



ISWA @ IFAT Munich 2024

*Global Waste
Management
Outlook 2024*

*Beyond an age of waste –
Turning rubbish into a resource*



Title: Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 – Beyond and Age of Waste, Turning Rubbish into a Resource – Key Messages

When

Day: Wednesday, 15 May 2024

Time: 16:30 – 17:30 PM

Venue: Orange Stage

Summary

Following the publication of the Global Waste Management Outlook 1 in 2015, the world has gone through transformative events including a global pandemic and emerged on the other side. The population continues to rise and with-it consumption patterns and finally waste generation. This session will discuss findings from the newly released GWMO 2024 in collaboration with UNEP and present its key findings potential opportunities for the sector.

Speakers

Carlos Silva Filho, President, ISWA

Arne Ragossnig, Vice-President, ISWA

Ana Loureiro, Board Member, ISWA

Aditi Ramola, Technical Director, ISWA

Moderator

Jose Uribe-Echevarria, Operations Director, ISWA

[IFAT Online Program Link](#)



Context

As GDP increases, so does the amount of municipal waste. Cities and communities around the world are struggling to control growing quantities of waste and its negative impacts on human health, ecosystems, and the climate – which do not respect borders.

The Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 (GWMO 2024) offers a lucid analysis of municipal waste generation and management and explores three possible scenarios: *Waste Management as Usual*, *Waste Under Control*, and *a Circular Economy*. The findings provide a stark warning to decision makers that society can no longer bear the costs of take-make-dispose.

Despite decades of discussion and concerted efforts, society has failed to decouple economic growth from resource use and waste. The GWMO2 unpacks the barriers to progress and, recognizing there is no one-size-fits-all solution, identifies actionable steps to a more resourceful future.

The report was launched at UNEA-6 and will be followed by a series of events/webinars etc organized by ISWA and UNEP. The press event at UNEA-6 will be an opportunity to introduce the overview of the report to media partners. The press launch delved into the global waste landscape, shedding light on critical findings from GWMO 2024 about the current state of global waste generation. It emphasized the pivotal role of decision-makers in both the public and private sectors in moving towards zero waste.

To sustain the momentum, the report will be featured in this year's International Day of Zero Waste campaign on March 30. This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2022, led by Türkiye and 105 other countries. The significant messages and insights from the GWMO2 report will be integrated into the campaign contents which will be disseminated globally.

Objectives and Key Messages

The following key messages emerge from the report:

Waste and its impacts on human and planetary health are growing every year.

- In 2023, some 2.3 billion tonnes of municipal waste was generated, and this is expected to increase to 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050.
- Waste generation is intrinsically tied to GDP, and many fast-growing economies are struggling under the burden of rapid waste growth.

The cost of waste is already unbearable.

- In 2020, direct waste management costs amounted to USD 252.3 billion.
- The added costs of pollution, poor health and climate change from uncontrolled waste and poor waste disposal practices resulted in an annual full net cost of USD 361 billion.

Future scenarios present a stark choice.



- Waste Management as Usual: continuing current practices will lead to an annual full net cost of USD 640.3 billion.
- Waste Under Control: getting waste under control by implementing upstream (waste avoidance) and downstream (waste management) measures can reduce this to an annual net cost of USD 270.2 billion.
- Circular Economy: decoupling waste generation from economic growth could generate an annual full net gain of USD 108.5 billion, through waste avoidance, sustainable business practices, and full waste management.

'Do Nothing' is not an option.

- Take-make-dispose must end to secure a livable planet for future generations.
- Zero waste and circular economy strategies require urgent investment to scale up proven models of waste prevention.

Recognizing the barriers to change:

- The lack of urgency stems from poor data on the growing costs of waste and pollution to human and planetary health.
- Experiences of waste and its management are gender-differentiated, yet women are often excluded from decision making roles; likewise, workers in the informal economy form the backbone of the waste management sector and yet their expertise is often overlooked.
- The definition of what constitutes "waste" needs updating to recognize its potential as an economic resource; entrepreneurship needs to be embraced, and monopolies and corruption averted.
- Capacity building is needed to overcome failures in technology transfer: countries and communities need their own expertise and solutions to local waste challenges.
- Polluter-Pays needs to be strengthened to incentivize waste prevention.

Identifying pathways to zero waste:

- Counting the full cost of waste and improving data, knowledge and transparency can enable clear vision and consistent leadership.
- Addressing unnecessary consumption and scaling up zero waste and circular economy models can deliver sustainable development.
- Inclusive decision making and locally designed services and infrastructure increase accountability and long-term change.



Conclusions

GWMO 2024 emphasizes the escalating challenges of waste on human and planetary health are evident, with a projected increase in municipal waste from 2.3 billion tonnes in 2023 to an estimated 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050, particularly impactful in fast-growing economies. The financial burden is substantial, with direct waste management costs reaching USD 252.3 billion in 2020, escalating to a full net cost of USD 361 billion when considering pollution, health impacts, and climate change. Future scenarios present a clear choice: maintaining current practices would result in an annual net cost of USD 640.3 billion, whereas implementing comprehensive waste control measures could reduce this to USD 270.2 billion. Embracing a circular economy, detaching waste generation from economic growth, holds the potential for an annual net gain of USD 108.5 billion. Urgent investment in zero waste and circular economy strategies is imperative, emphasizing that maintaining the status quo is untenable. Barriers to change, including the need for updated waste definitions, gender-inclusive decision-making, and recognition of the expertise of informal economy workers, must be addressed. Strengthening the Polluter Pays principle, capacity building, and incentivizing waste prevention are crucial elements for achieving a sustainable, zero-waste future. The importance of transparent data, sustainable development through zero waste and circular economy models, and inclusive decision-making for long-term change is stressed as a conclusion.

Session agenda with guiding questions

Perspectives from speakers on how waste and resource management are key to combating the triple planetary crisis – pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change with cross-cutting impact, by reducing emissions, conserving energy, and promoting sustainable practices.

Time	Topic	Speaker
16:30 5 min	Welcome and introduction (Introduction to the topic and speakers)	Jose Uribe (moderator)
16:35 10 min	Key findings of the GWMO 2024 and the Way Forward	Carlos Silva Filho
16:45 35 min	Panel Questions and Discussion Panelists will be asked to discuss the urgency for change, the possible scenarios, barriers, and actions needed to achieve a new and more effective waste & resource management paradigm.	Panellists: - Carlos Silva Filho - Arne Ragossnig - Ana Loureiro - Aditi Ramola
17:20 10 min	Concluding remarks and panel closing	Moderation: Jose Uribe



Location

ISWA Booth and the Orange Stage are both located in Hall, please see below the highlighted bits on where to find us.



Speaker Bios



Carlos Silva Filho

President, International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)

Carlos Silva Filho is a Brazilian lawyer specializing in Administrative & Economic Law, who started working in the waste industry in 1999 as legal advisor at ABRELPE – Brazilian Association of Waste Management Companies, ISWA National Member in Brazil. In 2008 he became ABRELPE's Executive Director and in 2012 its President. Mr. Silva Filho has been dedicated to developing waste related Regulations, Waste Plans, Communication Strategies and Data research and analysis. Mr. Silva Filho has been a member of ISWA since 2005. In 2011 he became a member of the ISWA Board, was elected Vice-President in 2014 and in 2015 he co-founded and chaired the ISWA Young Professionals Group. In 2020 Mr. Silva Filho was nominated and elected as ISWA President.



Ana Loureiro

Marketing Director, Mota-Engil Environment and Board Member, ISWA

Ana Loureiro is the Marketing Director of Mota-Engil Environment, a Portuguese company that is a shareholder of the country's leading companies in terms of waste treatment (EGF) and waste collection (SUMA), as well as in the management and operation of waste in many countries. Recognized in her country as a specialist in environmental communication, she won the communicator of the year award in 2012, given by the Portuguese Association for Business Communication. Mrs. Loureiro is also a member of the Portuguese Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering and Advisory Board Member of the Portuguese Association for Business Communication. Mrs. Loureiro has been an ISWA member since 2002. She was both the Vice-Chair and Chair of the ISWA Working Group on Communication and Social Issues, where she is still an active member. The newest challenge came in 2020, when she was elected as member of the Board, representing National Members. Within ISWA, she helped with the Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 and worked for the ISWA Scholarship Project. Ana also was part of the ISWA team at the highly successful COP28 Waste and Resources Pavilion.



Arne Ragossnig

Managing Director at Ecoconsultants and Vice-President, ISWA

Arne is managing partner at Ecoconsultants an Austrian consultancy focusing on environmental engineering consulting in general and waste related consulting and expert's services in particular. He has been active within ISWA for the last 25 years. Among others he served as interim managing director in 2018 and 2019 and has been responsible for the relocation of the ISWA General Secretariat from Vienna to Rotterdam. Since 2020 Arne is elected as ISWA Vice President and currently serves his second term. He has been



and is involved in major ISWA activities such as GWMO 2024, Waste & Resources Pavillon @ COP28, CLOCC, WasteMap and so on. In his role as associate editor of ISWA's journal Waste Management & Research he was an active part of the editorial group for 20 years and has been promoted to Editor-in-Chief in 2019.



Aditi Ramola

Technical Director, ISWA

Aditi is the Technical Director at the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) where she manages international projects and partnerships with the UN, provides assistance to ISWA's Working Groups and helps develop innovative projects globally to further strengthen cooperation with ISWA's partners and international organizations. Her skills are particularly focused on solid waste management and environmental issues. Aditi holds a master's in Environmental Technology and International Affairs from the Vienna University of Technology. She has several years of experience in the private sector including at Caterpillar Inc. before joining the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the Climate Policy and Networks unit. Aditi is also passionate about science education and was the founding member and lead of the ISWA Young Professionals Group (YPG) initiative on Education and is the past Chair of the ISWA YPG.



Jose Uribe (moderator)

Operations Director, ISWA

At ISWA, Jose has been involved in operations, leading communications, events and membership engagement. Jose has a Masters in Industrial Design Engineering, and has used this previous background as innovation manager to get involved in the circular transition, mostly through managing the EU Horizon projects that ISWA has been involved with that have dealt with the challenges of plastics and bulky composite products as well as odours and citizen science. He joined ISWA in 2016 and is proud to be part of the General Secretariat team.



Promoting Sustainable Waste Management Worldwide and a Transition to a Circular Economy