

Dear members of WTERT and friends of the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University,  
The "New Year" is already nearly two months old and I would like to take a few minutes of your time and advise you of some important events:

### **1) Earth Engineering Center (EEC) of Columbia University**

As you can see in the front page of [www.eecny.org](http://www.eecny.org), EEC having contributed much to the advancement of environmental engineering at Columbia, as of this year will concentrate on the principal goal of advancing Sustainable Waste Management worldwide. The resources are the Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council (WTERT, [www.wtert.org](http://www.wtert.org)), the Council for Sustainable Use of Resources (SUR, [www.surcouncil.org](http://www.surcouncil.org)), and Prof. Castaldi's Combustion and Catalysis Laboratory (CCL, [www.seas.columbia.edu/earth/ccl](http://www.seas.columbia.edu/earth/ccl)). In the last two years, SUR has complemented the WTERT studies by means of research on recycling, composting, and landfill gas recovery and use. In January of 2009, SUR and the Energy Recovery Council headed by Ted Michaels also convened a meeting of senior representatives of the U.S. WTE and landfill industries to discuss the carbon footprint of the waste management industry as a whole. The consensus reached can be seen on the SUR web page ([link](#)) as well as a critical review of LCA studies on GHG effects of WTE and sanitary landfilling by Prof. Morton Barlaz of SUR ([link](#)).

### **2) WTERT/SUR 2010 Awards**

As announced in our last Newsletter, the next meeting of WTERT will be held at Columbia University on October 7-8, 2010. This event now takes place every two years and the 2010 program will be very interesting, so plan to attend. The 2010 WTERT/SUR Awards will go to two cities who will be considered to be "City Closest to Sustainable Waste Management", one of them worldwide and the other in North America. The official call for the Awards is attached and I am asking each member, **please**, to submit the name/data of a city that you consider to be worthy of this honor. As for past WTERT Awards, the names and attributes of all cities nominated to these Awards will be publicized after the October 2010 meeting. The overall objective of this "competition" is to encourage better waste management practice all around the world.

### **3) Materials and Energy Recovery (MER) Division of ASME**

As academic member of the "Solid Waste Processing" Division of ASME International, WTERT is pleased to advise you that, in line with the growing importance of resource recovery from wastes, the Executive Committee of SWPD has approved unanimously the new name of "Materials and Energy Recovery (MER)" Division. The Division Chair, Mr. John Norton, has submitted the new name and revised by-laws to ASME and formal change is expected to occur before the next NAWTEC meeting in Orlando, FL (May 11-13). MER/ASME, as usual, is preparing a very interesting technical program for NAWTEC18.

**4)** WTERT-US is pleased to announce the formation of a very important "sister" group to WTERT-US, the organization WtERT-Germany (WERT means "Value" in German!). It is headed by Prof. Martin Faulstich of the University of Munich and Prof. Peter Quicker of the University of Aachen. Most of the WtERT web page ([wtert.ask-eu.de](http://wtert.ask-eu.de)) is in English and contains a lot of very useful information on WTE in E.U. and elsewhere. WtERT is holding its first International Symposium in Brno, Czech Republic, October 13-14, 2010. The focus of this meeting will be on Eastern Europe and will include presentations by Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia/Croatia, Serbia, and Ukraine (see [here](#)).

With greetings from the faculty and graduate students of the Earth Engineering Center,  
Prof. Nickolas Themelis ([njt1@columbia.edu](mailto:njt1@columbia.edu))