CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS AND ABSTRACTS

The ISWA World Congress is the flagship event of the International Solid Waste Association where practitioners, policy makers, researchers and academics from across the world gather to network, collaborate, learn and inspire!

The next ISWA World Congress is being held in Rotterdam from 28 to 30 September 2020, hosted by the City of Rotterdam and NVRD, Dutch Solid Waste Association. This edition of the conference is significant as it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the association. The conference also marks the completion of the move of the headquarters of the association from Vienna to Rotterdam. The guiding theme of the conference is the transition towards a regenerative economy which will encompass the congress’ topics and create consistency. During the course of the congress we will work towards a Rotterdam memorandum as a deliverable of the congress.

In contrast to previous ISWA World Congress editions, we are steering towards much more interactive sessions. In order to achieve this there will first be a call for sessions, followed by a call for abstracts. For the call for sessions, proposals can be made for open and closed (curated) sessions which have a different format than the traditional parallel sessions with PowerPoint presentations. Based on the response on the call for sessions the number, format and topics of different sessions will be determined. The call for sessions will be followed by a call for abstracts in which it is possible to propose a contribution to one the selected open sessions or to propose a traditional abstract for PowerPoint presentation. The call for sessions and the call for abstracts will both be open for a period of 6 weeks. The deadlines for sessions proposals or abstract submissions will not be extended.

Call for Sessions

1 Guidelines for session proposals

Session proposals can be closed (curated) sessions or open sessions. In case of a closed session the organiser defines the topic and format of the session and invites all speakers/contributors in the session. Closed sessions therefore require the session proposal to include details of all the speakers/contributors. A proposal for a closed session should have details of:

- the topic (based on the topics in paragraph 3),
- details of all speakers / presenters in the session, including short biographies and photo of each speaker / presenter
- format of the session (see suggested formats in paragraph 3),
- moderator/chair of the session
- description of the session flow (maximum 300 words)
- results of the session and how these are reported in the conference proceedings.

Closed sessions will be accepted or declined as such by the Programme Committee.

In case of an open session, the session organiser defines the topic and format of the session, invites one or more speakers to moderate/chair the session, but advertise for and accept contributions from the wider community through their own networks and the conference
website. All contributions for an open session will need to be submitted via the conference abstract submission process. The conference Programme Committee may also suggest additional contributors to the session. An open session proposal should have details of:

- the topic (based on the list of topics in paragraph 3)
- format of the session (see suggested formats in paragraph 3)
- description of the session flow (maximum 300 words)
- results of the session and how these are reported in the conference proceedings

Proposals for open sessions may be initially accepted or declined by the Programme Committee. The final approval for an open session will be dependent on the results of the call for abstracts for open sessions.

Submissions of session proposals can be made online through the online submission portal. Submissions must be in English and may only be made once. There is a limit of two session submissions for a single person. One can save their application in draft format and edit until they are ready for final submission. Before submitting, please carefully read the instructions in the online form, the criteria, conditions and important dates given below.

All session proposals will be reviewed by at least 2 members of the ISWA 2020 World Congress review panel. The conference Programme Committee will make the final decision.

**Conditions of acceptance**

By submitting a session proposal or an abstract, authors agree to publication of abstracts and session results, on the conference website and in other conference materials such as the Conference Proceedings.

Authors also agree to publication of photos, video recordings or live streaming of the session and presentations.

The Programme Committee of ISWA 2020 World Congress is the final arbiter of:

- Whether the session proposal or abstract is accepted or rejected
- Whether it will be an oral or a poster presentation
- The session in which the abstract will be placed (except for closed sessions)
- The date and time that the presentations will take place

**Please note:** All accepted presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fees.

## 2 Guidelines for abstract submissions

Abstracts can be submitted either for one of the accepted open sessions, or for a traditional PowerPoint presentation in a parallel session.

An abstract should contain at least the following information:

- Topic of the session (according to paragraph 3), a maximum of 2 topics can be selected.
- Abstract of the content of the contribution/presentation (maximum 300 words)
- Short biography and photo
Submissions of abstracts can be made online through the online submission portal. Submissions must be in English and may only be made once. One can save their application in draft format and edit until they are ready for final submission. Before submitting, please carefully read the instructions in the online form, the criteria, conditions and important dates given below.

All abstracts should directly link to at least one conference theme. Authors should make every effort to craft a well-written abstract and ensure that the abstract is easy to read and understand. We suggest that authors keep sentences simple, use the active voice and spell out any abbreviations or acronyms. There is a limit of two abstract submissions for a single registered presenting author. However, this does not exclude the opportunity to be a co-author in an unlimited number of abstracts or the opportunity to submit a session proposal separately. Abstracts may be submitted for either oral presentation or poster presentation. Oral presentations should not exceed 20 minutes of speaking time.

All abstracts will be reviewed by at least 2 members of the ISWA 2020 World Congress review panel. The conference Programme Committee will make the final decision.

**Conditions of acceptance**

By submitting an abstract, authors agree to publication of the abstract, if accepted, on the conference website and in other conference materials such as the Conference Proceedings. Authors also agree to publication of photos, video recordings or live streaming of the presentations.

The Programme Committee of ISWA 2020 World Congress is the final arbiter of:

- Whether the abstract is accepted or rejected
- Whether it will be an oral or a poster presentation
- The session in which the abstract will be placed
- The date and time that the presentations will take place

Please note: All accepted presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fees.

3 **List of topics and session formats**

The 2020 ISWA World Congress is committed to generating a rich and stimulating discourse and providing a platform for engagement between and within the science, practice and policy communities. To achieve this, we invite proposals for sessions and individual abstracts in all areas related to sustainable waste and resource management, and in particular, aligning with the following key conference themes:

3.1 **Waste treatment and Recycling:**

Within this theme we aim to target the latest developments in the area of waste treatment and recycling. This is a considerably large area of interest and it involves all processes that deal with the transformation of waste into resources, processes to neutralize hazardous aspects of waste and the effective management of products and materials. This theme is mainly technology driven and includes, but is not limited to, sub-topics such as:
- Transformation of dumpsites
- (sustainable) Landfill
- Waste to Energy
- Healthcare waste management
- Hazardous waste management
- Biowaste treatment technologies
- Textile and fibre sorting and recycling
- Plastics and plastic packaging sorting and recycling
- Recycling of Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment
- Bulky waste recycling, including waste wood, furniture and carpets
- Emerging and innovative technologies for sorting, recycling and treatment
- Low tech and informal recycling

3.2 Circular and low carbon economy:
A circular economy is not only an economy that successfully manages its resources but it’s also a low-carbon, climate neutral and inclusive economy. The transition to achieve this will be a new revolution that changes our way of life and thinking. We will explore the different ideas and approaches how we should invoke and manage this transition. This pillar in the congress is more systemic and policy orientated and includes, but is not limited to, topics such as:
- Sustainable business models
- Transition management
- Circular funding and financing
- Climate change
- Carbon free economy
- Circular products
- Waste and resource policy development
- Extended producer responsibility
- Monitoring of waste and resources

3.3 Innovation in cities
According to the UN nearly 70% of the world’s population will be living in urban areas by 2050. Today already 55% of the population is living in cities. The effective management of waste and resource management in an urban environment will therefore become increasingly important. Urban environments present specific challenges such as lack of space in and around people’s homes as well as in the built environment, congestion, looser social structures. At the same time there are opportunities in the form of smart and high-tech solutions such as sensor technology and data driven waste and resource management. Large and diverse communities of people living together also present specific challenges when it comes to communication and behavioural change which can also be addressed in this pillar of the program. Possible sub-topics include:
- Waste & resource management in big and megacities
  - Examples of closing loops within a city’s ecosystem
- Technological innovations in waste and resource collection
- Urban mining
- Digitalization of waste and resource management
  - The use of big data and the protection of privacy
  - Artificial intelligence and robotization
• Communication, education and behavioural change
• Waste prevention approaches
• Anti-littering approaches

3.4 Marine litter
The management of marine litter is an increasingly complex issue. It’s estimated that our seas will soon contain more (plastic) litter than fish. This litter accumulates in the eco-system, breaks down to micro-plastics, kills marine wildlife and eventually ends up on our plate. The effects of which to human health are still largely unknown. As a port city Rotterdam has special attention for the management of marine litter. For this theme we welcome submissions that for example address:
• Prevention of marine litter and plastic soup
• Ocean and river cleaning technologies
• Prevention and capture of micro plastics from consumer products
• Effects of micro plastics

3.5 Construction & Demolition waste
Most of the resources that we use end up as a stock in our infrastructure, such as buildings, roads, networks etc. and remain there for decades or even centuries. Managing our infrastructure and build environment from a circular resource perspective is therefore essential. Once demolished, the arising construction and demolition waste presents one of the largest waste streams, with a very high recycling potential. More challenging maybe is the question how we secure that we will be able to retrieve resources more effectively from our build environment in the future. At the same time, we can expect an increase in disaster waste, due to more extreme weather conditions caused by climate change. Management of disaster waste presents challenges in its own. Rotterdam, a city that was largely destroyed and rebuild, has a special relation with construction and demolition waste as well as disaster waste management. This theme invites submissions that address:
• Circular and disassemble construction concepts
  o Material Passports
• Disassembly of buildings and infrastructure
• Reuse and recycling of building materials and components from buildings
• Innovation in the sorting and recycling of construction & demolition waste
• Disaster waste management

Types of sessions
In an Open Session, the session organisers define the topic and format of the session, invite one or more speakers to moderate/chair the session, but advertise for and accept contributions from the wider community through their own networks. All contributions for an open session will need to be submitted via the conference abstract submission process. The conference Program Committee may suggest additional contributors to the session.

In a Closed Session, the session organisers define the topic and format of the session, and invite all speakers/contributors in the session. Closed sessions
therefore require the session proposal to include details of all the speakers/contributors.

For both types of sessions we also ask to indicate what the session will deliver in the end and in what way it contributes to the congress as a whole.

Session formats
To maximize the opportunity for active sharing of knowledge, experiences and ideas the following session formats can be used. This sum of formats is not a limited one, other sessions formats are welcomed as well.

Discussion session
In a discussion a more controversial theme is discussed. The format consists of two or more introductions with different opinions and arguments. A discussion leader will facilitate the discussion and will try to get all pros and cons at the table. In the start the discussion will be between the invited opponents, but eventually the audience will become more and more involved. The result of the session can be a report of the discussion together with the pros and cons and the arguments.

Collaborative workshop session
In a collaborative workshop an approach / solution for a relevant issue is developed. This session type requires and involved audience with a certain level of knowledge or expertise on the topic. The format may consist of an expert introduction into the backgrounds of the issue and a session leader. Break out groups may be formed in order to discuss or work on different aspects of the issue and to come up with ideas and solutions. These can be presented and discussed in a plenary feedback moment. Possibly also ideas and solutions can be ranked by the participants, leading to a selection of most promising solutions or strategy to address the issue at stake.

World Café
This format begins with the first of two or more rounds of discussion for groups of 4-6 seated around a table. Each round is prefaced with a selected question. At the end of every 15-20 minute round, each member of the group moves to a different table. They may or may not choose to leave one person as the “table host” for the next round, who welcomes the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round. Once all rounds have been completed, key points from each table are presented to the whole group for a final collective discussion.

Talent Show
The talent show format is ideal for presenting projects, demonstrating technology or pitching ideas. Participants have 3-5 minutes to demonstrate their concepts and, ideally, this is done visually with props to create a “show”. After the demonstrations and presentations, the audience is asked to vote on their favourite. A presenter helps to introduce the acts and keep the audience engaged.
Campfire Sessions
These sessions are set in a laid-back environment to simulate the atmosphere of storytelling by the campfire. The facilitator introduces a topic and lets the participants create content themselves through discussion. For the remainder of the session, the presenter becomes a facilitator, inviting comments, insights and questions from those around the room. Campfire sessions allow attendees to drive their own learning and share experiences with others, which also assists with networking and building new connections.

Participatory or Interactive Art
This type of session will allow presenters to share a concrete sustainable waste management experience in an interactive format and provide the audience with an opportunity to think about sustainable waste management in a lateral manner. This format includes submissions of theatre, art and design installations or other such projects. The format involves the multi-sensory presentation of material (visual, audio, physical, etc.) that will engage the audience and involve their participation.

Other formats
We welcome you to come up with your own session format as well. Please provide a description of how you will organize it and what you are working towards.

4 Review criteria
Our main criteria for selection will be quality, relevance, diversity and inclusivity, originality, contribution towards circularity & sustainability. These aspects will each be scored on a 5 point scale. The total number of points defines the ranking. We particularly welcome sessions that:

- Facilitate dialogue between research and practitioners, government, civil society, international agencies and business
- Contribute to a diverse and balanced programme that focuses on solutions and innovations
- Link circular economy action to climate change, sustainable development, investment and planning.
- Contribute to a conference programme with a wide range of topics, stakeholders, scales and regions
- Showcase examples (case studies, best practices, tools) or research that are internationally applicable
- Fit a 60 to 90 minute time slot (It is also possible to arrange for two or three linked sessions around a particular topic)
5 Deadlines/data review/notification/program set up
The call for sessions is open from 13 January 2020 up to and including 1 March 2020. The deadline is final and will not be extended.

Submitters of sessions will receive a notification of acceptance or decline by 13 March 2020.

The call for abstracts is open from 16 March up to and including 1 May 2020. The deadline is final and will not be extended.

Submitters of abstracts will receive a notification of acceptance or decline by 1 June 2020.

The program will be published by 15 June 2020.

6 Other

Email address for Congress by Design
If you have any questions regarding the submissions of session proposals or abstracts, please direct your questions to iswa2020@congressbydesign.com.