

5^a Session: Zerowaste: the necessary utopia

09:00-09:30 Zerowaste strategy for a sustainable society

Abstract.

After a few words about sustainability, Connett will describe the non-sustainable Linear Society. He will discuss its impacts and how the various waste handling practices either mitigate or not mitigate these impacts. He will argue that the only way forward if people are serious about moving from a linear to a sustainable society is to push aggressively towards Zero Waste. He will outline the Ten Steps towards this goal. Many of these steps will be familiar to the audience and have already been proven successful in Italy and other places including California, Belgium and Spain. The most challenging, necessary and promising step as far as getting close to zero waste is step 8. This is the building of a Residual Separation and Zero Waste Research Facility in front of the interim landfills, which will be needed for the next few years in any waste program. Such a facility brings in the necessary discipline needed to reduce waste to negligible levels. It is the place where community responsibility at the back end of the problem meets industrial responsibility at the front end. The community has to say to industry, "If we can't reuse it, recycle it or compost it, you shouldn't be making it!" Connett argues that waste is a design problem. We need our best designers to design waste out of our system. Finally, Connett will discuss his new book, "The Zero Waste Solution: Untrashing the Planet One Community at a Time."