



The GCS Update

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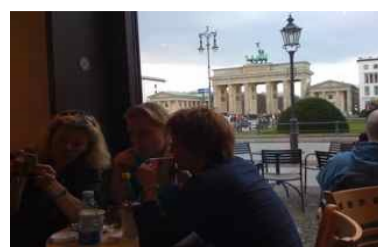
Talkin' Trash in Hamburg, Germany

Early last April, a group of 14 Americans and Germans - including five from California — met in Hamburg to inspect the world's most advanced waste-to-energy conversion technology. The trip was arranged by Green Conversion System (GCS), which was formed to develop sustainable waste treatment technologies in the US and Canada.

GCS currently has proposals under review by several cities, including the City of Los Angeles, to develop "advanced thermal recycling (ATR)" facilities that help keep trash from landfills by instead converting municipal garbage into energy and commercial products.

Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, the company's executive vice president, led the trip to visit the Muellverwertung Rugenberger Damm – better known as the MVR Hamburg facility. The MVR Hamburg facility is the most advanced full-scale facility of its kind, and is built on a proven technology concept. The European Union (EU) cites MVR as its "reference facility" for best available technology for its member countries. This view is additionally reflected and supported by the German Green Party, who cites MVR as best available technology.

GCS, which holds the license for the MVR technology in North America, is proposing to build an advanced replica here in Los Angeles that could power 30,000 homes and would create new green-collar jobs. It also keeps more than 360 thousand tons of garbage from local landfills every year.



Coffee and a view of the Brandenburg Gate

What is ATR?

Advanced Thermal Recycling (ATR) treats municipal garbage at specific temperatures, extracting metals for recycling and generating significant amounts of power. MVR, for example, has extremely high product recovery rates and extremely low levels of emissions: It converts over 98% of waste into usable products, while maintaining emissions that are near or even below detectable levels. This makes MVR the technology of choice for the German Green Party.

—Trip Viewpoints —

"While bringing visitors to MVR helps expand their understanding of waste-to-energy facilities, we benefit from learning something new and relevant with each new delegation. Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, Executive Vice President for GCS.

"A thorough and openly conducted solid waste facility site visit can provide participants with the opportunity to reevaluate and/or confirm previously developed assessments of a facility, and almost always results in a higher level of understanding of how a facility operates both internally and within the context of the larger solid waste management environment." Scott Smithline, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs for Californians Against Waste

"Perception is something we base policy on much too often. This trip allowed me to directly experience first hand the technology, learn about it's development and advances from the experts themselves and come to my own conclusions. A worthwhile experience for anyone that is passionate and wants to make informed decisions on waste and energy." Lee Wallach, President of the Coalition on the Environment

"It was very informative to see how the Green Party of Germany had evolved from a policy of calling for only waste avoidance and recycling and no incineration of any type to a policy position calling for zero waste to landfills and the embracing of "thermal recycling"; and all of this taking place in a span of 20 years. That is quite a shift in policy position for any political party in any democratic society." Larry Smith, Executive Director of Green Way.

Some Photo's From the Most Recent Visit



Hamburg, a metropolis of 2 million inhabitants, was established around 800 A.C. Today it is the city with Germany's largest GDP - about 50% higher than the average German city.



Larry Smith, Executive Director of Green Way™ and Chip Schroeder of GCS, at the ferry landing in the Hamburg Harbor.



On the ferry, Lee Wallach, President of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life and the Environmental Interfaith Council pulls his jacket tight against the 45° air.



Dr. Michael Weltzin, a top advisor within the German Green Party on energy and environmental issues, with Scott Smithline of Californians Against Waste, as one of the most advanced waste water treatment with energy recovery facilities (VERA) passes by on the river Elbe.



The control room of MVR, a facility considered by the European Union (EU) as the example of "best available technology" for waste treatment and recovery.



Left to Right: Scott Smithline, Larry Smith, Lee Wallach, Arnie Berghoff, and Dr. Helmut Schnurer, discuss items such as Germany's 2020 Concept for sustainable waste management policy.

April 2008 Trip Participants

David Lahaie, President, Everygreen Recycling

Lee Wallach, President, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California, Co-Chair, Interfaith Environmental Council

Larry Smith, Executive Director, Green Way™

Scott Smithline, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Californians Against Waste

Arnie Berghoff, President, Arnie Berghoff & Associates

Adi Liberman, Environmental Advisor to GCS

Dr. Walter Schaefer, Fisia Babcock Environment GmbH, Responsible for Waste to Energy Process Technologies

Armin Main, Manager of North American Projects, Fisia Babcock Environment GmbH

Walter Schroeder, CFO, GCS

Dr. Michael Weltzin, Scientific Assistant for Waste Policy, German Green Party

Dr. Helmut Schnurer, Former Deputy Director General, German Federal Ministry for the Environment

Dr. Heiner Zwahr, Built MVR and MVB

Dr. Lars Strehse, Port of Hamburg, (Oversaw the utilization of 450 thousand tons of bottom ash for the carrying layer of the most advanced technological container terminal in the world)

Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, EVP and Director of Technology and En-