

**FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 7. Waste

Intervention by the Serbian Cleaner Production Centre¹

A. What strategies could countries apply to address problems related to growing volume of waste such as e-waste, energy and material efficiency problems and related pollution?

Countries are encouraged to base their waste management policy and practice on the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycling (3R) to minimize the volume of waste to be dealt with. For industrial and commercial wastes, waste generation prevention can be achieved through the methods, policies and technologies of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP). RECP is promoted through the network of National Cleaner Production Centres, which is active in 13 countries in the ECE region. These centres support businesses and other organizations with identification and implementation of waste minimization opportunities.

C. What is the most effective way of changing perceptions about waste in business and civil society?

The economics of waste are generally underestimated, leaving a need to promote total cost accounting, to include all costs of waste treatment and disposal and the value of materials contained in waste streams. Attention should also be focused on the opportunity for creation of new businesses and jobs in advanced waste minimization and management services and technologies, i.e. through new green industries that contribute to green economy.

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¹ On behalf of the Serbian Cleaner Production Centre and Joint UNIDO/UNEP RECP Network. The text is presented as received from the author.