

PRESS RELEASE (September 27, 2010): The WTERT 2010 Bi-Annual Meeting and Awards

The Earth Engineering Center (EEC) of Columbia University carries out research on existing and novel technologies for recovering materials and energy from solid “wastes”. The guiding principle is that “wastes” are resources and should be managed on the basis of science and best available technology, and not on ideology or economics that exclude environmental costs. The Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council (WTERT), headquartered at EEC, is holding its 2010 Bi-annual Meeting in New York City on October 7-8. A pre-conference visit of the Babylon, New York resource recovery facility of Covanta Energy is organized by the Materials and Energy Recovery Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The Program of the two-day meeting includes presentations from leaders of international organizations on waste management (ISWA, CEWEP) and technical papers on novel technologies for materials and energy recovery from wastes, as practiced in Belgium, China, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, the U.K. and the U.S.

A highlight of the meeting is the presentation of the WTERT 2010 Awards at the Awards Dinner to be held at the Italian Academy in the Columbia campus. These Awards recognize outstanding contributions to education, research and practice of sustainable waste management worldwide.

The City of Vienna (Austria) will be honored for being one of the cleanest (as well as “most livable”!) cities in the world. Lee County in southwest Florida, that includes the city of Fort Myers and the islands of Pine and Sanibel, will also receive the WTERT award for being one of the first urban areas in the U.S. to approach “zero waste” by minimizing landfilling.

The caliber of the finalists in this competition was so high that it was extremely difficult to settle on the final winners. The finalists were (alphabetically): Berlin (Germany), Greater Copenhagen (Denmark), Malmo (Sweden), Marion County-Oregon (U.S.), Munich (Germany), the island-nation of Singapore, Metro Vancouver (Canada), and Zurich (Switzerland). The full program and venue of the WTERT Meeting are available on the web (www.wtert.org). The Friday morning session is open to the public.



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