

<http://www.sustainicum.at//modules/view/22>

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## T.O.Y.S. – Trash Of Your Society

*'T.O.Y.S. - trash of your society' is an interdisciplinary, cross-border and socio-cultural project, that bridges the gap between art, journalism, science, economy and sociopolitical commitment. The project uses different creative, documentary and analytical methods to approach the topic, definition and handling of waste from a socio-economical and socio-political perspective.*

*The building block gives an overview on the results of the research trip through West Africa. The global interrelations of waste life cycles are illustrated and ecologic, social and legal aspects are discussed.*

The aim of this presentation is to raise awareness among students concerning the problem of global waste life cycles. Documentary material gathered during the waste expedition in the course of the art project 'T.O.Y.S. - trash of your society' will be presented and specific initiatives and the corresponding problems will be discussed.

First, the goals and the process of the art project and the journey linked to the project will be explained.

Afterwards, definite results will be presented. The situation will be illustrated by three categories, namely landfill sites, best practice – recycling initiatives and African waste trade, whereas West Africa is taken as an example. Given the fact that the situation on the landfill sites seems desolate and hopeless, the recycling cooperatives of the NGOs are very surprising. The third aspect of the waste trade between developed and developing countries highlights the inadequate application of regulations. The global waste trade and the ensuing incalculable consequences will be illustrated by means of examples.

The **presentation** including the **accompanying text and explanatory notes** for lecturers as well as video footage for 9 topics will be made available to be used as a starting point for **discussions**. The material should also serve as basis for further analysis of this complex subject. The interdisciplinary approach of the various aspects of the discussions is well suited for such a complex matter and highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach to finding a solution.

The presentation takes about one hour. The time needed for the discussion depends on in what detail the topic is approached. Work in **small groups** is recommended if there is a total of 30 participants.

There are no **prerequisites**.

Files attached:

1 PowerPoint presentation – ppt & pdf  
1 accompanying text and explanatory notes for lecturers - pdf  
1 Document with ideas for further discussions – pdf

**ÖFOS item(s)** ([see ÖFOS 2012](#))

1070 - Other Natural Sciences

2071 - Environmental Engineering  
2119 - Technical Sciences not elsewhere classified  
3059 - Human Medicine, Health Sciences not elsewhere classified  
5070 - Human Geography, Regional Geography, Regional Planning  
6031 - Philosophy, Ethics

### **Learning targets**

By authentically presenting the results of the project, the students should get an understanding of global waste life cycles. They should also reflect their own actions and try to come up with solutions to the waste problem. By this reflection the students might change their own consumer behavior.

### **Relevance for sustainability**

Waste is a fundamental problem of our time. The understanding of global interrelations is very important for future management executives who make decisions and institutions for education and research who try to illustrate these interrelations.

### **Type: Building block includes primarily**

Written material, document(s) from/for presentations  
Video  
Course concept

### **Usage**

Not dependent on course type

### **Social setting**

Individual work  
Work in pairs  
Group work

### **Group size**

Independent of the number of students

### **Time required (including time needed by students outside of the course)**

30 to 90 minutes

## **Preparation efforts needed for (non-specialized) lecturers**

low

## **When using this resource, a connection to the web is**

necessary

## **Access (for lecturers and students)**

Free of charge

## **Language**

English German

## **Funded by**

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