatter you become!
- And the more waste you produce

Man



Modern Man!



"The world has enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed"

Mahatma Gandhi

We have to destinguish between the standard of living and the quality of life

Material consumption

Quality of life

Material consumption

Quality of life

Material consumption

Quality of life

Consume less Enjoy more!

Less money More meaning!

To fight over-consumption

We need to swap a life built around acquiring a series of objects...

To a life built around a series of expanding human relationships







In the 2000's "Make Friends, Not Waste"













Technology routes to attend Brazilian Waste Management Law

Seletive

collection



Sheds of sorting



Cooperatives



Landfills



Compositing



TECHNOLOGICAL ROUTE TO POPULAR RECYCLING OF URBAN WASTE (BRAZIL)

Sorting Sheds





Sellective Collection





Marketing and Pré-industrial recycling materials done by Solidarity Network of Cooperatives



Composting and Biodigestion of Organics

Landfill to refuse



Sellective Collection





