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ASSOCIATION
OF CITIES
AND REGIONS
FOR RECYCLING
AND SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

ZERO WASTE?

Philip Heylen,
Vice Mayor for Culture, Economy, City Maintenance and Property Management
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Flanders

- Flanders? Waste management is regional matter in Belgium
 - ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ of all residential waste is reused, recycled or composted
 - ▶ From disposal, separate collection to source separation, recycling and prevention
 - ▶ Landfill ban for residential waste, home composting, pay as you throw,...
 - ▶ Since waste decree 1981, goals have always been met and exceeded
 - ▶ Yearly cost? € 200/habitant



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Affordable sustainable waste management?

- Outstanding results in our countries
- Long history, resulting in excellent regulatory framework, best available technology, high public acceptance and involvement
- Considerable financial investment



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No two countries are similar

1. Developed, well-off countries, with scarcity of open space
2. Developed, well-off countries, with lots of open space
3. Developing, impecunious countries, with lots of open space



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- We are first of class, but our solutions are not 1:1 applicable
 - ▶ Too expensive?
 - ▶ Matter of priorities?

- Environment does not respect country borders
 - ▶ What price are we willing to pay?
 - ▶ €10 extra investments in our country = marginal result
Invest that same €10 in developing countries?
 - ▶ Only one way forward: dialogue, solidarity



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“What is the use of a house if we don’t have a decent planet to put it on?”

Henry David Thoreau

“The world we have created today has problems which cannot be solved by thinking the way we thought when we created them.”

Albert Einstein



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