



Message from IETC

Waste is a ubiquitous sight in our environment. PET bottles wash up on shores of the most distant islands, plastic has been found in the deepest trenches of our oceans and grocery bags litter the slopes of the tallest mountains. People routinely burn electronics to extract precious metals, without awareness of the impact it has on their health or the environment.

Given the growing amount, complexity and visibility of waste, proper waste management is more crucial than ever. Individuals, companies, cities, and nations all need to become more proactive and pursue a more holistic approach to managing their waste. Such an approach begins with reduction, followed by reuse, and then recycling. Even with these efforts, residual waste needs to be managed using state of the art technologies that ensure this residual waste is handled in an environmentally sound manner.

UNEP IETC is working with our partners to change societal attitudes towards waste. We must all start treating it as the valuable resource it is.

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- This leaflet uses environmentally-friendly paper, ink and printing methods.



International Environmental Technology Centre UNEP IETC



UNEP IETC's Vision

UNEP IETC works with developing countries to implement sustainable solutions to environmental challenges, with focus on holistic waste management.

Who we are

UNEP IETC was established in Osaka, Japan in 1992 with a mandate to facilitate transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. From 2011 onward, our mission has been to serve as a global centre of excellence on Environmentally Sound Technology with focus on holistic waste management.

What we do

We play an important role in UNEP's work on chemicals, waste and air quality. Working with a wide range of partners, including national and local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector, we provide the scientific and technical knowledge and tools necessary to implement environmentally sound waste management. We also support learning and knowledge sharing opportunities around the world including through public outreach activities, expert groups and policy dialogues.

Transforming our world for a more sustainable future

In 2020, we launched a new initiative "UNEP Sustainability Action". This action is an interdisciplinary platform of the United Nations, governments, businesses, citizens and other organizations that aim to promote sustainability in the context of global environmental issues, particularly from the perspective of resource recycling.

Through this initiative, we are creating international networking opportunities among stakeholders and spearheading consumer campaigns to maximize participation in actions to achieve a sustainable society.

For more information see: <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/what-we-do/unep-sustainability-action>



Each year, IETC develop and publishes reports, tools and guidelines to facilitate transitions into sustainable waste and resource management.

Publications (Highlights)



1. Global Waste Management Outlook:GWMO1 (2015) and GWMO2 (2021)
2. Waste Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic: from response to recovery (2020)
3. Waste to Energy (2019, 2020)
4. Future E-waste Scenarios (2019)
5. Gender and waste nexus: Experiences from Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal (2019)
6. Single use Plastics: Roadmap for sustainability (2018)
7. IETC Annual Report (2018, 2019)

* For a full list see: <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/resources>

Outreach



Booth display at the exhibition "EcoPro"

"GENDER AND WASTE NEXUS" video series on YouTube



Yuuna Okanishi's Art Project "Return to True Blue"



"UNEP Sustainability Action" Kick off video/ Concept Video

Conferences and Events (2019 Highlights)



United Nations Environmental Assembly fourth session (UNEA-4)



UNEP Symposium on Plastic Waste Problems – Reducing Ocean Plastic Waste



Workshop on Synergies in Mercury Waste Management

* For a full list see: <https://www.unenvironment.org/ietc/events>