

PRESS RELEASE

ISWA 2021 World Congress culminates in launch of Report on the Future of Waste Management; identifies key challenges and opportunities for sector

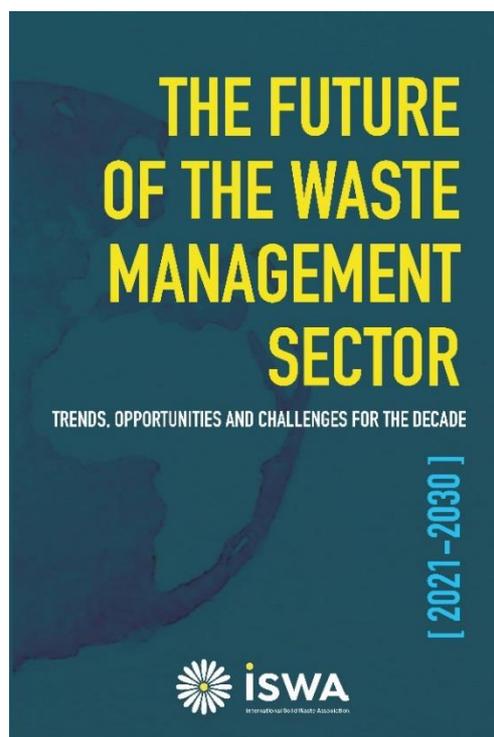
Rotterdam, October 7th 2021

"Adequate waste management, as an extension of our right to a clean and healthy environment, is a basic human right. This has become not only a human health issue, but a planetary health issue. Proper waste management implemented worldwide could reduce global GHG emissions by up to 20%¹ and avoid thousands of premature deaths.²"

The first online edition of the annual event, themed "There is no Planet B", saw participation from a range of ISWA's global partners such as UN Habitat, UN Environment Programme, Clean Air and Climate Coalition (CCAC), Alliance to End Plastic Waste and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Launch of new report on the Future of The Waste Management Sector

"The world faces an environmental emergency that will bring about a climate crisis unless urgent action is taken. Lack of sound waste management is a huge source of pollution, negatively impacting human health. But it doesn't need to be that way. With proper treatment waste can be an asset and not a liability. In this report ISWA identifies focal points and trends for the next decade that must be addressed to ensure sustainable management of waste and resources and the transition to a circular economy." commented Carlos Silva Filho, ISWA's President.



¹ ISWA's [Declaration on Climate Change and the Waste and Resource Management Sector, 2021](#).

² ["Global Review on Safer End of Engineered Life"](#), Engineering X, Royal Academy of Engineering, 2020.

At the closing ceremony of the 2021 ISWA World Congress, Carlos Silva Filho announced the release of ISWA's latest report titled "The Future of The Waste Management Sector: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges for the Decade". The report represents the contributions of stakeholders from across the waste management industry, edited by the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Council Bjorn Appelqvist and also presented by him during the congress.

ISWA's ten-year outlook highlights the key issues around the transition to a circular economy, the role waste management will play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and combatting climate change. The report is a call to action on how to move forward into the new decade and is a must-read for all industry stakeholders as well as others involved in any of these topics; sustainable waste management will undoubtedly play a fundamental role in achieving a cleaner, healthier planet for everyone.

ISWA would like to extend a special thank you to the sponsors and supporters of this important work. Their generous contributions enable us to in turn support the whole waste management industry as we strive towards promoting sustainable waste management around the world and the transition to a circular economy.

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ISWA World Congress

The International Solid Waste Association World Congress is an annual event attended by the top Waste Management experts from around the world. After 36 editions, this was the first virtual edition of the congress, held from 3rd to 7th October 2021 and in collaboration with the Hellenic Solid Waste Management Association (HSWMA). The congress hosted experts from around the world to present, discuss and debate the latest developments in waste management and especially the circular economy. The next ISWA World Congress will take place from **21-23 September 2022**, in Singapore, hosted by Waste Management & Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS). [Subscribe to ISWA newsletter](#) for updates and information.

About ISWA – International Solid Waste Association

ISWA is the world's leading network promoting professional and sustainable waste and resource management. www.iswa.org

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