

Amplifying the Voice of the Waste and Resource Management Sector at COP 28

Statement by the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)

ISWA, as the world's leading network promoting professional and sustainable waste and resource management, in collaboration with its dedicated members and esteemed partner organisations, proudly carries the voice of this sector to COP 28. Our mission is clear: to call upon decision-makers worldwide to recognize the Waste and Resource Management sector as a net reducer of GHG emissions towards a low carbon future.

The Significant Link Between Waste and Resource Management to tackle Climate Change

The link between waste and resource management to tackle climate change is direct and undeniable. Research suggests that strategic waste and resource management can mitigate global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 15 – 20% ¹. Despite this relevant potential, the waste and resource management sector remains a neglected asset in the global climate strategy.

ISWA's initiative: The "Waste and Resources Pavilion" at COP 28

In our unwavering commitment to driving change, ISWA, representing our diverse and influential members together with key partners, is hosting the first-ever "Waste and Resources Pavilion" during a meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This pavilion will serve as a platform to inform policy negotiators, national representatives, international organizations, and civil society—about the immediate, meaningful, and cost-effective solutions that our sector can offer in the pursuit of methane and other GHG reduction and meeting climate change mitigation targets.

Our Call to Action: Recognize Sound Waste and Resources Management as key to tackling climate change

We strongly urge decision-makers across the globe to recognize sound waste and resources management as a net GHG reducer, incorporating consistent and appropriate measures into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). By doing so, we can collectively:

1. **Acknowledge the climate return on investment (ROI) of the waste and resource management sector:** Recognise the climate mitigation potential of the waste and resource management sector and the climate ROI of implementing proper waste and resource management worldwide.

¹ Learning from the past to plan for the future: An historical review of the evolution of waste and resource management 1970–2020 and reflections on priorities 2020–2030 – The perspective of an involved witness, David C Wilson, 2023

Consider the benefits generated by carbon mitigation projects, as crucial for the needed investment streams towards the eradication of open dumps, integrated waste and resource management, including upstream measures and innovative circular solutions to decarbonize our economies.

2. **Accelerate the achievement of the SDGs:** sound waste and resource management is instrumental to accelerate the achievement of several targets of the 2030 Agenda, being a necessary ally to ensure a just and equitable transition towards the full implementation of the SDGs.
3. **Address the Triple Planetary Crisis:** adequate waste and resource management is instrumental to beat climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, bringing consistent and integrated responses to these threats and thus contributing to a cleaner, healthier and sustainable planet.

A Collective Responsibility

In conclusion, we acknowledge that the ongoing battle against climate disruption demands a collective effort. ISWA and its dedicated members and partner organisations have long been committed to this mission, working tirelessly to contribute to this journey by promoting the waste hierarchy including collecting all waste and adequate final destinations as a precondition for sound waste management. As we continue our steadfast work, we view COP 28 as a pivotal moment to further advance towards a world where waste is minimised, resources are optimised, and the climate crisis is effectively mitigated.

Let us seize this moment to unite in purpose and action, embracing waste and resource management as a cornerstone of the global climate strategy.

With unity and determination, on behalf of the waste and resource management sector we commit to support bold and transformative actions aiming to revert the adverse impacts of climate change.

The International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)

This statement is endorsed by the following ISWA National Members as country representatives:

1. **Argentina:** Asociación para el Estudio de los Residuos Sólidos
2. **Austria:** International Solid Waste Association Austria, RM Umweltkonsulenten ZT GmbH
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3. **Belgium:** Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities
4. **China:** China Association of Urban Environmental Sanitation
5. **France:** Association Scientifique et Technique pour l'Eau et l'Environnement
6. **Germany:** German RETech Partnership e. V., Deutsche Gesellschaft für Abfallwirtschaft e.V.
7. **Greece:** Hellenic Solid Waste Management Association
8. **India:** Institute of Chartered Waste Managers
9. **Indonesia:** Indonesia Solid Waste Association
10. **Jordan:** Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities
11. **Malaysia:** Waste Management Association of Malaysia
12. **Mexico:** DS Latinoamericana Profesionales en Residuos
13. **Nigeria:** Waste Management Society of Nigeria
14. **North Macedonia:** Macedonian Solid Waste Association
15. **Norway:** Avfall Norge
16. **Oman:** Be'ah
17. **Philippines:** Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines
18. **Portugal:** Associação Portuguesa de Engenharia Sanitária e Ambiental
19. **Saudi Arabia:** National Centre for Waste Management
20. **Singapore:** Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore
21. **Spain:** Asociación Técnica para la Gestión de Residuos y Medio Ambiente
22. **South Africa:** Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa
23. **Sweden:** Avfall Sverige
24. **United Kingdom:** The Chartered Institution of Waste Management
25. **United States of America:** Solid Waste Association of North America
26. **The Netherlands:** NVRD
27. **Turkey:** Turkish National Committee on Solid Wastes