

11th Assises des Déchets - Cité des Congrès de Nantes
14th and 15th of Septembre 2011
Welcoming speech 10 am - Wednesday 14th of september

Michèle GRESSUS

Mayor of Bouguenais
Vice Presidente of Nantes Métropole

Mister President Cazalets,
Representatives of industrial and institutional partners,
Representatives of associations and local authorities,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the Urban Community of Nantes Metropole, Jean-Marc AYRAULT, as well as of all my colleagues of the Community Council, as the Vice-President of Nantes Metropole in charge of Waste, I am particularly happy to welcome you at the Cité des Congrès for the 11th edition of the Assises des Déchets. Nantes Metropole has been implementing a proactive waste management policy, and so I hope that we will prove ourselves worthy of this event in which we wanted to take an active part with you.

The reputation of the Assises has made it a key event for all players involved in waste management. I know that this new edition will live up to your ambitions and that it will increase both your knowledge and your ability to implement good practices.

The Grenelle Environment Conference prompted widespread mobilisation for environment protection by giving fresh impetus to the waste policy, with objectives resolutely orientated towards the prevention of waste production, the increase of waste recovery and the reduction of waste impact. Our choices will be instrumental in realising our ambitions. To this end, Nantes Metropole, an Urban Community consisting of 24 communes for a total of over 52,000 ha and 590,000 inhabitants, has been implementing an active and structured public policy of sustainable development to which the Waste Action Plan belongs.

As part of our role of urban planners, we have been implementing cross-cutting policies for the sustainable development of urban and semi-urban areas through the Territorial Climate Plan of our local Agenda 21 programmes. This complex issue, albeit exciting, requires everyone's involvement. Therefore, we started a territorial dynamics, in the form of an inclusive and prospective process, "Ma Ville Demain 2030" ("My City Tomorrow 2030"). Lastly, Nantes was elected "Europe's Green Capital for the year 2013" by the European Commission, which recognised, in this manner, the commitment of the Metropole in the preservation of the environment and the improvement of the quality of its inhabitants' lives. Among the criteria, particular attention was paid to the waste management policy.

We must figure out what we want Nantes Metropole to be for the next generations and make all efforts to introduce, from a very early stage, the conditions needed to make it "operational" and allow its current and future citizens to live and work there. This too is what concretely implementing sustainable development is about.

The waste plan that was unanimously adopted by the 24 communes of Nantes Metropole in 2009 consists in a number of initiatives in relation with today's preoccupations and with the agenda of these 11th Assises. They aim at:

- Strengthening separate collection, door-to-door collection in particular, and services of waste collection centres;
- Improving the working conditions and the safety of waste collection workers;
- Implementing a well-adapted and harmonised waste management policy with professionals;
- Reducing the amounts of waste produced by implementing a local prevention programme, especially with associations but also with economic and institutional players and partners – in short, all those who are willing to take action.

I hope fruitful exchanges will take place in these Assises on every mean we can imagine to improve the behaviours of users, local authorities or businesses, be it in terms of production or consumption. You are offering us an important opportunity to mobilise players and, beyond this event, to mutualise practices and experiences of all of us, public and private players and associations.

Again, welcome in Nantes and thank you for your attention.



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