



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Audrey Martin

Email: am@acrplus.org

Tel: +32 2 234 65 07

**WASTE REDUCTION AND IMPROVED WASTE MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE
COULD SAVE MILLIONS OF TONNES CO₂ EMISSIONS**
Learn more at an international conference on waste and climate change

[Brussels, 15 January 2008] On 31 January and 1 February 2008, the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management (ACR+) and London Remade will jointly host an international conference on waste and climate change in London. The conference will present recent studies on the CO₂ balance of waste management options such as prevention, reuse, recycling and energy recovery. The focus will be on the most controversial materials such as plastics, paper and organic waste.

According to a recent study from Ökopol¹, the municipal recycling rate of 37% achieved in EU 25 currently saves 160 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents every year compared to zero recycling. The study estimates that increasing Europe's municipal waste recycling rate from 37% to 65% could save up to 144 million tonnes CO₂ equivalents every year.

While the benefits of recycling are increasingly recognised and known, studies on the benefits of waste prevention at source are still in their infancy. It is estimated that the lifecycle of food from production to waste is responsible for 22% of the UK's 140 million tonnes of domestic CO₂ emissions.

A study by ACR+ member IBGE shows that municipal waste prevention campaigns could allow every European citizen to reduce their carbon footprint by 160 kg. If this was achieved at the global EU 27 level, it would represent a global saving potential of more than 70 million tonnes of CO₂.

ACR+ President Jean-Pierre Hannequart says: "Current available data confirm the need for some hierarchy in waste management: prevention first, followed by reuse, recycling and energy recovery. Besides, the methodologies used to assess the CO₂ balance of waste management options need to be harmonised across Europe".

The international conference on waste and climate change will share best practice in efficient waste management across Europe and assess the impact on greenhouse gases emissions. The conference sessions will cover the following topics:

- the impact of waste management on climate change,
- life cycle analysis and other methods of impact assessment,
- energy balance of waste prevention and reuse,
- energy balance of recycling,
- energy balance of organic and residual waste management,
- energy balance of waste collection and transport.

¹ http://www.foeeurope.org/activities/waste_management/index.htm



Simultaneous translation into French and Spanish will be provided.

To view the full programme:

http://www.londonremade.com/Uploads/medialibrary/conference_programme_15jan08.pdf

To register:

Website www.londonremade.com/acr+conference
Online booking <https://www.ciwm.co.uk/ACR+onlinebooking>
Telephone +44 (0) 1604 620 426
Email events@ciwm.co.uk

Schedule and venue details:

Thursday 31 January (09.00 - 17.00)
Friday 1 February 2008 (08.30 - 13.30)
Royal Institute of British Architects
66 Portland Place
London W1

This conference is supported by:

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The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management (ACR+) is an international network of members who share the common aim of promoting the sustainable consumption of resources and management of waste through prevention at source, reuse and recycling. ACR+ currently has about 90 members, mainly local and regional authorities as well as national networks of local authorities representing around 750 municipalities. ACR+ also welcomes other key players in the sustainable resource-product-waste management, such as NGOs, academic institutions or private organisations, as partner members.

For further information:

Audrey Martin - Email: am@acrplus.org - Tel: +32 2 234 65 07 - www.acrplus.org

Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Resource management (ACR+)
Avenue d'Auderghem 63 - 1040 Bruxelles

Claire Appleby (UK) – Email: claire@londonremade.com – Tel: +44 (0)20 7061 6380 – www.londonremade.com

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