



Ted Michaels
President
Energy Recovery Council

Presented by Harvey Gershman
President
Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc.

WASTECON
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THE CASE FOR POLICIES THAT SUPPORT ENERGY RECOVERY

Overview

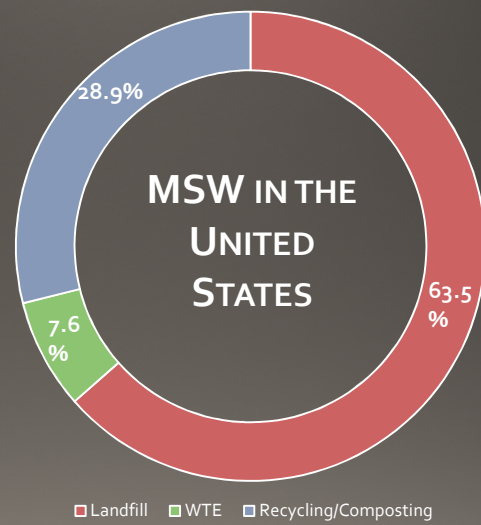
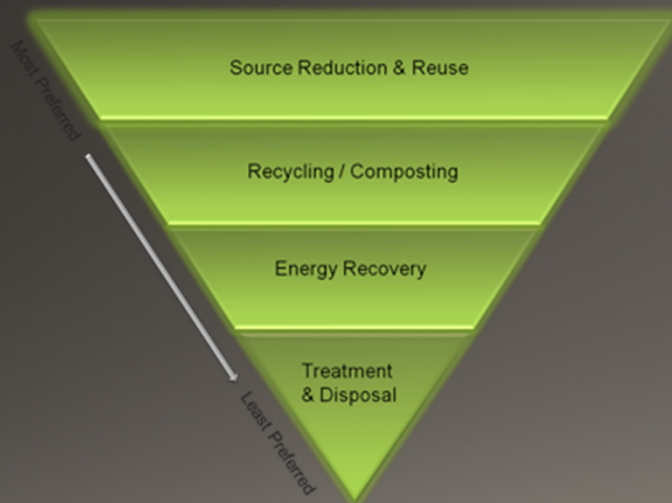
- **ENERGY**— Waste is an abundant, underutilized, and valuable domestic energy resource.
- **RECOVERY** — Recovery of energy and materials from waste reduces the use of virgin materials for products and energy.
- **POLICY** — Absent thoughtful, targeted policy incentives to change market behaviors, the least-cost disposal options will continue to dominate – which tends to undermine both energy and material recovery opportunities.

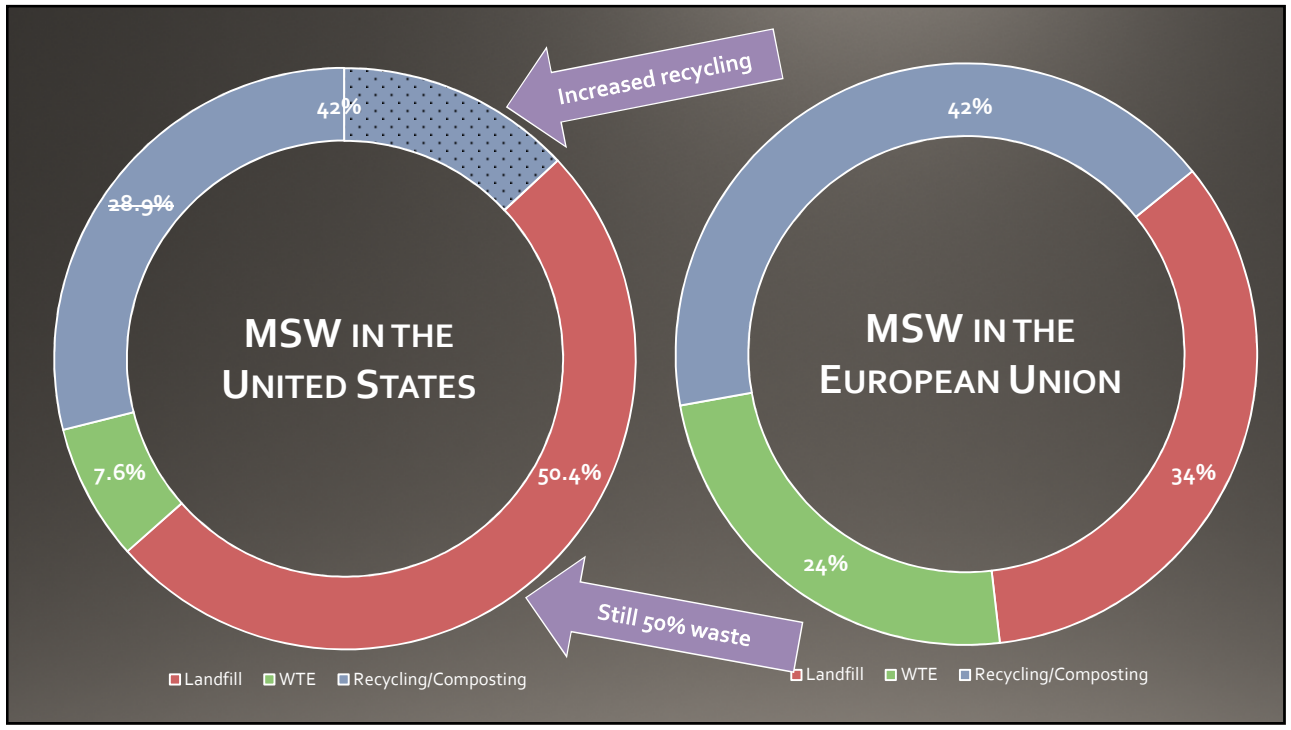
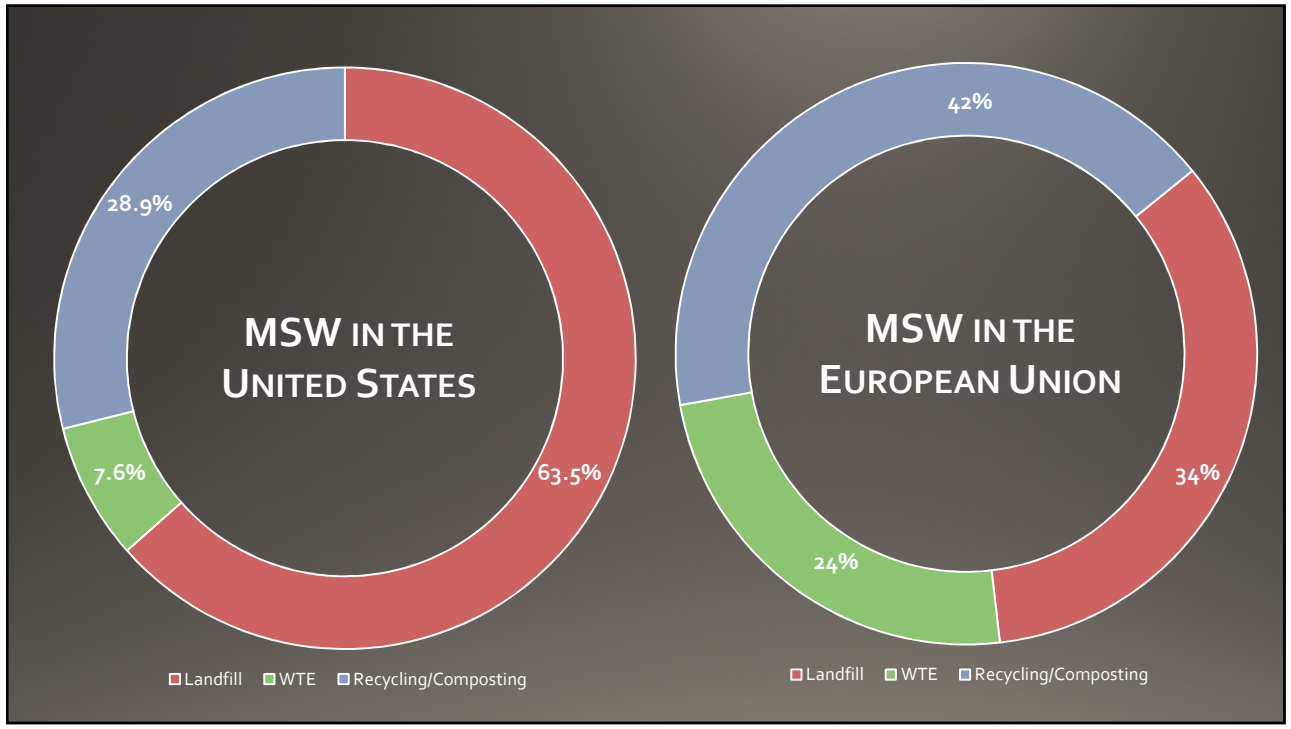
Resource Conservation and Recovery

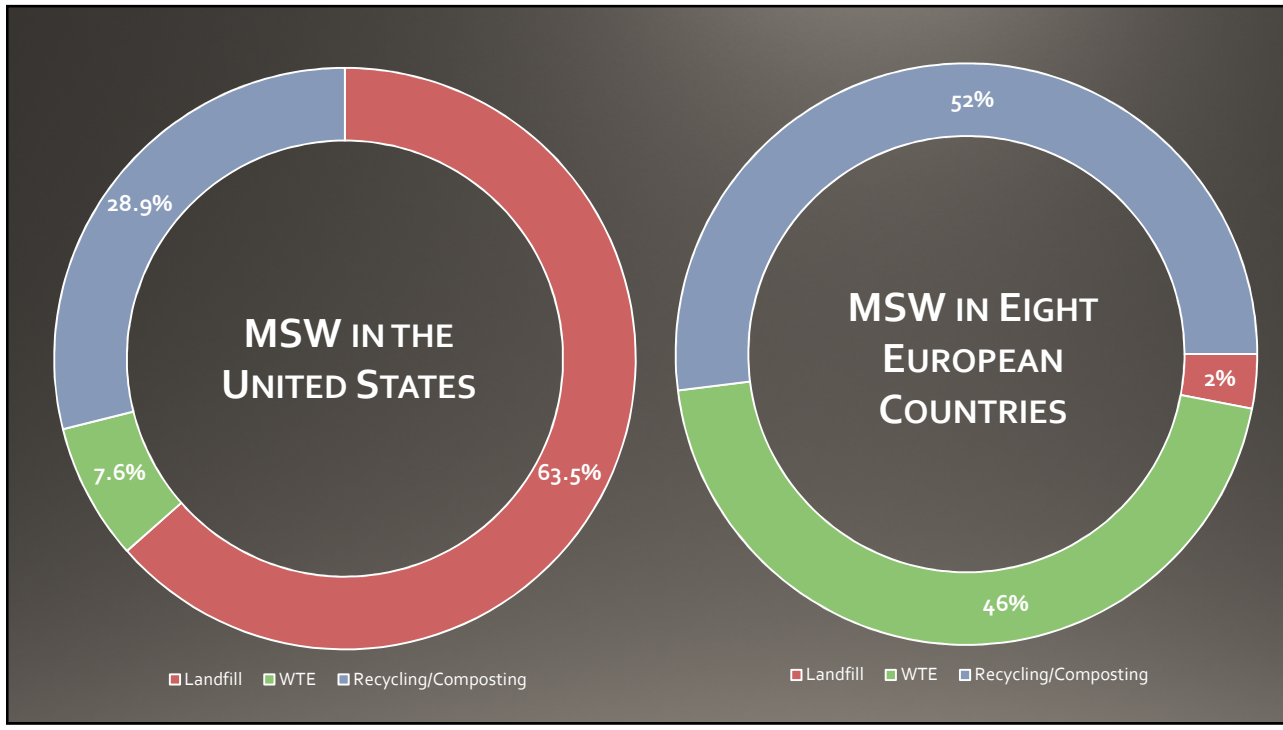
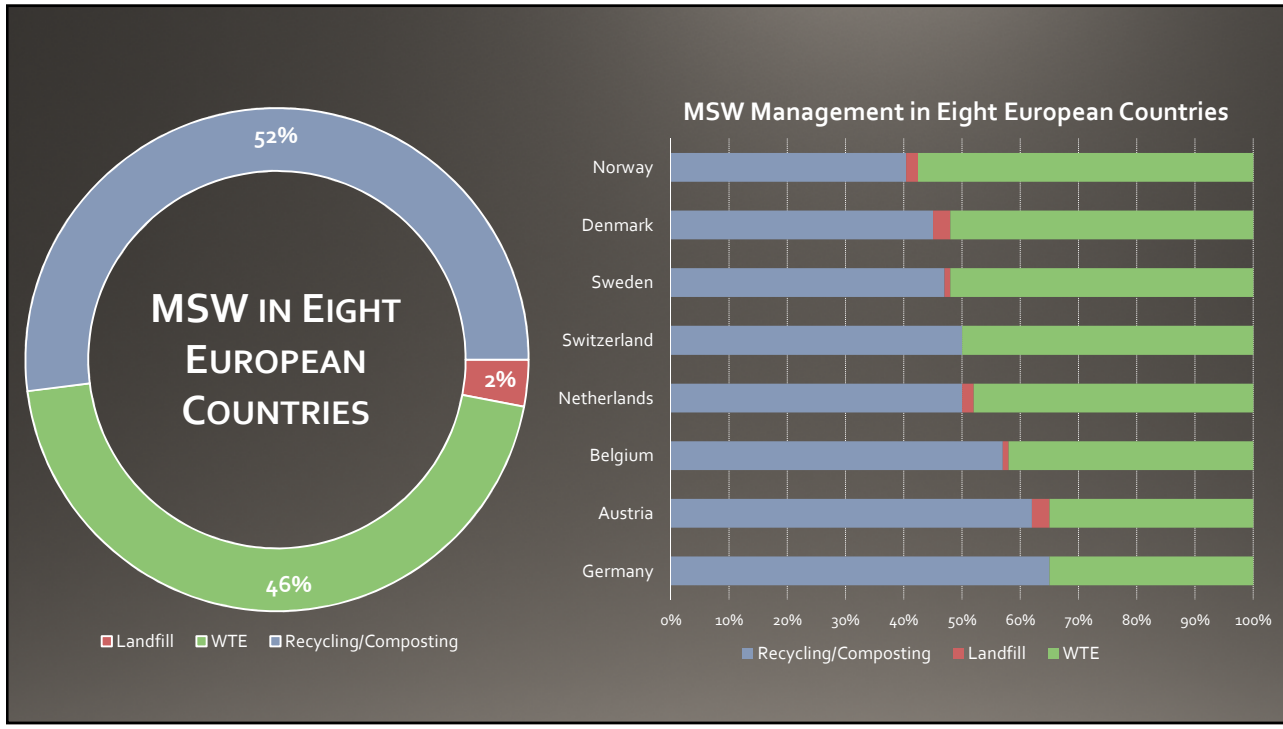
- Solid waste policy in the United States was established by the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976**
- RCRA Objective: **maximize the utilization of valuable resources and to encourage resource conservation**
- Subsequent policies have largely failed to support RCRA's objectives

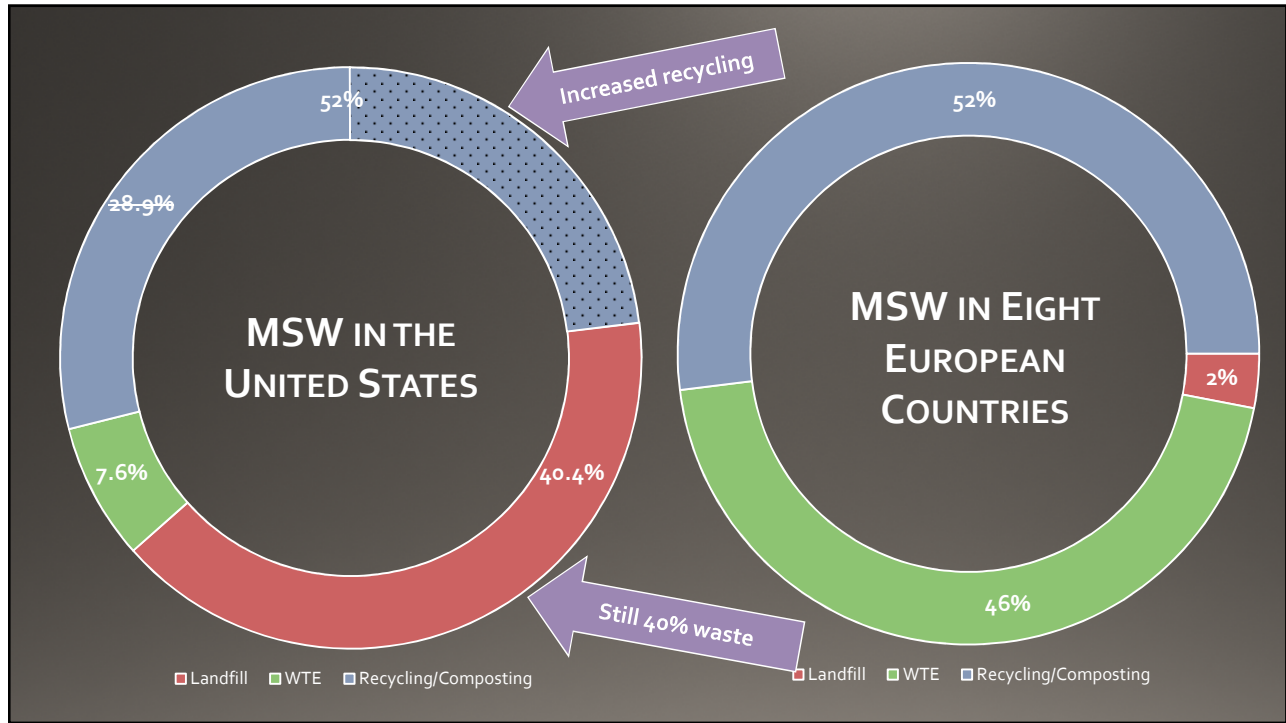
Policy Failure

EPA Solid Waste Management Hierarchy









Policies that Support Changes in Market Behavior

Objective: minimize use of virgin material for products and energy

Strategy: resource recovery and conservation

Tactic: establish policies that support RECOVERY of materials and energy

Value of Material/Energy

+

(Cost of Recovery)

+

(Profit Margin)

+

Value of Policy Support

= Economic Viability

or

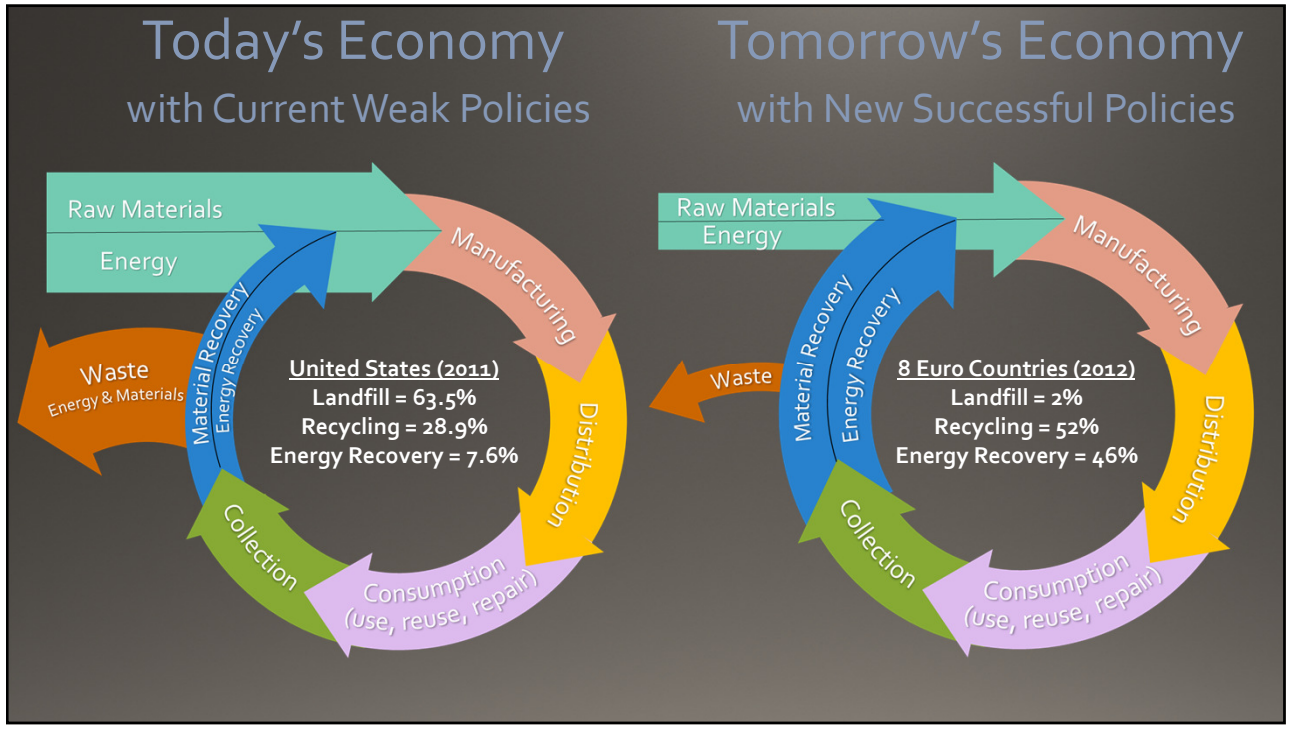
= (Economic Viability)

Economic Viability

If economic viability is positive, recovery technologies are deployed and energy and materials are recovered.

(Economic Viability)

If economic viability is negative, current policies are insufficient and resources are wasted. New policies supporting the economic viability of material and energy recovery are needed.



ENERGY
RECOVERY COUNCIL

GBB
SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS

Ted Michaels
President
Energy Recovery Council
2200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 310
Arlington, VA 22201
202-467-6240
tmichaels@energyrecoverycouncil.org

Presented by:
Harvey Gershman
President
Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc.
8550 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 304
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-573-5800
hgershman@gbbinc.com