



Date:

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Time:

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Presentation:

“Carbon Footprint and Water Footprint in Water & Waste Water Services”

Frank Benichou

Executive Vice President & Chief Technical Officer

Veolia Water North America

All types of environmental footprints are becoming widely used within the sustainability community. These footprints include the Carbon Footprint (Wiedmann & Minx, 2008), the Water Footprint (Hoekstra et al., 2009, Pfister et al., 2009), the Ecological Footprint (Rees & Wackernagel, 1992), among others. They are methods developed to assess the impact of a human activity respectively on climate change, water resources and the environment. These methods are usually different than the life-cycle analysis methods which assess the overall environmental impact of a human activity on the environment in terms of damages whereas the carbon and water footprint assess only a "single issue". This presentation will attempt to highlight the similarities between the carbon footprint methodology based on activity data and emission factors and the water footprint as developed by the Water Footprint Network (WFN, 2008 & 2009) based mainly on quantitative data. It will also try to demonstrate and illustrate with concrete examples that these two indicators, although linked in the framework of the provision of water and wastewater services, have important differences which lie mainly in the fact that the environmental impacts of carbon emissions are global whereas the environmental impacts on water resources are much more local and therefore cannot be considered only globally.

Presenter Biography:

Frank Benichou

Mr. Benichou is Executive Vice President and Chief Technical Officer for Veolia Water North America Operating Services, LLC (Veolia Water). In this role, he is responsible for providing technical services support to Veolia Water projects across North America, drawing from the regional, national and international resources of Veolia Water. His activities include of course technical support per say but also R&D, Environmental and Sustainability related activities.

Mr. Benichou has worked with Veolia Water companies internationally since 1995, with involvement in projects related to water treatment and supply, wastewater collection and treatment, and customer service. As a part of the Veolia Water management team in France and then in Asia Pacific, he was involved in serving a range of governmental and industrial clients on large-scale projects in these regions of the world.