ASU SCHOOL *of*
SUSTAINABILITY

A R I Z O N A   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Science
Nivedita Rengarajan

Will defend her thesis

Solid Waste Management (SWM) in India: Finding Sustainable Pathways for the City of Bangalore

Abstract
Over the past decade SWM technology that has been successful in developed nations has proved to be largely ineffective in the urban Indian context. Yet, the focus still remains on "technology transfers" as the answer to India's SWM problems. There are vast differences in the socio- economic and cultural aspects between the west and India. These differences influence and shape the execution, expression and function of SWM systems. India, and in particular the city of Bangalore is currently trying to grapple with its SWM situation. The goals of my thesis are three fold. Firstly to analyze key factors that govern SWM, such as the nature of public private partnerships, communication, role of the informal sector, hierarchies, institutions, processes and scale – and how they can affect the transition to a more sustainable SWM system for Bangalore. Secondly, to highlight that technology does not work in a bubble. It works together with "soft" factors in developed countries, which are not considered while transferring technologies. I examine how some of these "soft" factors can be translated into the urban Indian context. And finally I look at an innovative bottom up waste management model called the Vellore Zero Waste Model and assess its applicability to the urban context of Bangalore.

Monday, April 15, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Memorial Union, Room 246 (Coconino)

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.