

➤ **Don't forget the past and don't forget the worries of citizens!**

- Under pressure from society, environmental movements and action groups, environmental legislation changed. Authorities shifted behind the NIMBY story to minimize environmental impact and consequences for the local residents.
- It's all about a strongly damaged trust from where the claim to 'absolute certainty' is inexorably and where new visions are shot immediately.
- Through my experience as a local councilor over knowledge level of "local" politicians, I learnt that decisions are not made on the basis of technological insights, but on political strategic level. (see paper).

➤ **Up to a new story**

- The launch of a series of innovative visions regarding waste disposal in our municipality, caused confusion within some minds!
- And the damaged confidence will not be restored by organizing an ELFM Congress, but by let them participate within the process of really new technology.
- You don't create a broad-based public support for a new waste processing technology's by letting participate only one Local to a Congress!
- "Being sold" to the Group Machiels became a public debate where even the media had problems with.
- Contacting over 100 inhabitants resulted in a variety of +/- 25 people from our region that really wanted to know more and therefore they stepped into an involvement process on ELFM that we so called 'The Locals'.

➤ **Looking for new challenges**

- Here I experienced that the approach to social change should be approached on an equal scientific base as any other technological challenge at the landfill site itself!
- Technological transition is apparently much faster than the 'social acceptance'.
- The social importance of this project must be handled on a fair, correct and in terms of content. This way; it made it possible that the project of the 'Locals' could started up!
- One of the most important lessons from the Locals is that the local people can understand very well what it is all about, how complex the matter may be.

➤ **Sharing knowledge is exchanging trust**

- My vision regard to Look, to Know and to Choose becomes a fixed given, because people can only choose for something, only if they know it and when they have seen it. To give Locals the opportunity to acquire insight information through company visits and through inviting experts, they becomes the pillars which combine confidence and knowledge together.
- The biggest challenge is to give an answer on each question, how simple or complex it may be. (Challenge the scientist)
- The fact that Locals can ask their questions not only to independent scientists, technology holders, knowledge institutions but also to the company of Group Machiels itself, it will

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not only increases the knowledge level of the Locals, but above all the confidence for a long lasting dialogue.

➤ **Voluntary but not optional**

- Even when it is about a group of 'volunteers', their involvement is no longer without obligations. They are aware of their commitment and they want to share this with everyone who wishes to be "involved". (Locals symposium)
- Another important theme is that one can estimate the absolute certainty. Even though we know that the only certainty there is, is the fact that there are no certainties! But, after everything we have experienced in Houthalen-Helchteren, we demand the highest possible security level, for people the environment and generations that have to come.
- Will now everything becomes perfect by implementing this project? Probably not. Nevertheless, the ELFM project must be a followed up project, where the 'precautionary principle' should belong to all domains of a normal business operation. (see paper-safety and health).

Only than people, the environment and the company will be able to realize common objectives, when there is an objective confidence that is fair and sincere.

- Of course, faith in people is necessary to achieve sustainable transition. There should be understood that blind faith is foolish.

➤ **Locals and transition**

- Every social and technological change is based on knowledge. Scientific basis is always at the base of innovation. Creating new possibility's that our society needs so badly.
- It is precisely there where the Locals wants to be present and want to remains there, even when the production is in full operation.  
These are really the new concepts that speeds up transition to a higher level. Not only society, but also knowledge institutions, technology holders, scientists as well as the company of the Group Machiels, are lifting themselves on a higher level, by sharing knowledge with the Locals, understandable so that progress can be made.
- Don't forget, the locals are concerned about the quality of live in their living environment in the first place, regardless all fantastic business opportunity's!

➤ **Conclusions**

- Let this also be a spin-off of the ELFM project. A spin-off thanks to the Locals ...
- The locals are not a fashion of one day, we are here to stay!