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## What is WMI?

It is the **Waste Management Institute** of the **Marine Sciences Research Center** at the **State University of New York, Stony Brook**.

## What does WMI do?

The goal of **WMI** is to reduce the impact of waste generation and disposal on our society and to search for creative uses of waste through a program of

- \* Research
- \* Environmental Assessment
- \* Policy Analysis
- \* Education

## RESEARCH

- **WMI** is uniquely qualified to tackle this goal through research because we are part of a marine sciences center within a leading university — SUNY Stony Brook . . .

. . . With some of the leading researchers in the nation . . .

. . . Researchers concerned with all aspects of our environment — aquatic, terrestrial and atmospheric processes . . .

. . . Giving us access to the best scientific and technical expertise.



V. ARMSTRONG

*The rising costs of managing waste will require innovative ideas and efficient solutions.*



THE WASTE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE  
MARINE SCIENCES RESEARCH CENTER  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
STONY BROOK, NEW YORK 11794-5000





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V. RIEGER

*Recreate/recreation  
 — to create anew; to  
 revive with  
 refreshment.*



R. YOUNG

*Shell burn disease (dark spots on the top of the shell) on the red crab *Geryon quinque-dens*, taken from a submarine canyon near the New York Bight. Current research addresses the prevalence and cause of the disease.*



F. ROETHEL

*This reef built of blocks made from incineration ash aggregate is an innovative effort to find creative, environmentally safe uses for waste materials.*



V. BRESLIN

*Degradable plastics are being tested for rates of decomposition and environmental effects at this landfill site, in marine water, and in various soil types.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- **WMI** researchers already have a broad base of knowledge about Long Island's precious water resources . . . and we are close to the problems . . .
    - \* a stone's throw from Long Island Sound
    - \* a quick drive to Long Island's bays and the Atlantic Ocean
    - \* on top of our groundwater
- . . . and **WMI** is located near New York City where the shortage of waste disposal space and a high population density present complex problems.

*What we learn now about managing waste in such a large metropolitan area may be of future value to other large urban centers throughout the country — and the world.*

## POLICY ANALYSIS

- **WMI** is an independent research entity, and thus able to examine waste management issues objectively and over a long term — the time needed to study these problems thoroughly.
- **WMI** is working to advise legislators and agencies to establish and carry out environmental legislation — to help establish guidelines that are workable and can accomplish the intended goals.

## EDUCATION

- **WMI** is offering a New York State Advanced Certificate Program in Waste Management. The 18-credit program is conducted through the School of Continuing Education (CED) of SUNY Stony Brook.

- **WMI** periodically holds colloquia and workshops with invited guest speakers from all over the country — people who are leaders in their field — to discuss the latest topics in waste management.

## What are the waste management problems?

We on Long Island have a fragile environment that needs special protection . . .

- \* Our groundwater is our only source of drinking and agricultural irrigation water.
- \* Our Sound and bays provide much of our seafood and recreation.
- \* Our population on Long Island alone is over 8 million.
- \* Long Island has over 132 designated superfund waste disposal sites which need to be cleaned up or safely contained.
- \* Our landfills are slated to be closed by 1990, and we are already looking for alternate means to dispose of waste.

*We live in a fragile environment on Long Island . . . an island with a vulnerable aquifer, pristine eastern bays and a burgeoning population.*



R.G. FOWLAND



R.G. FOWLAND

... In New York's urban centers there is a diversity of new, complex and challenging waste management problems ...

- \* The population of the New York metropolitan region is over 20 million — lack of space preempts many options normally available to suburban and rural areas.
- \* Our metropolitan region has an important harbor - estuary, beaches and bays used by many people.

### What is WMI doing about these problems?

We are currently working on ...

- \* Degradable plastics — testing these new products in our environment, measuring the effects on organisms that may consume the plastic residues as these plastics decompose.
- \* New York Bight restoration plan — documenting the economic and social impairment of the many uses of this stretch of water as a consequence of marine pollution.
- \* Construction materials created from waste incineration ash — testing these for their durability in construction use on shore and in shore erosion reduction offshore, and as a safe and clean method of disposing of incineration ash.
- \* Medical and other floatable wastes — analyzing sources and transport processes in marine systems.
- \* Recycling waste materials—aiding in development of various recycling projects and programs by providing information, guidance and resources.

R.G. ROWLAND



*Solving such complex problems as waste in our environment will require an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach. We will need collaboration with all areas of science.*

So, **WMI** is not just about garbage and trash. **WMI** is about a whole lot more going on in our environment.

... Our goal is about preserving the health of Long Island's and New York's coastal marine waters and the health of organisms that live in them and ...

... about educating the citizens in our area — to share the latest information we have on waste management problems and solutions;

... about advising legislators and governmental agencies making policies and passing laws concerning the environment.

... Our goal relies on dialog and cooperation between scientists, environmentalists, industrialists, government, our citizens.

### Now that you know what we can do, what can you do?

You can be informed about your environment. You can contact us about getting more information — more printed materials, a speaker to talk to your organization or group, answers to questions you might have about waste management and our environment.

WRITE TO US, OR CALL —

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