

**Department of Environmental Studies Presents a Master's Thesis Defense by  
Benoit Delaveau:**



**Title:** ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE RETAIL PHOTOPROCESSING INDUSTRY IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY 1996 VS. 2006.

**When:** March 21, 2011 10:30-11:30am

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**Abstract:** Consumer digital cameras appeared on the market in 1994. The photoprocessing industry experienced a downturn by 2000, with a sudden drop in activity. This research focuses on the evolution of the retail photoprocessing industry between 1996 and 2006, and evaluates its three major environmental impacts related to this downturn: (1) energy use, (2) silver release, and (3) water consumption. The study includes: (A) impact quantification for two photoprocessing sites using a standardized LCA methodology and (B) a census of retail photoprocessing sites based on waste water permits. The data collected are extrapolated to estimate the evolution of the retail photoprocessing industry in Santa Clara County, CA, for the years 1996 and 2006, respectively. The results of the two years studied are compared. The comparison shows that the changes in the activity of the local retail photoprocessing between 1996 and 2006 correspond to a stabilization of the industry energy consumption, a significant drop in the quantity of silver released in the local environment, and a decrease in the volume of fresh water consumed.

**Biography:** Photography has been Benoit's passion and expertise for the last 25 years. Benoit graduated from Ecole Louis Lumière, France's leading photography institution, in 1986 and worked at Ilford, the leading black and white film manufacturer, with a focus on supporting professional photographers and photolabs. Back in 1992, Benoit was responsible for Ilford's emerging digital imaging strategy, enabled him to develop unique insights and an in-depth experience in the nascent and soon to be dominant digital photography industry. In 1996, Benoit cofounded and taught at the first digital photography college program in France. Benoit holds a Bachelor degree from U.C. Berkeley in Sociology and Mass Communication, with a minor in Energy Conservation from ERG (Energy and Resource Group).