



PRESS RELEASE

GLOBAL WASTE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Cal Poly's Global Waste Research Institute Adds Technical Advisory Board To Prepare For Next Stage of Growth

Multi-national group of distinguished academics and industry representatives selected to Board to help address current and emerging issues in waste and byproduct management including National Academy of Engineering's Grand Challenges

San Luis Obispo, June 7, 2011 — The [Global Waste Research Institute](http://www.gwri.calpoly.edu) (GWRI) announced today that it has established a Technical Advisory Board in preparation for its next stage of growth. The advisory board will support the Institute's current and specific research activities in line with the [Grand Challenges for Engineering](#) designated by the National Academy of Engineering.

The new [advisory board members](#), made up of a diverse multi-national group of distinguished academics and industry representatives add to the Institute's growing brain trust to advance the development of new strategies and methodologies for improved management of wastes and industrial byproducts worldwide.

"We are very pleased to have such a diverse group of industry luminaries join our Technical Advisory Board to help address the risk to human life and the environment posed by the world's ever growing population and evolving industries," said GWRI's Director [Dr. Nazli Yesiller](#). "New waste and byproduct streams in the 21st century such as those containing nano-particles, radioactive and biological matter, and genetic material, will create a new set of unique disposal and management challenges in comparison to current forms of waste. The Technical Advisory Board was established along with other infrastructure initiatives to help the Institute move toward its next stage of growth to becoming the de-facto global educational and practicing platform to discover new technologies and sustainable practices for waste and byproduct management in the new millennium."

Craig Benson, distinguished professor, department of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and newly elected advisory board member continued, "My colleagues and I are pleased to be on-board and applaud Cal

Poly and the Global Waste Research Institute's initiative to create a centralized hub for educating and engaging faculty, students, academia and interested parties worldwide in helping to advance current global practices in resource and waste management. We look forward to contributing to GWRI's continued growth, and supporting their effort in addressing some of the academy's 'Grand Challenges'."

GWRI has set up a specific set of [fellowship giving opportunities](#) to support research activities in line with the Grand Challenges for Engineering designated by the National Academy of Engineering. The particular challenges that are targeted include:

- Restore and improve urban infrastructure: Good design and advanced materials can improve transportation, energy, water, and waste management systems, and also create more sustainable urban environments. In particular, sustainable waste management technologies and beneficial reuse of residual wastes and byproducts directly relate to restoring and improving urban infrastructure.

- Develop carbon sequestration methods: Engineers are working on ways to capture and store excess carbon dioxide to prevent global warming. In particular, sustainable waste management and waste to energy technologies and design and construction of carbon dioxide storage infrastructure directly relate to carbon sequestration.

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About the Global Waste Research Institute

The Global Waste Research Institute (GWRI), located in San Luis Obispo, California, is a collaborative effort between Cal Poly and industry to promote the development of sustainable waste and byproduct management technologies and advance current practices in resource management.

The San Luis Obispo based institute, located on Cal Poly's campus and headed by Director Dr. Nazli Yesiller, engages faculty and students in projects that investigate all aspects of wastes and byproducts from initial generation to final disposal. The Institute provides training for students, professional community, regulators, and the general public in sustainable waste and byproduct management domestically and abroad, and contributes to the overall educational focus and 'learn-by-doing' mission of Cal Poly. Additionally, the Institute actively promotes international partnerships that help mature and developing countries 'transform waste into opportunities'. To learn more about GWRI — please visit www.gwri.calpoly.edu or call Dr. Nazli Yesiller at (805) 756-2932.