



# Water and Waste Water Workshop Key Points

## Session 1: Water resources preservation and management

- Governance
  - Water is best governed as a public good
  - Water is best managed at the local level, adapting to regional and community differences
  - Water is best managed democratically with stakeholder/community input and councils to keep public officials accountable
  - Water affects multiple sectors, including energy, agriculture
  - Must decide proper integration and prioritization of water management
  - There are competing models of water management: privatization vs. democratic public management
  
- Green vs. Gray Infrastructure Management
  - Combination of Green and Gray infrastructure
  - Green Infrastructure as a locally adaptive, environmental, triple bottom line approach –the future of water management
  
- Finance
  - Future importance of Green Bonds
  - Importance of citizens being able to invest and participate in water financing
  - We need demonstration of case studies showing economic return of green infrastructure and local management
  - We need new mechanisms to measure the true benefits of sustainable water measurement – old measurements do not account for environmental, social benefits
  - Finance should also be localized
  - Must consider that there are also extra-financial benefits to water, that should not be forgotten. Not everything can be monetized.
  
- Water as a commodity for sale vs. water as a fundamental rights
  - You need a balance
  - You money to manage water but you also need to understand that water is a basic need



## Session 2: Towards the Zero waste city

- Practical Cases and Conceptual illustrations of what it entails to be “Zero Waste”
  - San Francisco – excellent waste collection techniques
  - Palo Alto – very advanced program, 80% waste reduction thus far
  - Toulouse – beginning the road to waste reduction
- Innovations, technology to help reach “zero waste”
  - Veolia – remote sensing, waste data, automated waste sorting
- Emphasis on citizen empowerment, behavioral changes
  - Change management and psychology
  - Toulouse emphasized this the most
  - Citizen empowerment and education is the best way to change local habits and also push back against out of touch private or federal interests.
  - Changing the way we view waste, giving it higher values
  - Community education programs are key to changing behavior
- Difference between top-down approach in Europe and bottom-up approach in the US
  - Benefits of US decentralized approach is there is a more engaged citizenry and municipalities and local governments have the power to effect change
  - Benefits of Europe approach is that there is more uniform implementation of standards
- Debate over payment structure for waste collection
  - Charging for trash vs. compostables vs. recyclables
  - Taxes vs. service fees

Note takers:

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