



**Social Ecology**

Prof. Dr. Marina Fischer-Kowalski  
marina.fischer-kowalski@univie.ac.at

Pressemitteilung

## **Industry meets environment in new international society**

**A community of researchers, policy makers, industrial strategists, and environmental advocates announces the launch of the International Society of Industrial Ecology. The new field of industrial ecology applies ecological concepts to the organization and operation of industry.**

The Society will encourage communication among scientists, engineers, policymakers, managers and others who are interested in how environmental and economic concerns can be better integrated. "Industrial ecology," states Reid Lifset "is a powerful way of finding innovative solutions to complicated environmental problems."

In continuing support of the field, Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies has volunteered to provide the Society with its preliminary headquarters. John Ehrenfeld, Visiting Fellow at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and emeritus director of the MIT Technology, Business and Environment Program, will serve as the Society's executive director. An international group of environmental leaders will serve as the steering committee

Industrial ecology looks to nature for clues on how to create more integrated and efficient industrial processes. The tools of industrial ecology include eco-design, eco-industrial parks, material and energy flow studies, life cycle assessment (LCA) and organizational design.

One pioneering example of industrial ecology is the industrial district of Kalundborg, Denmark where firms have joined together to reduce environmental impacts by exchanging energy, water, and materials. In Kalundborg, the byproducts of one company become valuable resources for another. "The extensive re-use of wastes in Kalundborg illustrates one of the basic principles of industrial ecology," says Reid Lifset, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Industrial Ecology and Yale University research scholar.

Industrial ecology is a young field that has grown exponentially. Since an inaugural conference convened by the US National Academy of Sciences in 1991, the field has been the focus of numerous international conferences - in Scandinavia, France, India, Austria, the US, and Japan - and numerous research projects. Industrial ecology is also central to several academic programs including the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies' graduate program in industrial environmental management and the undergraduate degree program in industrial ecology at the Norwegian University Science of Science and Technology.

On February X, the International Society for Industrial Ecology opened its doors to membership. Benefits include a subscription to the Journal of Industrial Ecology (an international, multi-disciplinary peer-reviewed quarterly), a newsletter dedicated to providing current news and information about the field, discounts on international conferences, and access to electronic information about the field. Abstracts are now being accepted for papers to be presented at the upcoming inaugural meeting for the society, "The Science and Culture of Industrial Ecology" which will be held in the Netherlands from November 12-14.

Membership applications and information on submitting abstracts for the November conference can be found on the International Society for Industrial Ecology website: <http://www.yale.edu/is4ie>.

Steering Committee, International Society for Industrial Ecology: David Allen, University of Texas, Austin, TX (USA) Braden Allenby, AT&T, Basking Ridge, NJ (USA) Helge Brattebø, National University of Science & Technology, Trondheim (Norway) Stefan Bringezu, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Energy & the Environment, Wuppertal (Germany) Faye Duchin, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY (USA) Marina **Fischer-Kowalski**, University of Vienna, Vienna (Austria) Tom Graedel, Yale University, New Haven, CT (USA) Barbara Karn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. (USA) Rene Kleijn, Leiden University, Leiden (The Netherlands) Reid Lifset, Yale University, New Haven, CT (USA) Yuichi Moriguchi, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba (Japan) Robert Pfahl, Motorola, Inc, Schaumburg, IL (USA) Greg Pitts, Ecolibrium, Austin, TX (USA) Tadatomo Suga, University of Tokyo, Tokyo (Japan).

Barbara Smetschka, Tel.: 5224000-415, IFF Soziale Ökologie, Schottenfeldgasse 29  
E-mail: [barbara.smetschka@univie.ac.at](mailto:barbara.smetschka@univie.ac.at)