

THE GCS UPDATE

Green Conversion Systems LLC — www.greenconversionsystems.com



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LA Environmentalists and City Officials Tour Trash to Energy Plant

This past July, in its ongoing effort to promote transparency, cooperation, and community engagement, GCS sponsored a second delegation of environmental leaders and advocates from Southern California to tour one of the world's most advanced waste-to-energy plants, Muellverwertung Rugenberger Damm (MVR) located in Hamburg, Germany. (see below for more about the MVR)

The July delegation represented a variety of Los Angeles based environmental/community groups, including:

- Environment Now
- Coalition for a Safe Environment
- California Safe Schools
- CD Tech
- Global Green USA
- Clean Air Now
- Action Now
- Energy Independence Now

A trip held last April also included representatives from:

- Coeji/Faith 2 Green
- Green Way
- Californians Against Waste

A City of Los Angeles delegation also visited MVR in July, and included members representing:

- Office of the Mayor, City of LA
- City of LA, Council Districts 12, 11, 6

- City of LA, Bureau of Sanitation
- HDR
- Cal Tech
- Californians Against Waste

Both delegations spent a day touring the facility with the plant manager, and meeting with top advisors to the German Green Party on waste management issues who explained why the Green Party—who once opposed all incineration facilities—changed its position and now supports the advanced thermal recycling technology used at MVR as the preferred strategy for promoting sustainable waste management.

The delegations also met with a number of local and federal German officials who provided a detailed overview of German and European waste management policies and strategies.

“We are actively engaging the Los Angeles community on all levels,” said Marc McMenemy, President of GCS, “and we are working aggressively to foster an open, transparent, and informative discussion about our technology and how it can benefit the City of Los Angeles and its citizens.”

Photos From Our Recent Trip



View of MVR: MVR is located right the banks of the River Elbe in the Port of Hamburg.



Dr. Helmut Schnurer discussing the evolution of German and EU waste management policies.

US Conference Of Mayors Event Opportunity:

Dr. Helmut Schnurer, the former Deputy Director General of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, and Marcus Gleis, a senior official at the German Federal Environmental Agency, will both be speaking at the US Conference of Mayors' Municipal Waste Management Association's fall summit in San Diego this November, 19–21st. They will be discussing the German experience with sustainable waste management, and incineration technologies. To learn more, and to review the conference agenda [click here](#).

GCS has been provided with a limited number of guest invitations for the event, if you're interested in attending please [contact us](#) to RSVP.

Trash In The News:

- [Los Angeles to Experiment with Table Scrap Collection](#)—LA Times
- [A Whiff of Naples Arrives in Hamburg](#)—NY Times
- [A Zero Waste Plan for Los Angeles](#)—Emerald City
- [City Leaders Seeking Community Input About Reducing Garbage](#)—San Fernando Sun



In Brief: City Technology Selection Process Update

After a worldwide tour of conversion technology facilities, representatives from the City of Los Angeles, including city staff representing the Mayor and Council Members, the City Bureau of Sanitation, and the City's expert consultant, HDR have returned to Los Angeles to review their findings. The Bureau of Sanitation, aided by HDR, is preparing to make recommendations to the Board of Public Works on which waste conversion technology would best meet the needs of the city.

Their analysis and recommendations are currently expected to be made before the end of the year. It is anticipated that the recommendations to the City's Board of Public Works will be made in December and that the Board will consider this mat-

ter in early 2009. After what will undoubtedly be several meetings to consider this important matter, the Board is expected to make its recommendations to the City Council for final approval.

At the Council level, the recommended RENEW LA project item may be referred to up to 3 Council Committees: Budget and Finance, the Ad Hoc Committee on Recovering Energy and Natural Resources & Economic Benefit from Waste for LA (REWEW LA), and the Public Works Committee. Then the full City Council will consider the matter and the Mayor will either approve or veto the Council's action.

Learn More:

- [SWIRP Home](#)
- [GCS Home](#)
- [MVR Home](#) *(Translated)*
- [RENEW LA Plan](#)
- [LA City Bureau of Sanitation](#)
- [LA County Sanitation](#)
- [Clean LA Home](#)

A Step Ahead: MVR

MVR is more than an advanced thermal recycling facility, it is a model for trash to energy facilities around the world, and has set the bar for responsible waste management practices. The EU for example, has cited the MVR as a "reference facility" as the best available technology for waste to energy systems. This view is additionally reflected and supported by the German Green Party, who support MVR technology as a sustainable method of achieving their zero waste goals by 2020.

The reason for this is simple: MVR processes over 320,000 metric tons of garbage a year, while maintaining emissions at or below the detection limits of the most sophisticated, state of the art measuring equipment.

At the same time, the cogeneration plant produces a host of commercially viable products including enough electricity to power tens of thousands of homes, enough steam to allow adjunct industry operations to avoid consuming 75,000 tons of oil annually, commercial grade hydrochloric acid, gypsum, ferrous/nonferrous metals, and commercial grade slag.

MVR's incredible emissions profile is of course no accident. Its technology and scrubbing systems were designed to meet stringent air quality requirements through the integration of protective safeguards and innovative scrubbing systems. The system even provides Hamburg's air quality regulatory body with access to 24/7 real time online emissions measurements, providing for transparency, accountability, and added protections. Finally, should slight adjustments be needed to minimize emissions, real time process management technologies allow plant operators to quickly adjust the system to assure maximum efficiency.

MVR is a one-of-a-kind technology, and will continue to be a model for responsible thermal waste conversion facilities into the future.

Questions or Comments?

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