



William F. (Rick) Brandes
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Rick Brandes is a proponent of the expansion of alternative and renewable energy sources in the United States. He champions the development of sustainable energy systems via the use of materials that have formerly been wastes subject to loss through disposal.

Mr. Brandes focused the latter part of his thirty year career with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the development of a more sustainable materials management system in the U.S. As a senior manager in the EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, Mr. Brandes directed a staff of scientists and engineers in the development of programs that support the use of municipal solid waste and other industrial waste streams as sources of energy. The common goal of many years of effort at EPA was to foster a truly integrated waste management system that could eliminate the concept of waste in the country via aggressive application of policies and regulations that increase the use of former waste materials as commodities to be reused, recycled, and recovered.

Mr. Brandes served as the first chief of the Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch at EPA. The branch developed both regulations and policy designed to help communities and industry recover clean energy from waste materials. He directed the issuance of the regulations that promoting the gasification of hazardous and solid wastes and was involved in the evolution of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. As the EPA lead, he served on a number of inter-agency workgroups involved in supporting the development of a renewable energy sector in the U.S. including the Biofuels Development workgroup, a joint project of the EPA, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Agriculture.

He is currently an independent consultant on the issues involving the use of former waste materials as sources of clean, renewable energy.

Mr. Brandes's previous positions in EPA included heading the Waste Minimization Branch. This group was responsible for national pollution prevention initiatives such as the initiation of the National Program for Environmental Priorities, or NPEP. A national waste minimization recognition program, NPEP grew to several hundred industrial and municipal members during Mr. Brandes's tenure, resulting in the subsequent elimination of over twenty million pounds of hazardous priority chemicals from commerce through voluntary reduction efforts. In addition,

the branch successfully negotiated the phased elimination of lead tire weights from production, eliminating over 50 million pounds of lead from the environment. Mr. Brandes additionally championed the integration of environmental endpoints into the existing system of Lean Manufacturing principles. This action was recognized by the Shingo Committee, awarding to the Agency the Shingo Prize in Manufacturing Research in 2004.

Mr. Brandes also headed, for ten years, the Agency's Hazardous Waste Listing program. During that time, the program conducted detailed analyses of industrial processes, waste generation and management activities, and residuals recycling efforts in the following industries: petroleum refining, organic and inorganic chemicals production, wood preserving, metal finishing, pulp and paper, industrial solvents, paint, and dyes and pigments manufacturing.

Mr. Brandes began his career at EPA in the Office of Water where he rose from staff scientist involved in water quality-based toxics control programs in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program to Chief of the Water Quality and Industrial Permits Branch. Here Mr. Brandes's group wrote regulations requiring the achievement of national and state water quality standards by the 60,000 permittees subject to the NPDES permits program, helped initiate the ongoing effluent toxicity testing program designed to eliminate the discharge of toxic effluents to the nation's waterways, directed guidance designed to eliminate bioaccumulative pollutants in industrial discharges, and directed the issuance of regulations governing the control of toxicants in sewage sludge.

Mr. Brandes received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gold Medal for Exceptional Service in 2006 for the Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) Program and in 2008 for "Strengthening the nation's infrastructure to reduce, reuse and recycle municipal solid waste". He was awarded the Agency's Silver Medal for Superior Service in 2009 for the elimination of the use of lead in tire weights. He has also received, over his career, six Agency Bronze Medal awards for commendable service.