

WTERT 2014 Bi-annual Meeting, Columbia University, Oct. 9-10

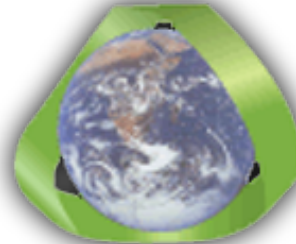
Highlights of WTERT activities 2012-2014

Prof. Nickolas J. Themelis, Director

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

EARTH ENGINEERING CENTER

Chair, Global WTERT Council (GWC)



The IPCC 2011 Assessment Report



Figure 10.11. Illustration of waste mitigation options at pre-consumer and post-consumer stages
Need to add composting and (other technologies e.g. anaerobic digestion to be consistent with the text)

“Surprising” new information in the IPCC 2014 Report



Figure 10.11. Illustration of waste mitigation options at pre-consumer and post-consumer stages
Need to add composting and (other technologies e.g. anaerobic digestion to be consistent with the text)

Objectives of 2013 Columbia national survey

- To satisfy EPA and others asking “when is the next Survey coming up”?
- Identify the causes of data discrepancy with EPA
- Develop/suggest improved landfill and recycle estimation methodology



DATA DISCREPANCY

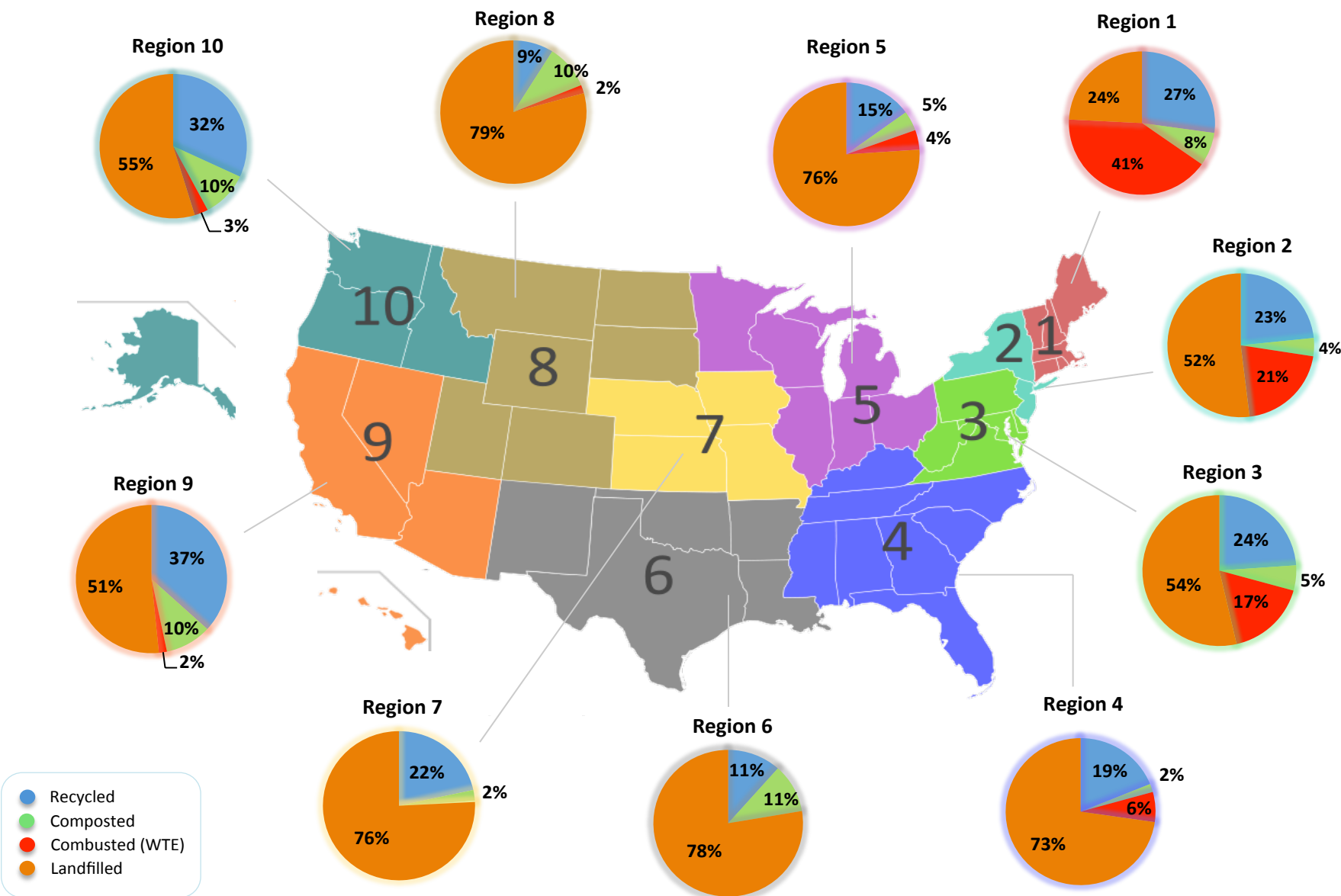
2011 Data

Disposal Method	EPA/ Franklin* (mil tons)	Columbia University	Difference tons/year
MSW Generated	250	389	+139
Recycled	66.2	87.8	+21.8
Composted	20.7	24.7	+4
Landfilled	134	247	113
Combusted	29.3	29.3	0

*<http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/msw2008rpt.pdf>

Breakdown by EPA Regions

Recycling, composting, combusting, and landfilling rates by regions



Some of the international activities of Global WTERT Council

- 14 national groups including Brazil, Canada, China and India
- Research on beneficial use of WTE ash- Imperial College
- Three India workshops
- WTE Guidebook for Latin America and the Caribbean

International activities of Global WTER Council

- “Be Waste Wise” web medium bridges the information gap between world expertise/practice and the public/policymakers (www.waste.be)

International activities of Global WTER Council

- 2014 planning grant by Columbia's Global Initiative Fund to develop WTER-Latin America
- August-Sept. 2014: Workshops on sustainable waste management in Rio de Janeiro and Santiago of Chile.
- _ Participation in InterAmerican Development Bank conference of Caribbean waste management leaders, October 2014

www.wtert.org



**WTERT contributed locations and capacities of all
known WTE plants around the world**

www.atlas.d-waste.com

Waste Atlas

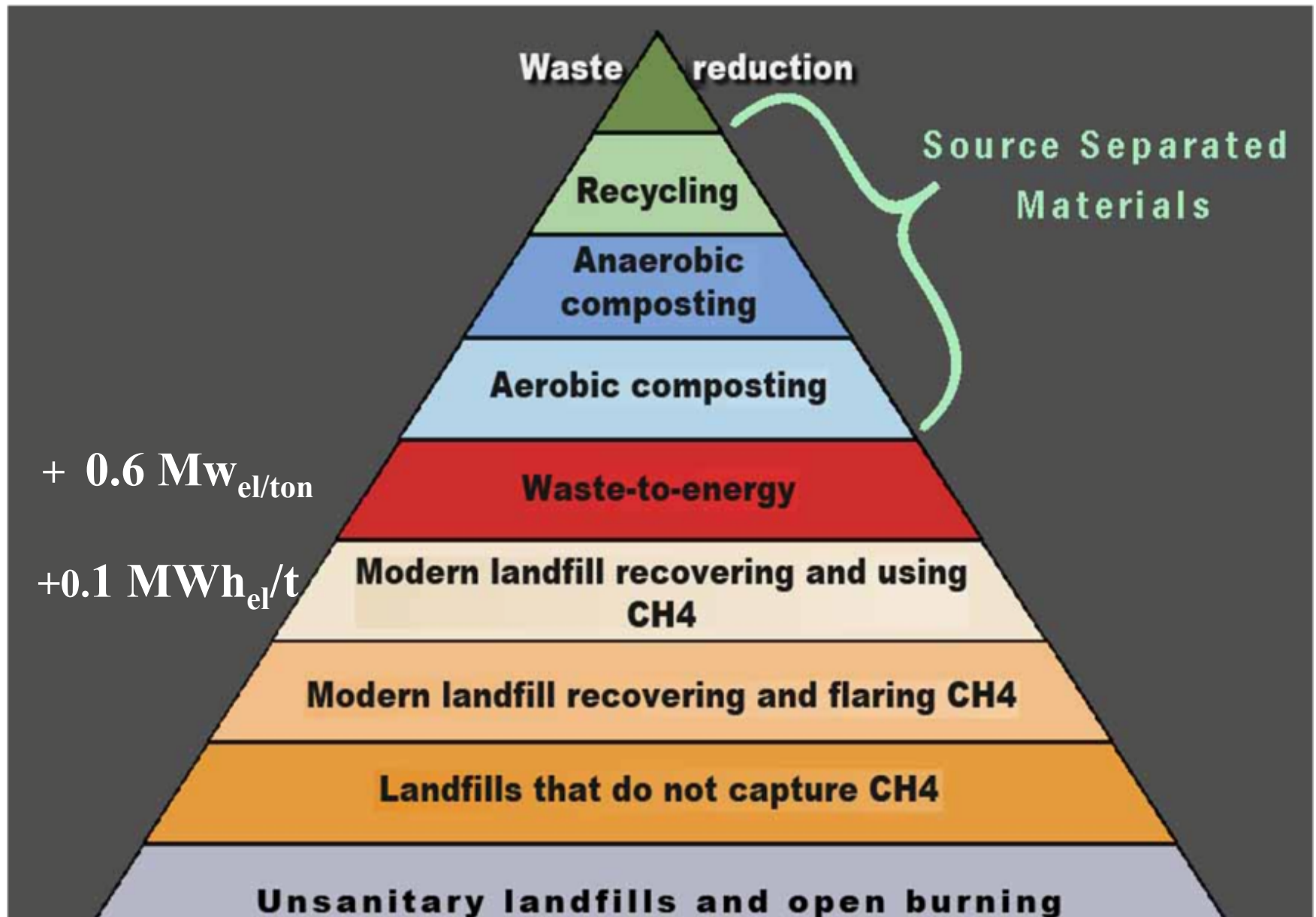
- **Annual MSW generation 1.9 billion tonnes (30% not-collected =. 600 million tons of solids**
- **Collected MSW:**
 - **70%** to landfills and dumpsites,
 - **19** or recovered and,
 - **11%** is led to energy recovery facilities.





Citarum River downstream, west Java, Indonesia.

The EEC Hierarchy of waste management



Checking the EEC: estimate of 0.1 MWh/ton landfilled vs U.S. national numbers

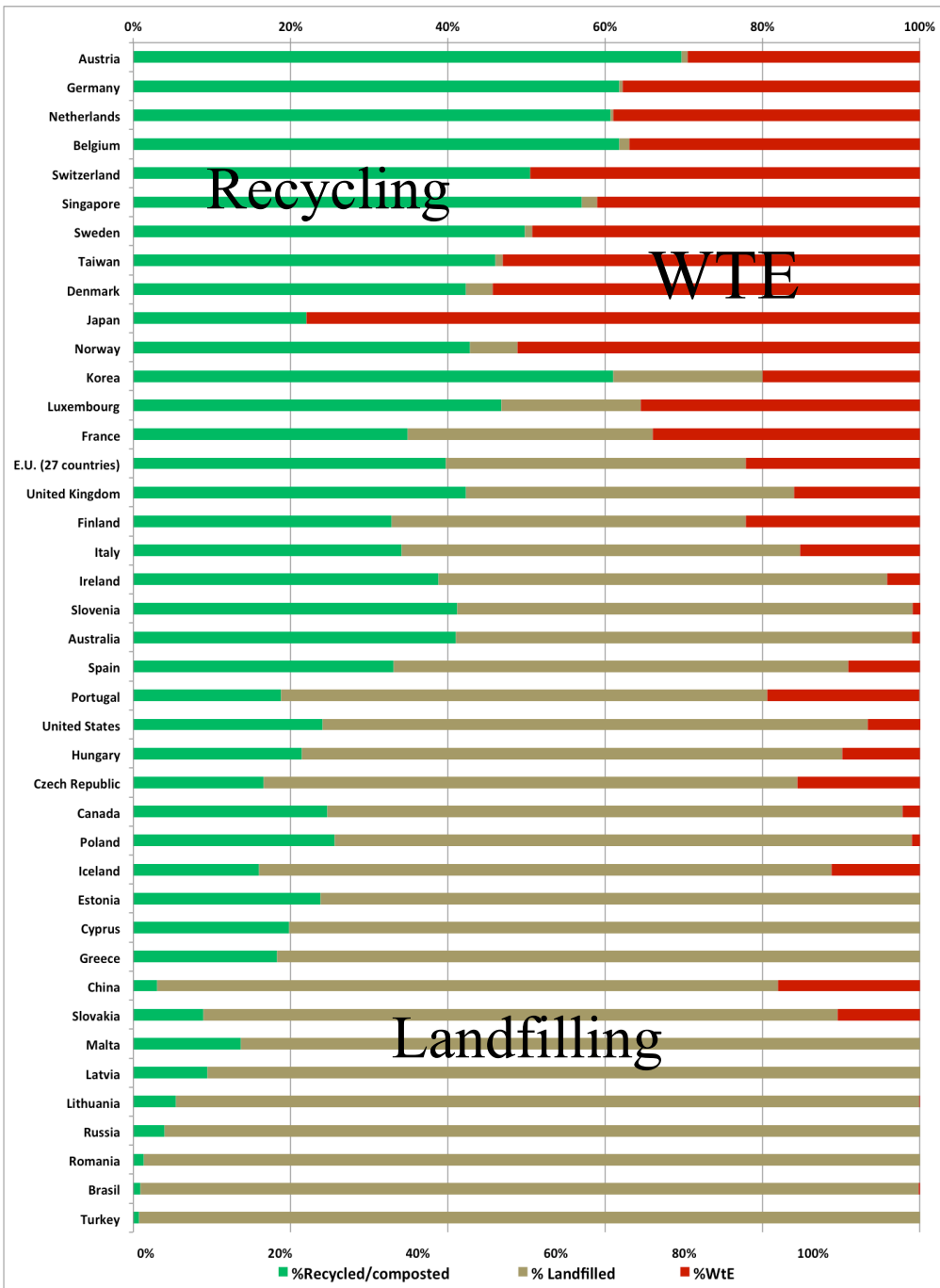
- 250 million tons MSW landfilled in U.S.A. (Columbia Survey)
- Electricity potential at 0.1 MWh/ton = 25 million MWh
- Actual production 2013 = 16 million MWh*
(2/3 of estimated potential)

***www.epa.gov/lmop/documents.pdfs/overview.pdf**

The EEC “ladder” of Sustainable Waste Management

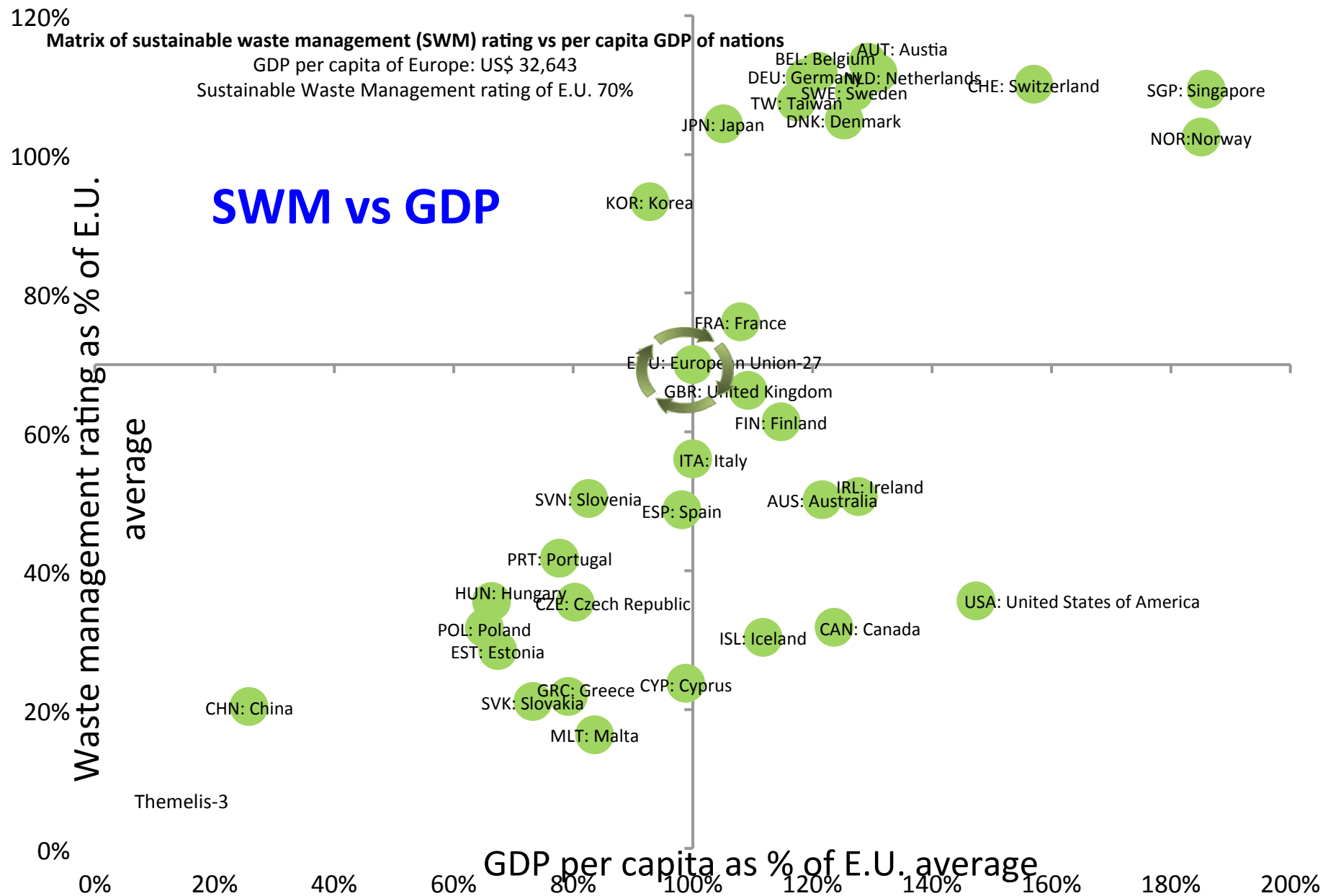
In the following slide, we have added tons recycled plus tons composted as “Recycling”

Anything left after recycling and composting, we will call ‘post-recycling’ MSW



Expanding the EEC
Ladder of Sustainable
Waste Management to
North America, Asia,
and Australia:

Nations can be rated as to
their attainment of
sustainable waste
management



Global Trend of WTE dioxin emissions (WTERT-US studies)

Country	Year measured	MSW Combusted (Million tons)	Average Dioxin Emissions iTEQ (ng/Nm ³)	Total Dioxins Emitted g TEQ/year
USA	2012	25.9	0.027	2.90
France	2010	13.8	0.013	0.79
China	2009	26.0	0.348	40.50
Korea	2010	3.9	0.007	0.11

Stack gas/ton MSW Combusted Factor¹:

Short ton	4075 dscsm/ton
Metric ton	4483 dscsm/ton



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IDB

Inter-American Development Bank

GUIDEBOOK
FOR THE APPLICATION OF
WASTE TO ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**NICKOLAS J. THEMELIS, MARIA ELENA DIAZ BARRIGA,
PAULA ESTEVEZ, AND MARIA GAVIOTA VELASCO**

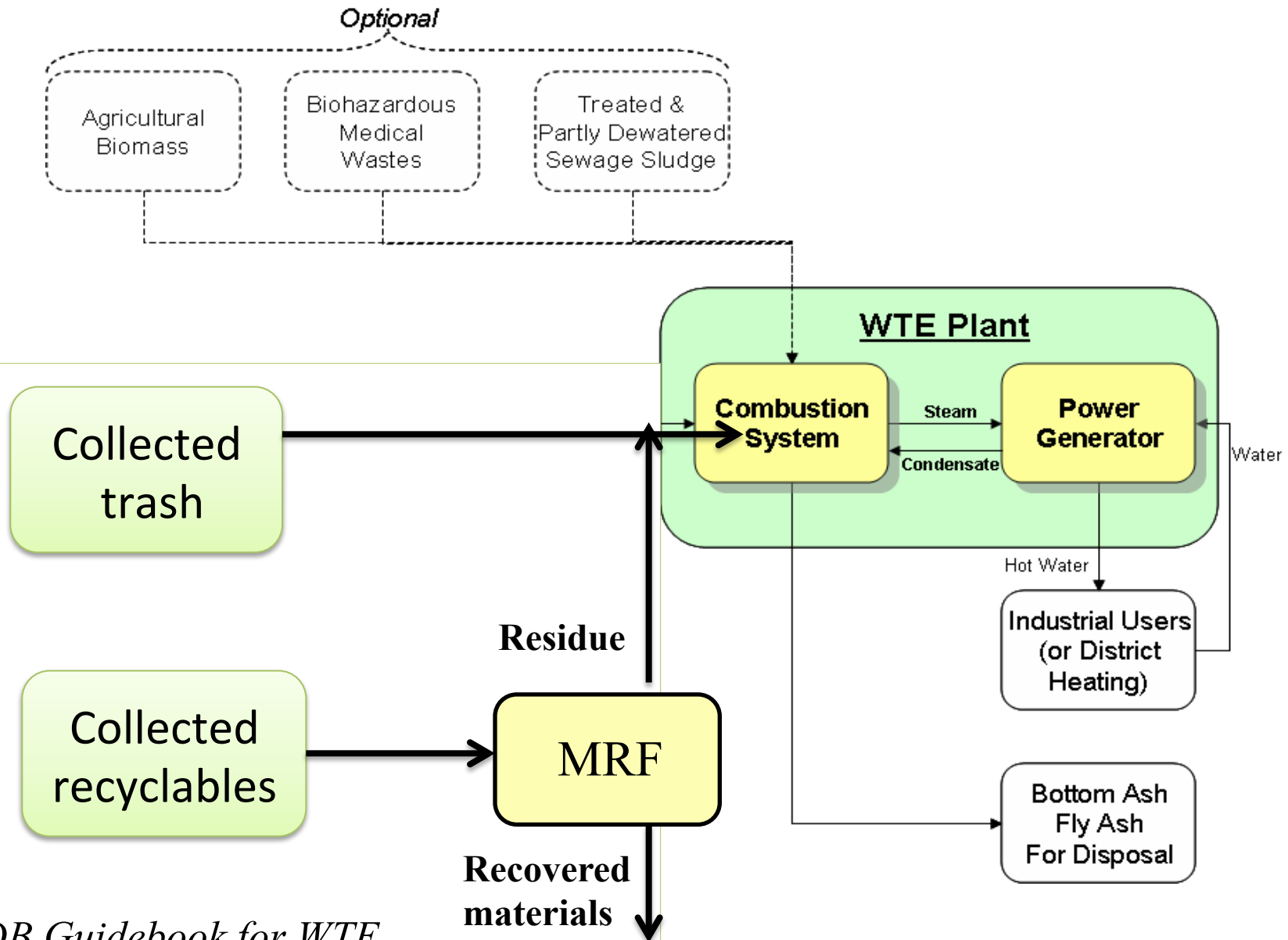


EARTH ENGINEERING CENTER
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

MARCH 2012

Google “wte guidebook”¹

Complementary WTE plant and adjacent Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)*



**IDB Guidebook for WTE*

Guidebook conclusion: Waste management must be placed at the top of environmental priorities of cities and nations*

- Need for **sustainable waste management**, same as for potable water, electricity and wastewater treatment.
- Developing nations need to invest in prototype waste management facilities (it cannot be left only to municipalities)

**The EEC-IDB Guidebook for WTE in Latin America (in press)*

Major problem in growth of WTE in developing world: Required gate fee

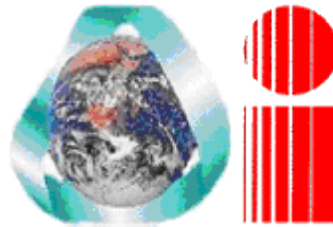
- Modern WTE plants, equipped with Air Pollution Control systems that meet the E.U./U.S. standards cost over \$600/ton of annual capacity.
- To repay this amount over a period of 20 years (usual contract) requires a capital charge of about \$60/ton (10% of capital investment/ton).
- Communities who pay a “gate fee” of \$20/ton MSW, or less, cannot afford a WTE plant.
- Unless government subsidizes part of the capital cost (e.g, Azerbaijan) or provides economic incentives (e.g. China)

Emerging WTE technology: Circulating Fluid Bed

Developed and used mostly in China: Suitable for high organic, high moisture, lower heating value MSW, similar to that in developing countries

Nearly 50 such plants have been built in China in the last fifteen years at a lower capital cost than traditional WTE plants

WIERT



**Waste-To-Energy Research
and Technology Council**