DISCOVERING HIDDEN VALUES
Today’s landfills are tomorrow’s raw material deposits. This is how you could summarise a significant development our planet is facing in the medium term. What we mean by that? Millions of tons of recyclable materials are currently »slumbering« on municipal landfill sites in Germany alone. They could be used as secondary raw materials for the manufacturing of new products, or as refuse-derived fuels for energy generation. This includes materials such as paper, cardboard, wood, textiles or plastics. On a global scale, especially in emerging economies like Brazil or India, there are even a lot more of them. If processed correctly, they have a similar calorific value as the non-renewable resources coal or gas, which they can help to conserve. In addition, many further million tons of metals (aluminium, copper, iron) and minerals (phosphorus) are hidden in all those places where a layperson would merely expect useless mountains of waste. Any country that succeeds in recovering them, would become more independent from imports and less vulnerable to skyrocketing raw material prices.

But how exactly do you get the precious substances? The magic word being hotly discussed by experts is »landfill mining«. In a technologically highly demanding process, old deposits are treated in such a manner that the desired materials can be separated and sorted out. With results varying in quality and sometimes lacking economic efficiency, the methods used to that purpose are still far from perfect. However, we are working hard to change that: under its r³ initiative for resource efficiency, the German government requested TÖNSMEIER in 2012, within a research association of universities and municipal authorities, to assess the profitability of this method. With regard to this, one of our objectives is to work out a threshold model which allows landfill operators a realistic estimation. Once they decide in favour of landfill mining, not only their sites’ absorptive capacity benefits from that, but also the respective environment. For the mining in many cases helps to improve groundwater quality and to regain building land for the local authorities.

Landfill mining is just one of many exciting topics which fascinate and challenge us, as a modern environmental service provider, each and every day. And it will continue to do so in the decades to come. It is true that, once you have seen the bigger picture, you will look at waste with different eyes. Because it often contains hidden values which are invisible at first glance. To discover those values and bring them to light is our mission. Now you also know the reason why we love our job, which is basically about finding sustainable and often surprising solutions. And to put them into practice so that everyone can benefit: you as our customer, your own customers, we as a company, and of course the environment as our invaluable and highly sensitive living space. TÖNSMEIER has the best prerequisites to accomplish this task. Or in other words: we get the best out of it!
70 locations. More than 3,000 employees. 1,100 vehicles. 30 processing facilities. The perfect moment to reflect, lean back and linger in memories of the past? No.

It goes without saying that a modern environmental service provider like TÖNSMEIER keeps looking ahead. Of course it does matter where we come from. However, in our line of business it is of overall importance in which direction we choose to develop. As a company, as a society, as human beings – living together with nature and the environment.

Never being satisfied with the status quo and regarding achieved results only as milestones along the way – that is the essence of innovative thinking. Therefore it wouldn’t be accurate to say we would never have dreamt of growing from a small haulage company to become a European-wide expert for the recovery and recycling of the most different materials. As a matter of fact, even a development like this can actually be planned, provided that you proceed with due diligence and foresight.

In order to make this happen, we pursued certain strategical goals right from the beginning: after our foundation, we implemented various stages of product development, market development and diversification. In all our efforts we not only tried to react to new trends quickly, but to shape those very trends ourselves. For instance, when the Dual System was introduced in Germany and TÖNSMEIER played a pioneering role in that process. Or in the case of successively gaining and increasing the available know-how in the fields of glass, paper, scrap, waste metal, wood and plastics.

Where all of this is going to lead us?

We already have a pretty good idea of that. To be continued!
Our services for industry & commerce:

Simply disposing of things – that was yesterday. We offer you the entire range of innovative environmental services in the form of a networked overall concept, tailor-made to your special requirements. From needs analysis, logistical organisation, sorting and treatment to the recovery and marketing of secondary raw materials, we are your one-stop supplier.

These core services are complemented by a comprehensive data and safety management, support with authorisations and other legal issues, as well as the provision and training of staff. In doing so, we always apply the principles of value cycles and also consider our customers’ internal and external communications. Because we know: a sustainable and proper waste disposal policy has become such an important topic that it inevitably rubs off on a company’s image values.

These facts hold great opportunities and potentials that we will, true to the motto of this brochure, help you to discover and make best use of. Depending on your company structure and budget size, it is up to you to decide how far you want us to get involved in your business operations. From a limited co-operation to the outsourcing of entire company divisions, everything is possible.

Our services for local authorities & private households:

What is it that enables a city or local community to “function” smoothly and maintain its attractiveness also tomorrow? The contribution we are proud to make every day, both on a smaller and larger scale, is part of the answer.

On a small scale: your private household needs waste disposal services now or in the future, for example due to a move, reconstruction or other domestic projects? Then feel free to talk to us. We will make sure that all kinds of waste produced in those activities are collected in the right containers and recycled to the best extent possible.

What we can handle for you: residual waste, bio-waste, bulky waste, glass, paper, light packaging, wood, plastics, scrap and metals, electronic waste, hazardous waste.

On a large scale: you represent a local authority and are looking for a service-oriented partner who takes care of your waste management, placing high importance on the recovery of useful materials? Then you are looking for us. Our TÖNSMEIER Special Centres are employing powerful sorting and treatment facilities to recover valuable substances efficiently and reliably. Thanks to the latest electronics, we can also offer you a usage-based capturing and billing system, if you wish so. In that case each household pays only for the percentage of waste it has caused.

SUSTAINABILITY STARTS IN YOUR HEAD ...

... BY CHOOSING US AS YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER.
THE SHORTEST WAY IS A STRAIGHT LINE.  
THE MOST REWARDING ONE IS A CYCLE.

Getting from A to B is good. Returning from B to A as elegantly as possible, is better. The ideal solution of a functioning circulation system is a top priority for us. In order to make intelligently steered material flows with continuous recycling become the norm, careful planning as a solid basis for implementation is indispensable.

At first all suitable materials have to be cleanly separated from other substances. In the next step, they are systematically processed by us in a way that there are no more obstacles to their “rebirth” for important new tasks. And finally they are fit to rejoin the cycle of modern industry.

The TÖNSMEIER Special Centres, being experts in their respective fields, exclusively handle the sorting and processing of recyclable materials.

In order to conserve natural resources, at these sites we make all materials usable again that everyone of us depends on from day to day (glass, paper, plastics, metal etc.).

Managing the change of a “disposable world” into a society that aims to recycle its waste whenever possible, is a path of many small steps. The technology progress has caused the percentage of recyclable components to rise continuously. And TÖNSMEIER keeps bringing up fresh ideas so that the improvement process never comes to a halt.

Almost an art
Every year approx. 70,000 tons of plastic waste are processed in this Special Centre. We use PVC materials from more than 5,000 plastic processors to produce high-quality recyclates.

Heavy Business
This centre is specialised in all scrap and metal fractions (e.g. aluminium, copper, brass and zinc), as well as the useful trade with those valuable materials.

Nothing is useless
Substances which are not suitable for material recycling any more, are processed here into refuse-derived fuels and used for energy generation, e.g. in the EAB Bernburg energy plant.

A transparent approach
In this Special Centre, approx. 400,000 tons of hollow, flat and special glass are processed every year by means of the latest technology. The result is a valuable secondary raw material.

Massive know-how
In the field of the disposal and recycling of used wood, this centre is the right partner. We analyse, classify, process and market all kinds of waste wood.

Tomorrow’s paper
Since the seventies, the collection, sorting and processing of recovered paper has been one of our major tasks. Over a million tons are collected and processed for recycling every year.

Reaching more than places
This centre takes your logistics to the next level. Reliably, sustainably, European-wide.
As we all know too well, energy costs for oil, natural gas and coal have increased dramatically in the past years and will probably continue to do so. What not everyone knows: refuse-derived fuels from TÖNSMEIER can serve as an ecological and economical alternative to fossil energy sources. With their high caloric value, they are suitable for the generation of electricity, heat and steam in the energy-intensive industries, both in mono-incineration and co-incineration. At our high-performing facilities we produce these refuse-derived fuels mechanically from recyclable materials and waste, fulfilling all the requirements of the Federal Quality Assurance Association for Secondary Fuels. TÖNSMEIER is actually using these refuse-derived fuels, too: at the EAB Bernburg energy plant, process steam for industrial use has been produced since 2010.

Our concept is as economical as it is sustainable: depending on the quality of the delivered material, two tons of waste can be transformed into more than a ton of refuse-derived fuels. Instead of wasting energy, natural resources are conserved and the emission of fossil carbon dioxides is decreased significantly. In the production of refuse-derived fuels, TÖNSMEIER can draw on many years of know-how in every phase. Right after collection the material flows are bundled in the company. Residual materials which are not suitable as secondary raw materials for the production cycle any more, are transported to the company group’s processing facilities with the use of smart logistics.

Sophisticated sorting technology: here the material (household waste, industrial waste and mixed building waste) is crushed, sieved and processed. Modern near-infrared systems detect the high-caloric-value components and identify contaminants (e.g. PVC) which need to be removed. At the end, the refuse-derived fuel is sorted out according to customer requirements regarding grain size and caloric value. The material cycle is completed when our customers are supplied as punctually and reliably as usual.

Refuse-derived fuels from TÖNSMEIER can be recycled thermically without further treatment – in a clean, uncomplicated and environmentally friendly manner. In addition to our Special Centres, we are operating a number of further recycling facilities. Those are used to recycle, for example, wood, electronic scrap and other reusable substances. Moreover, there is also a TÖNSMEIER interim storage site for the treatment of hazardous waste.
Looking at the future, we want to secure the company group’s success by supporting talented employees. With continuous measures, we create the necessary conditions. Because we believe that environmental services and a value-preserving handling of our resources is a thrilling task also for younger people.

For this reason, we co-operate with schools, present our company at job information fairs and use a large number of other activities in order to arouse the future generation’s interest at an early stage and inform them about the various career opportunities based on a vocational training in our company.

TÖNSMEIER puts great emphasis on working out innovative solutions. This is not only about advanced technologies, but also the further development of co-operation with our customers.

In this context, our employees represent the best guarantee for the quality and safety of TÖNSMEIER’S environmental services. With internal seminars and training, we make sure that every single employee is always informed on the latest advances in his or her field of activity. Furthermore, we are taking many additional steps in order to promote an effective staff development.

ENVIRONMENT ISN’T JUST OUTSIDE ...
... BUT ALSO WITHIN A COMPANY.
Whenever you need advice, we are happy to provide guidance with our expertise as quickly as possible. That is why we have built up a network of TÖNSMEIER Regional Centres which you can contact with your questions. Our experts will do their utmost to find the best solution for your individual situation.

Those Regional Centres work hand in hand with the TÖNSMEIER Special Centres, when demanding recycling processes are required. Therefore, all our customers can benefit from the special competence of these processing facilities. This matters to us, because your economic success is always at the centre of our interest.

Making use of various co-operations and networks, TÖNSMEIER also provides European-wide solutions. Especially in Poland, we are present with a wide range of services. From the Netherlands, our subsidiaries organise the world-wide marketing of our waste paper. The Special Centre for Plastic has branches in the Netherlands, Austria and Poland and thus features a dense network of modern processing facilities.

Whether you are looking for a solution on a small or a large scale – at TÖNSMEIER you will always find the right contact person.