

Sustainability & Mission: STUFF

OVERVIEW:

Spiritual nature of stuff

Around the Table – Why did we attend today?

The flip side of the coin, Going Without ... Hope

Our Natural Resource Extraction Systems

Discussion

Let's look at what we throw out (and where we throw it to)

What is Xavier doing? Tour!

Key to resources: Shown during lunchtime **Highly recommended**

Spiritual nature of stuff

How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Dr. Suess cartoon. We watch 0:19-0:25, the transformation of the Grinch and the Whoville party.

<http://www.kwakiutl.bc.ca/culture/potlatch.htm> "Within the tribal groups of these areas, individuals hosting a potlatch give away most, if not all, of their wealth and material goods to show goodwill to the rest of the tribal members and to maintain their social status."

Potlatch



The flip side of the coin, Going Without ... Hope

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low-income> Wikipedia definition of poverty: the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. Absolute poverty or destitution refers to the deprivation of basic human needs, which commonly includes food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter, health care and education. Relative poverty is defined contextually as economic inequality.

<http://npc.umich.edu/poverty/#4> How does poverty differ across subgroups?

<http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2011/09/pove-s22.html> "Poverty Soars among young families in US," from World Socialist Web Site. The report notes, "Among young families with children residing in the home, 4 of every 9 were poor or near poor and close to 2 out of 3 were low income in 2010." In other words, the broad majority of young families across the country are struggling to meet the cost of basic needs

http://nccp.org/publications/pub_829.html "Ten Important Questions about Child Poverty and Family Economic Hardship," National Center for Children in Poverty, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, #4. How accurate are commonly held stereotypes about poverty? Millions of families are vulnerable to economic hardship.

Our Natural Resource Extraction Systems



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLBE5QAYXp8> *The Story of Stuff* Annie Leonard's narrated graphic on five parts of our consumption society. Includes riffs on planned and perceived obsolescence, government and big business, and health and labor laws. More info on the website: <http://www.storyofstuff.org> We will watch 0:00-5:25; 15:00-17:28.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=olQdYXCKUv0 *The Story of Change: Why Citizens (not Shoppers) hold the Key to a Better World*. Annie Leonard's second narrated graphic shows that we cannot shop our way out of the problem. Riffs on environmental societal pressure, policies and business practices, Anti-apartheid, civil rights movements. For change, Leonard observes, we need 1) a big idea, 2) agreement to work together, and 3) to take action.

Leonard also quotes what [Victor Lebow](#) said in 1955 regarding economic growth:

"Our enormously productive economy demands that we make consumption our way of life, that we convert the buying and use of goods into rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfaction, our ego satisfaction, in consumptive terms... we need things consumed, burned up, replaced and discarded at an ever increasing pace."^[23]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5uJgG05xUY&list=PL39879C27CAFE5561&index=1> Enjoyable counterpoint, four part critique to Leonard's film. Lee Doran's How the World Works YouTube site. I agreed with elements of each argument (and found myself laughing at some of the comments.)

<http://www.hulu.com/#!watch/83658> No Impact Man trailer

DISCUSSION Questions (Reported back in One Great Idea per group)

Is Leonard missing the good points about American consumer society?

Do companies really plan for obsolescence?

Will it make a difference to the environment if we buy less?

Time vs. Stuff

What do we share with neighbors? What could we share in our neighborhoods?

Let's look at what we throw out (and where we throw it to):

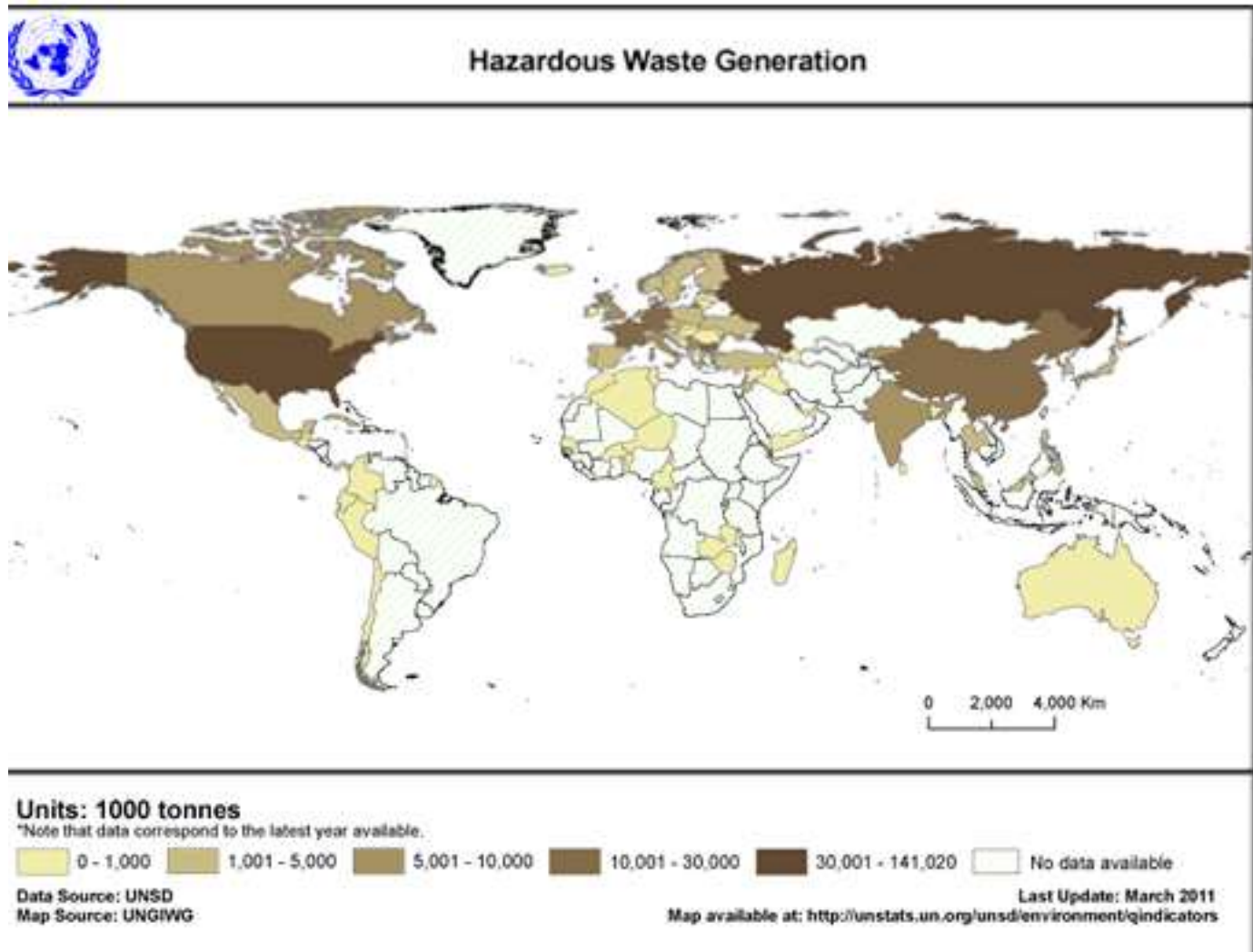
Fun Fact: "The richest woman in China, Zhang Yin, is worth \$3.4 billion. But unlike other Chinese entrepreneurs who have made their money by exporting to the West, Zhang built her fortune another way: She's the "queen of waste paper," China's largest importer of scrap paper." ([China's Richest Woman: From Waste To Wealth](#), China Daily, November 20, 2006)

178 Countries Support Ban on Toxic Waste Exports to Developing Countries "The UN has estimated that, worldwide, up to 50 million tons of electrical and electronic goods which had come to the end of their lives were being thrown away every year – of which only 10 per cent is recycled – and often end up in landfills in developing countries." <http://www.treehugger.com/gadgets/178-countries-support-ban-on-toxic-waste-exports-to-developing-countries.html>



US Foreign waste imports: Under U.S. law, there is **no general prohibition** against the import of hazardous or non-hazardous waste from other countries, or the export of waste to other countries. There are, however, rules regulating shipments of hazardous waste." <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/international/index.htm>. Only hazardous waste is tracked by the EPA. Non-hazardous waste import data is not reported.

Hazardous waste generation map for world, high waste production are large countries with natural resource extraction and processing industries. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/hazardous.htm>



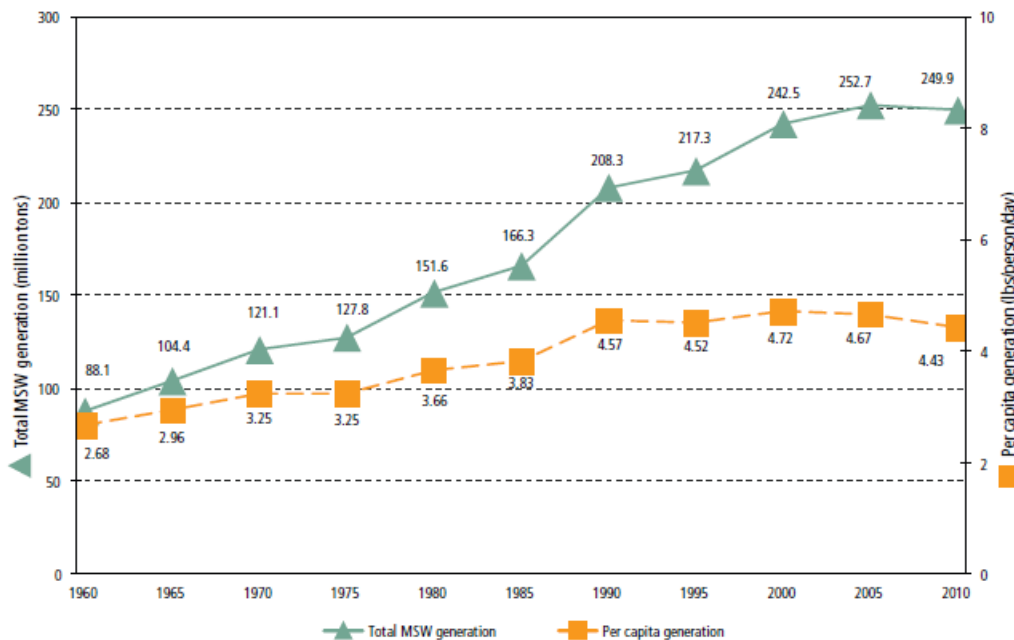
Hong Kong Waste Import and Export Figures (2007-2011)

http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/stat_wt_cty.html

Municipal Solid waste in the US <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm>



Figure 1. MSW Generation Rates, 1960 to 2010



<http://justlivegreener.com/environment/253-scary-facts-about-landfills.html>

What is Xavier doing? Tour!

Buildings: In the last five years, the campus has increased square footage by 25% (500,000 square feet) and energy use has stayed approximately the same. How is this possible? One of the main reasons is construction of high performance buildings: Conaton Learning Commons, Smith Hall, and Bishop Fenwick Place. The other main reason is the fourth new building, the Central Utility Plant, and its efficient hot/cold water heating and cooling system (but that's a topic for next week.)

This week we tour Smith Hall with Joe Frecker, to see the materials and features that make an environmental building. The Xavier buildings are built to LEED Silver standards, but not certified. LEED is the acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, an initiative of the US Green Building Council.

(www.usgbc.org) Buildings represent the largest use of resources and Stuff on campus.

Operations Waste: Let's look at the recycling bins and containers behind Smith and behind Physical Plant.

Physical Plant Warehouse: For those who are walking back to Alumni or have time, join us walking through the warehouse.

Presentation by Ann Dougherty, PE Sustainability Coordinator, Xavier University

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For more information about Xavier's Sustainability Program: www.xavier.edu/green

Building tour led by Joe Frecker, Project manager, Office of Physical Plant E: freckers@xavier.edu T: (513) 745-

For more information about the new buildings built to LEED standards and Xavier's physical plant activities: www.xavier.edu/plant