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## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***No Waste – Managing Waste in Construction***

Authors: **Uly Ma**

Publisher: Gower Publishing Limited

List Price: US\$54.95

Publication Date: 2012

ISBN: 978-0-566-08803-2

Reviewer: **Ed Dameron**

Review Date: May 2012

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### Introduction to the Book

The author progressively grows the subject of sustainability into a much broader spectrum than what we normally think. The book is written in England and bases projects and issues from that perspective. However, the issues of sustainability and how to deal with them are very much the same as we face in the United States. You will find this easy reading book thought provoking and relevant.

### Overview of Book's Structure

The author starts from the basics of defining sustainability then rapidly expands to incorporate all of an organization's resources. Concentrating on the construction industry, Dr. Ma explains how the industry is saddled with many policies and he covers the purpose of their origination and reasons why they are often sidestepped. With a good definition and policies covered, the author dedicates approximately half the book to implementation.

### Highlights: What I liked!

The easy reading style and real-world examples Dr. Ma used opens the readership of this book to all levels. Although somewhat of a text book, it does not read that way and brings a good understanding of sustainability to everyone.

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I enjoyed how he broadened my narrow view of sustainability from simple recycling and flipping of the light switch to looking at it from a higher level. I am more conscious how I can waste time of not only mine but of others; how I waste talent if I fail to use peoples' skills effectively or do not nurture those talents with training; how I waste money if I fail to plan properly and over inventory. The book encourages thinking on a broader scope of sustainability of all resources.

One of the thoughts when implementing sustainability is to maintain a good balance. One tool highlighted is the Lovelace List. This takes in a company's finances, employees, attitude to work-life issues, stakeholders and site-based operations. The premise is a balance must be maintained between these to be most effective. The Lovelace List is a scorecard tool to help maintain that balance. By maintaining a good balance, a long-term attitude to sustainability can grow. We will all benefit if more companies can incorporate a long-term, No Waste paradigm in their business model.

### **Shortfalls: What was Missing!**

The background of the author is not included. It is imbedded in the text but I am initially interested in a biographical sketch on the inside cover to ascertain the author's credentials. It is not there.

### **Who might benefit from the Book**

Anyone on a project will broaden their thinking about sustainability. From upper management to administrative assistant, the ideas presented for long-term sustainability will help change the way people see waste management.

### **Conclusion**

When I first started reading the book and saw the British English, I was skeptical of how this would relate to my projects. To my surprise, we are facing the same issues in the United States as in England when it comes to *No Waste*. I found the broad scope of *No Waste* to include not only tangible waste but all the company's resources thought provoking. Whether those resources are money, time, people, talent, utilities, and tangible waste, a program to manage a good balance makes total sense. Although the book concentrated a lot on construction industry, the principles relate to any business. It changed my thinking.

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## About the Reviewer



***Ed Dameron, MBA, PMP***



Ed Dameron has 36 years of diverse healthcare experience in administration, facility planning, project management, equipment planning and procurement and healthcare construction. He directed equipment planning services at DoD Health Affairs and for two leaders in healthcare program management before carrying on the same role as a self-employed contractor. Mr. Dameron performed complete equipment planning and procurement services for numerous replacement facilities and addition/alteration projects nationwide. Ed recently departed from his self-employed status and returned to federal government service planning and managing the equipment outfitting for the replacement hospital at Fort Hood, Texas. He resides in Plano, Texas, USA.