

IInternational Waste Working Group (IWWG) is organizing a series of monthly online keynote lectures on hot topics of waste management exclusively for its members.

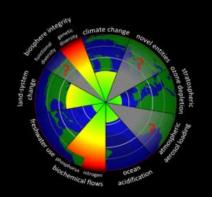
Selected, highly respected and acclaimed experts will present the current status on their field of expertise; people who have been at the first line, with different backgrounds and positions, have valuable knowledge and experience that it is really worth sharing and spreading, providing food for brain!

Lecture #1





WHAT DOES WASTE MANAGEMENT HAVE TO DO WITH PLANETARY BOUNDARIES?



Rockström developed with a group of distinguished scientists the Planetary Boundaries (PBs) as a guideline for humanity striving for sustainability. If we expand the waste term to include all liquid, gaseous and solid residues from production and human activities then waste is the cause for the environmental destruction on our globe. Plastic in the ocean, climate change, biodiversity loss, freshwater use, over fertilising etc. are the result of poor waste management.

The measures for reducing emissions in industry and daily life (traffic) are the same we use in our core waste management discipline and more cooperation for better integration would be helpful. We have to validate and implement all waste management activities respecting the PBs. This means striving for energy self sufficiency, saving resources, using synergistic effects, respecting social needs and striving for more emission reduction also by means of waste minimisation.

Humankind is the reason for our sick planet and humankind has to cure it. This means that society has to be more involved in supporting necessary actions and society has to be protected from irresponsible suffering. Information and education especially in schools and universities are of highest priority. Environmental and social education for students of all disciplines is essential and e.g. practised at the Tsinghua University in Beijing. To support this international course the author together with 3 colleagues wrote an accompanying textbook.





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He studied Civil Engineering at the TU Braunschweig, Germany, worked as a post doc for one year at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. Until his retirement in 2008 he was Director of the Institute of Waste Resources Management at the Hamburg University of Technology, Germany.

He is one of the prominent researchers in the field of waste management and provided in particular fundamental scientific contributions on sustainable landfilling, in-situ aeration of landfills, anaerobic digestion, composting and treatment of contaminated soil.

He coordinated several international and national research projects, held WM courses in Bangkok and Padova, Italy and became in 2006 Visiting Professor at Institute of Technologies and Applied Science in Havanna, Kuba. From 2009 until 2011 he was director of the R3C Research Center at the Nanyang University of Technology, Singapore.

He is co-organizer of several national and international conferences and has published more than 300 scientific papers and co-edited 8 books.

He was the co-founder and chairman of IWWG (International Waste Working Group) and received in 2009 the award "A Life for Waste".

In 2019 he became Honorable Doctor at the Technical University of Crete.