

Frequently Asked Questions on Waste



What is Waste Management?

Long-term planning of a system for taking care of waste in society. It requires involvement of different stakeholders to set and reach goals for sustainable financing, sorting, collection, transportation, and treatment of waste material. To ensure everyone knows how the system works, efficient communication on all levels is crucial.

What are the various forms of Waste?

Waste is classified in two main forms: **Liquid** and **Solid**.

Both have **Hazardous Waste** that need special attention, as these substances can harm environment and health. Examples include Electronic Waste (cables, batteries, light bulbs), Chemicals (strong detergents, paint, pesticides, diesel), and Medical Waste (syringes, antibiotics, etc.).

Domestic Waste is generated from households and **Industrial Waste** comes from companies and factories. The main categories used to define different solid materials are food waste, garden waste, metals, plastics, paper, glass and non-recyclables (like diapers, sanitary pads, broken shoes etc). The waste water from households should be cleaned to retrieve nutrients and avoid spreading of diseases. Waste water from Industries must also be treated before being let out to water bodies or sewage system.

What are the methods of Waste Management and Treatment?

Re-using or Re-purposing

Reusing an item as it is, or modifying it for re-use with another purpose, also called "Upcycling".

Recycling

Using the material in a product to manufacture a brand new product – sometimes mixed with virgin material. Metals, plastics and glass materials are melted, paper is being re-pulped and organic waste can be composed or digested.

Biological Processing

Composting (aerobic microorganisms break down the material) or digesting (anaerobic) biodegradable waste and/or human liquid waste from toilets to make soil fertilizer. When digestion is done there will also be biogas produced.

Thermal Processing

Burning/combustion of waste – usually to retrieve heat and also to produce electricity from hot steam that runs a generator. Pyrolysis is when pressure and heat combined will make a material disperse into different substances – to be retrieved in their different forms.

Dumpsite/Landfill

Waste deposited in special locations where techniques should be used to prevent the waste material from contaminating surroundings, like bottom and top liners, collection, and treatment of leakage water.

What is the role of the National Government and County Governments in Waste Management?

The National and County Governments propose, pass and enforce laws governing waste management, and should take responsibility for providing a platform for the planning of infrastructure and logistics regarding waste in society together with stakeholders. Financing models concerning household waste is also upon the Government to structure.

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