

Maria Zannes, co-founder of WTERT and ex-President of IWSA

Ms. Zannes worked for more than 20 years in the environmental and energy industry, and currently consults for public and private clients on technical and legal issues associated with renewable energy. She recently stepped down from her position as President of the Integrated Waste Services Association (IWSA) after serving for 11 years in Washington, D.C. IWSA represents 67 waste-to-energy power plants in 22 states, processing more than 85,000 tons of trash each day while generating enough energy to meet the electricity needs of more than two million homes.

Before joining IWSA, Ms. Zannes practiced law and ran a consulting firm in Seattle, Washington for government and industrial clients facing environmental management challenges. She opened her firm after leaving a position as General Manager of ECOS Corporation, a hazardous waste disposal company. Prior to moving to Seattle, Ms. Zannes worked for nine years with Wheelabrator Technologies as a project developer in the waste-to-energy division and a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. She began her work in the nation's capital in 1979 as a legislative aide and press secretary to former Congressman Charles Wilson of Texas.

Ms. Zannes received her law degree from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, and her bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where she also worked as a print and broadcast journalist. She is the mother of 12-year-old Peter.