



Special Lecture by Prof. Huang Qunxing

*Vice Dean, College of Energy Engineering
Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, P.R. China*

“China's Multi-Billion Investment in Mitigating Climate Change: Phasing out global landfilling by means of Waste-to-Energy Power Plants”

4.30 PM, October 1, 2024

The Forum, Conference Room 315, Columbia University,
601 W. 125th St., New York, NY 10027

Event Organizers:

Columbia University Climate School

Columbia University stands as a global leader in climate and sustainability education, offering interdisciplinary programs at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The Columbia Climate School is dedicated to developing knowledge-based solutions and educating future leaders to foster just, prosperous societies on a healthy planet, visit [Columbia Climate School](#)

Earth Engineering Center | Columbia Climate School

Founded in 1995, the Earth Engineering Center (EEC) directs engineering research focused on balancing material use with the Earth's finite resources. A pioneering institution, the EEC introduced industrial ecology, geographic information systems (GIS), and sustainable waste management to Columbia University. It also transformed the historic Henry Krumb School of Mines into the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering (EAEE), the first of its kind in the U.S., visit earth.engineering.columbia.edu

In 2002, the EEC established the Global Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council (WtERT®), a global academic network connecting engineers and scientists from 30 countries to advance sustainable waste management, particularly Waste-to-Energy (WTE) technologies. WtERT Asia, hosted at the Columbia Global Center Beijing, is part of this global initiative. For more information, visit wtert.org

“China's Multi-Billion Investment in Mitigating Climate Change: Phasing out global landfilling by means of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) power plants”

By Prof. Huang Qunxing, Zhejiang University

Methane emissions from landfills worldwide are a significant contributor to climate change. China's national renewable energy policy includes waste-to-energy (WTE) as a strategic response. Over the past two decades, China has invested more than \$77 billion in WTE power plants, converting 1.1 million tons of municipal waste into electricity every day and significantly reducing reliance on landfills. This investment is a testament to China's commitment to sustainability, contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality, and the provision of renewable energy.

Biography of the Speaker, Prof. Huang Qunxing

Prof. Huang specializes in the efficient and clean thermal treatment of solid waste, including municipal solid waste, sludge, waste plastics, and oily sludge. He is a leading figure in AI technology for combustion optimization and serves as the current President of the Global WtERT Council. He has led over thirty research projects and published extensively in international peer-reviewed journals. His accolades include the National Science and Technology Progress Team Award and the First Prize of Zhejiang Science and Technology Progress. [Link for full biography.](#)

Program Agenda

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

The Forum, Conference Room 315, Columbia University, 601 W. 125th St., New York, NY

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 4:30pm – 4:45pm | <i>Registration</i> |
| 4:45pm – 4:50pm | <i>Introductory remarks: Prof. Jeffrey Shaman, Dean Columbia Climate School; and Prof. Nickolas Themelis, Founder of Earth Engineering Center.</i> |
| 4:50pm – 5:30pm | <i>Presentation of Prof. Qunxing Huang</i> |
| 5:30pm – 6:00pm | Q&A session |

Event Contact Information:

Omar Herrera

oherrera@climate.columbia.edu

Event URL:

<https://events.columbia.edu/go/ProfHuangoct1>