



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:

Kristine T. Smith, M.A. Candidate, Global Environmental Policy, American University, School of International Service, B.A. International Relations & Global Business, University of Southern California | 224.875.5747 | smith.kristine.t@gmail.com

Emily Olsson (Hopkins SAIS) - eolsson2@jhu.edu