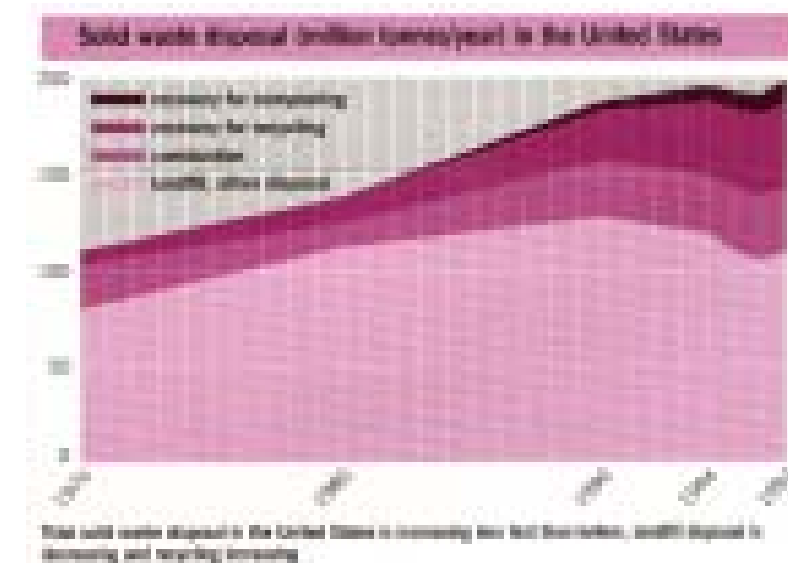


1. The Waste Challenge

Waste problems exist wherever there is a human population. The characteristics of these problems vary from one place to another, and with time as societies develop. Although they may first appear to be local issues, the scope and magnitude of these problems are increasing as population density and standards of living rise. The time is past when waste management could be considered in isolation. Environmental, technological and financial factors all have some bearing, and the need to conserve resources also demands attention.

Resource management extends far beyond waste management. It begins with strengthening awareness of the natural limits of resources, both materials and energy. This awareness, omnipresent in ancient times, has gradually been lost in the development of an affluent society. As long as individuals, and the economy can easily afford raw materials and energy, it remains unlikely that this situation will change. What are needed are alternative, successful incentives to ensure that people take better care of global resources. Today's waste management practices do not adequately fulfil this objective and hence need to be developed further to enhance the effective management of resources. Products and manufacturing processes should be designed taking into account resource conservation goals, even if this seems to conflict with economic benefits.



Source: Global Environmental Outlook 3, 2002, p. 261

The concept of Integrated Waste Management (IWM) has evolved over the last ten years and is now becoming more broadly accepted. In such a system, the technical solution to waste disposal is not the only focal point. Instead, IWM relies on a number of different approaches to manage waste, focusing on a more holistic approach to all aspects of waste management, from generation to disposal and all stages in between. All stakeholders participating in and affected by the waste management system are considered covering cultural, social, economic and environmental factors.

Most countries have adopted a waste policy. Clear, concise and consistent policy is necessary to establish and set up waste management systems and make necessary investments. The content and quality of existing waste policies vary widely. A waste policy must, apart from environmental

and health aspects, take into consideration socio-economic, political, institutional and cultural factors.

A limitation to successful waste policy is the lack of a tradition and understanding of the need to integrate all of these factors. Some factors may change rapidly and will have effects on the policy while others are contradictory. Nevertheless, a well-established and supported waste policy is of crucial importance for the state of waste management in any country. Another limiting factor is the financial resources required to ensure realisation.

The “Waste Hierarchy” was introduced in Agenda21 (see Annex 1). Since then, countries have developed slightly differing hierarchies while recognising the main grouping of options. The issues for discussion are the flexibility with which the hierarchy is to be applied and the components of the various levels of the hierarchy. The hierarchy must be seen as providing general guidelines and as a good basis for development of a waste policy. It should be applied in a flexible manner and take account of the fact that, for many developing countries, the first priorities are ensuring that a collection service is available to as large a part of the population as possible, and raising the quality of landfills.

2. Waste Management in Developing Countries

In developing countries and countries with economies in transition, waste management often emerges as a problem that endangers human health and the environment. To make matters worse, waste management usually has a low priority on the political agenda of such countries, as they are struggling with other important issues such as hunger, health problems, water shortages, unemployment and even civil war. In such situations, it is easy to understand why waste problems have a tendency to grow steadily.

In the developing world, millions of people are living without a waste management system. A first step to improving this situation is to work out a phased technical and legal framework for waste management and then start the collection and disposal process, with the objective of continuously improving the system.

In developing countries, uncontrolled landfills are still a huge danger for the surrounding environment and are a health risk to the population, causing contamination of the drinking water and soil. Thus, solid waste management has become an issue of concern for public health and environmental protection agencies in many developing countries. There are also large differences in the waste management standards of developed countries and the gap is even greater between developed and developing countries. The waste produced by human settlements and the resulting problems are mainly the same – but there are differences between regions and locations due to variables such as climatic, cultural, industrial, geological, legal and environmental factors. The waste management systems in different developing countries vary substantially and in some cases are virtually non-existent.

Much can be achieved by small-scale improvements to existing systems. Furthermore, it should be emphasised that there is a need to build cooperative “South-to-South” relations amongst developing countries to encourage the exchange of information. Much can also be achieved by optimising the already existing collection systems and by introducing cost recovery systems, based on the “polluter pays” concept.

Although developing countries have very limited economic resources it is very important for them to consider the short-term cost versus the long-term cost. In the USA, for example, experience has shown that the resources spent on cleaning up past pollution from hazardous wastes are far in excess of those needed for management of wastes currently being generated. It is therefore important to take early action to develop a hazardous waste system which, in the long run, will save money by preventing the problems of inadequate waste management from arising.

Development of legislation and the establishment of treatment and disposal facilities typically takes 10 - 15 years. Therefore it is important in the short term to develop interim or transitional facilities to allow efficient phase out of uncontrolled dumping. There is no time to wait for detailed waste data and waste management infrastructure to be put in place before action is taken. The capital costs for these transitional technologies may be relatively modest, while the long-term costs for sophisticated, high technology facilities are often beyond the resources of the public sector in developing countries. One way forward is to foster effective co-operation, information sharing and knowledge transfer between the public and private sectors. There is a need to develop facilities, support services and enforcement capabilities simultaneously with the necessary legislation and regulations. In most cases a “carrot and stick” approach will be needed.

Although the waste hierarchy is accepted it must be emphasised that, as the most common form of disposal is uncontrolled landfills, the building of controlled landfills is a high priority in these countries.

2.1 Uncontrolled Dumps

Currently, the most common method of waste disposal in developing countries is some form of landfilling. There are many variants of this method, including uncontrolled dumping to undefined areas, collection and disposal to unmanaged open dumps, and collection/disposal to controlled landfills. An important focus is therefore the proper closure of unmanaged open dumps, coupled with the construction and proper operation of controlled landfills.

With over 200,000 open dump areas in the world that will require environmental protection and clean-up in the future, *UNEP and ISWA believe that the methodical closure of such dumps is a first priority*. While it is necessary to eliminate the environmental threats caused by these sites, it is also necessary to change and improve the fundamental waste management practices which lead to uncontrolled dumping and open dumps. For those countries and population centres that have employed the use of sanitary landfills and managed operations, the advantages of environmental protection can be demonstrated.



It is important to get the waste out of the cities and to find a safe location away from water and populated areas. The use of engineered systems, including liners, leachate collection, landfill gas collection, and cover, should increase, and old open dumps should be replaced with new sanitary landfill cells. These systems will demonstrate improved environmental protection, particularly for localized ground and surface water resources and air quality.

2.2 Waste Scavengers

In many of the world's urban areas with active and well-defined commercial zones or residential areas with numerous apartment buildings occupied by high earners, scavengers can be found sorting through waste before the authorised collection vehicles arrive. The most common materials recovered include various types of paper products (cardboard, newspaper, and office papers), and plastics and aluminium containers. In most cases, the scavengers use carts or similar units for storage and transport of the recovered materials. In areas where there is a relatively high generation of recyclable materials, the scavengers store the materials in specific locations for their eventual collection by commercial trucks. There are isolated cases where scavengers travel from house to house buying secondary materials.

Another method of scavenging takes place during the collection process. In this case, the collectors and/or helpers conduct a certain amount of segregation during the loading of the waste into the collection vehicles. The segregation process is facilitated in situations where open trucks are used as this allows for some of the collectors to be stationed inside the vehicle. The recyclable materials are stored either inside the truck or on the sides of the vehicle.

The last and certainly the most onerous type of scavenging is that which takes place at the disposal site. Disposal sites, particularly those located in medium and large metropolitan areas attract hundreds, and in the megacities thousands, of individuals for the recovery of a variety of materials for sale. Some scavengers live on or near the disposal site. Living on disposal sites is not only detrimental to the health of the scavengers but, as has been shown in several instances, it can be dangerous due to slides and fires. The relative closeness of the disposal site to the scavengers' dwellings and other factors make it easy for them to allow the participation of their children and other family members in segregation activities. The scavengers work at the landfills in precarious conditions and in different climatic situations (from extremely hot to very cold and wet conditions). In some of the very large disposal sites, the scavengers set up their rules and have been known to divide the site into areas where only specific groups are allowed to work.

Scavenging activities play a major role in the survival of many of the people that perform these activities. However, the methods used reduce the efficiency of the waste management system and, most importantly, are detrimental to the health of the scavengers.

Scavengers that perform their activities prior to the collection phase break open bags to gain access to their contents or indiscriminately remove other materials from containers and leave them on the street, increasing the time required to collect the materials by the formal collection sector. Resource recovery conducted during the collection process reduces the efficiency of the collection system. Scavengers that conduct their work at the disposal sites have a tremendous influence on the speed at which the collection vehicles discharge their contents as well as on the effectiveness and efficiency of the tractors and/or compaction equipment. Adequate modifications to the existing scavenging systems must be made so that resource recovery is limited to specific locations and those that conduct the process do so under safe and "clean" conditions. Most importantly, children and the elderly must be absolutely prohibited from conducting any kind of scavenging activities.

2.3 Importing Wastes Containing Hazardous Materials

Most developing countries have local industries that are highly dependent upon the availability of secondary raw materials for re-processing. These materials include various paper products, plastics and metals. Unfortunately, the methods used to recover secondary raw materials are often inefficient

and disregard the basic principles of occupational health. In some instances this can lead to significant environmental problems, especially where the standards of treatment are low and emissions are uncontrolled. An example of this is the dismantling of electronic equipment containing hazardous substances that may pose a risk to the environment and to the health of workers. An important goal, therefore, is to prevent the export of inappropriate wastes to developing countries for recycling.

2.4 Health Care Wastes

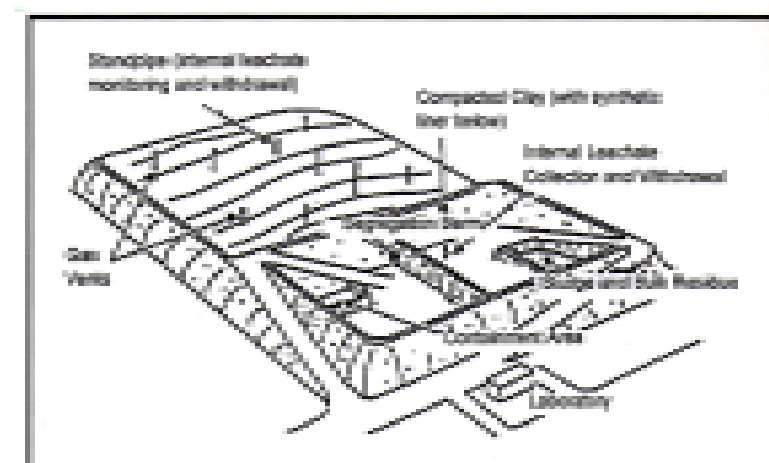
Health care waste is a small but very significant waste stream with high potential risk for populations in developing countries. Health care wastes carry a higher potential for injury, infection and pollution of the environment than any other type of waste. The waste stream contains a wide range of hazardous and infectious materials (i.e. chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cytotoxics, radioactive substances). Consequently, even though this waste stream should be given high priority in the manner in which it is managed, safe reliable infrastructure for the management of health care waste is not in place in many countries.

It is very important to classify health care wastes into categories and to separate the non-risk waste so that it can be disposed of with the municipal waste stream. The methods of storage chosen for this waste stream are particularly important. It is vital to treat the infectious waste and eliminate the pathogens it contains by disinfection. UNEP and ISWA have been co-operating with the World Health Organisation for some years in assisting in the development of health care waste management programmes for low and middle-income countries, but there is still much to achieve.

3. Taking Action

Waste planning in developing countries is facing some other realities where the most restrictive factor is probably to achieve the most with the limited funds available to the waste service. But

Typical layout of a secure landfill



Source: Solid Waste Management for Economically Developing Countries, 1996, p. 288

improvements are not necessarily dependent on massive investments. Developing countries can probably increase their performance by using what they already have in a more efficient way. Good organisational structure and the quality of management are two other important factors for efficient waste management. The work on waste planning of necessity evokes these factors and may help to stress their importance.

3.1 The Importance of Waste Management Planning

Efficient waste planning is necessary to ensure a well functioning waste management system. First of all, it is important to have a national waste management plan that gives the total overview of the waste situation in the country as well as formulating targets and strategies. A national waste management plan should of course be complemented with local waste management plans. Local factors should be taken into consideration when developing a waste management plan. Experience and information can be transferred and collected from other regions and localities but each plan is specific to the local circumstances.

Apart from the adoption of a waste policy, a legal framework is required that enables setting of objectives and targets. A well-elaborated legal framework can assist in effective implementation. The legal framework should also include an effective enforcement system. In most countries, environmental legislation has emerged in response to emerging environmental problems. There is often a lack of coordination between different pieces of legislation protecting different environmental interests. Legislation is often also incoherent since it has been issued at different times, is derived from different problems, protects different interests and encompasses different objectives.

The national and/or regional waste policy together with the legal framework provides the foundation for the waste plan. The local waste plan is of more tangible character and will encompass waste quantities, waste composition and treatment capacity. Typically, it will also contain measures on waste minimisation and prevention, recycling and reduction of waste going to landfill. A well-prepared waste plan at local level can be a very useful tool for local waste managers to improve local waste management. Furthermore, the long-term planning assists in making provisions and enables the possibility to be pro-active regarding deficiencies (lack of disposal capacity, major investments, etc).

A waste management plan should first of all give a comprehensive picture of the existing situation, including what kind of waste exists and where it is going.

The first objective of a waste management plan is therefore to give the parties involved in waste management planning an overview of the existing waste management system. In some cases the work of drawing this picture can be quite extensive, regardless of whether it is a revision of existing data or establishing status and collecting data for the first time. The status should also give answers to the following questions:

- Does the present waste management system meet the political objectives for waste prevention/minimisation, recycling/energy recovery and safe disposal facilities?
- Does the present waste management system address the environmental, health and safety issues?
- Does the present waste management system represent an adequate administrative and organisational framework in terms of efficiency?
- What are the initial areas of concern in relation to:
 - political objectives,

- improving the environmental and health and safety performance of the present system, the capacity and the physical performance (collection equipment, trucks, access to treatment and disposal facilities) of the waste system as a whole, and in terms of proximity and self-sufficiency,
- improving the efficiency and the organisational framework of the system?

The second objective of the plan is to plan for the future. In many cases it makes sense to have a short- and a long-term plan. It is recommended that the future plan consider issues such as:

- The future waste management infrastructure, for example:
 - which collection systems are in place?
 - which types of waste management installations are in place?
 - how are responsibilities divided between local authorities (or other competent authority) and industry?
- Does the present waste management system have sufficient capacity for current and future requirements (based on known waste prognoses)?
- Are the strategic objectives in line with legislation?
- Have targets been set for all relevant waste streams and/or treatment methods, and are they measurable?
- Have indicators been identified in order to monitor the development?
- Have instruments been identified and are they sufficient to reach the set targets/objectives?
- Are they cost-efficient?
- What are the economic consequences of the plan?

Finally the plan should also deal with softer issues such as the need for:

- Public education and public participation,
- Financial aspects,
- Economic aspects,
- Occupational health and safety,
- Institutional issues,
- Legislation.

This booklet gives a short description on how to make a waste management plan. If a more detailed tool is needed ISWA and UNEP recommend *the Strategic Planning Guide for Municipal Solid Waste Management* by David Wilson, Andrew Whiteman and Angela Tormin. This is an interactive toolkit for decision-makers in environmentally developing countries. For further information, contact urbanhelp@worldbank.org.

3.2 Defining the Current Situation

Defining the current situation requires collecting the necessary data to provide general knowledge of waste sources, quantities, waste composition, and the structure of the present waste management system. This work is carried out to measure levels of achievement compared to stated objectives and strategies. Furthermore, it is carried out to get an overview of the current waste management system in order to identify the need for further development of the system and to define strategic objectives.

This work is usually carried out mainly by the administrative authorities, in co-operation with the different parties within the existing waste management system, so that there is a solid platform for political decision making on future systems.

The outline of the current situation will differ from national, to regional, to local levels, since the need for information will differ. At national level aggregated data will be of importance, while the need for data at local level (a local authority) will be of a more detailed nature, due to the local waste management structure.

■ *Gathering the Necessary Information*

In order to be able to set objectives and decide on future initiatives, the competent authority will have to have an overview of the existing situation as regards waste quantities, treatment capacity, financial aspects and environmental impacts.

The first step is to collect and evaluate information. The second step is to describe and analyse the existing system. Analysis then allows for the identification of problems in the existing system.

Collection of information is the process of completing a qualitative description by collecting and collating relevant data on the number of units (e.g. households and companies), quantities of waste, treatment capacities, etc.

The availability of data on waste is clearly an essential factor in preparing a comprehensive analysis on the existing situation. Availability of reliable data is also necessary to monitor attaining of objectives. It is therefore advisable to develop a data collection system as soon as possible in the planning process.

Collection of information includes detailed descriptions of collection materials, collection frequency, transportation systems, and waste treatment facilities, including recycling. The various parts of the waste management system must be described in terms of technology, economy, and organisational structures. At the start of the process it may be difficult to get reliable figures, in which case estimations should be made.

Basically the information should be structured according to:

- Different waste-producing activities in the relevant area: the “sources of waste”.
- Materials of which the waste is composed: the “fractions of waste”.
- The processes the waste goes through: generation, collection, transport, sorting, treatment and disposal.



Example of waste generators

- Households
- Municipal services
- Industries
- Institutions, trade/commerce and offices
- Construction and demolition sites
- Power plants
- Sewage treatment plants
- Incineration plants

By identifying the “sources of waste” it will be possible to direct awareness campaigns and waste prevention programmes towards those sources with the highest volumes of waste or those producing the most hazardous waste. At the same time it will create the platform for any specific regulation directed towards specific waste streams and waste producers. Finally, the effectiveness of inspection and enforcement will be improved.

Rough list of waste streams

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal waste | <input type="checkbox"/> End-of-life vehicles |
| > Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Tyres |
| > Cardboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste electric and electronic equipment |
| > Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction and demolition waste |
| > Iron | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous waste |
| > Other metals | <input type="checkbox"/> Health care waste |
| > Plastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste oil |
| > Waste food and organic waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage sludge |
| > Organic residues (garden waste) | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Packaging Wastes | <input type="checkbox"/> Inert residues Textiles |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulky waste |

By addressing the “fractions of waste” it is possible to obtain information about the quantity and composition of the different fractions. The authorities will then have a background for setting strategic objectives for each waste stream as well as the future treatment methods and installations needed to attain the objectives.

The status of the existing waste management system and its description allow identification of needs in terms of design, capacity, and new initiatives.

Local and/ regional waste management system

If the waste management plan is to be prepared at local or regional level, it may be relevant to include a detailed description of the waste management system in place. The description could include the following examples, as a minimum:

- Collected materials
- Number and types of collection vehicles
- Transfer stations/sorting facilities
- Treatment plants (e.g. landfills, incineration plants)
- Recycling activities (informal as well as formal)
- Payment schemes
- Regulation (national as well as local)

Finally, it may be relevant to present the amounts of waste that go through the different processes (generation, collection, transport, sorting, treatment and disposal). This is in order to be able to assess whether current capacity of waste management installations is sufficient.

❖ *Data Collection Methods*

One way to collect data is to construct key-figures through sorting tests and other kinds of test programmes. Key figures could have the form of waste production per capita, per industrial sector, quantities of hazardous waste, typical fractions in household waste, etc. It is necessary to know the waste composition in order to estimate the efficiency of the existing separate collection systems, and to estimate the need and possibilities of new separate collection initiatives.

Another way is to measure the waste stream directly. Such measurements can have varying degrees of sophistication. When it is possible to weigh the waste this is, of course, the most accurate form of registration. Without such data, calculations can be made based on data from equipment currently in use (number of bins emptied, number of trucks arriving at the plant, etc.).

Authorised local authorities, private waste management companies, waste-producing or waste-recycling companies could provide some of the necessary data. These parties will often have important information on quantities of waste collected, recycled or treated, as well as on its composition.

In many cases data can be collected by request from sources such as producers, transport firms or treatment plants. This can be done in various ways, typically by surveying producers or waste managers.

Statistical information to be collected can include:

- Population size
- Geographical size of the area from which waste is collected, categorised as residential, industrial, or commercial areas
- A detailed picture of the size and number of principal industries, commercial undertakings including agriculture, and tourism
- Annual amounts of waste and its composition, analysed with seasonal fluctuations.

■ *Description and Analysis of the Existing System*

It is important for the plan to include a description of the existing waste collection system and waste management installations. The present waste collection system should be described in physical, financial, and organisational terms. This description should also be given for each waste source and for special waste streams.

As for the collection system, waste management installations should also be described in physical, financial, and organisational terms. The waste management installations will often consist of many different treatment plants, such as incineration plants, composting plants, landfills and various types of recycling facilities.

Current throughput, as well as the maximum capacity of each plant, should be described. The information can be obtained through questionnaires or visits to the plants, but information can also be gathered from permits and other official sources, etc.

On the basis of the information and analyses of the existing situation it should be possible to evaluate the performance of the existing system. Therefore political decision-makers and their administrators will have a benchmark by which to identify the problems that need special attention in the future, and which objectives are realistic and achievable within the timeframe of the waste management plan.

3.3 Defining the Scope and Strategy for a Waste Management Plan

One of the most important tasks is to determine the sources, types and quantities of waste generated, the present collection, transport and treatment, and how these might change in the future. It is thus necessary to decide the geographical area, e.g. municipalities or regions, and the sectors (households, industry, agriculture etc.), to be included in the waste management plan. The types of waste being included in the plan, and those given priority must also be clearly defined. Another task is to decide the time period for which the waste management plan is to be developed.

■ *Planning for the Future*

On the basis of the analyses performed during establishment of the current situation and evaluation of the existing waste management system, it should be possible to propose:

- the future political objectives,
- the future needs for changes in order to improve the environmental, health and safety performance of the present system,
- the future needs for changes in relation to the capacity and the physical performance of the waste system,
- the future changes in order to improve the efficiency and the organisational framework of the system.

As prevention has the highest priority in the waste management hierarchy, efforts should be made to aim to reduce the quantity of waste generated. The appropriate qualified authorities should therefore focus on setting goals for:

- promotion of clean technologies and products,
- reduction of the hazardousness of wastes,
- establishment of technical standards and possibly world-wide rules to limit the presence of certain dangerous substances in products,
- promotion of reuse and recycling schemes,
- appropriate use of economic instruments,
- eco-balances,
- eco-audit schemes,
- life-cycle analysis,
- actions on consumer information and education, and development of the eco-label system.

In order to calculate the future needs for waste management services, it is necessary to estimate the future quantities of waste in the various streams. The nature, volume, and location of waste and residues requiring treatment and disposal in the future can be hard to predict accurately for various reasons:

- Population growth
- Changes in economic circumstances (growth/recession)
- Changes in demand for, and nature of, consumer goods
- Changes in manufacturing methods

- New waste treatment methods
- Effects of policy changes (prevention, minimisation, re-use, recycling)

Thus, a single prognosis of future waste is generally difficult to formulate. Nevertheless, the need for some sort of basis, especially for future investments, is obvious in order to secure the necessary capacity of the system for the future. When preparing plans, several scenarios covering changes in waste generation and market demands for recovered materials are needed. The planning process should therefore choose among alternative future scenarios.

After evaluation of the different scenarios, the plan will be based upon the scenario that is most advantageous technically, environmentally and economically, and which represents a flexible solution to future changes in waste generation, etc.

Waste management planning is a long-term infrastructure issue, with large investments and long term planning horizons. This poses specific challenges to waste planning in a fast growing and constantly changing society.

Planning procedures for locating a new landfill takes time. It is therefore realistic to expect that the planning process itself, including environmental impact assessments on the various alternatives, will take place in the short-term, while physical changes and the expected changes in the waste streams might occur later. In addition, some options will have to be investigated in more detail through the exchange of experience with other regions, cities, and countries. Often it is necessary to identify areas where further information and research are needed before action can be taken.

Measures such as increasing taxes on waste going to landfills will gradually change the behaviour of the waste generators, but the generators will also need alternative solutions. Higher prices on landfills might be the incentive to make recycling and energy recovery activities feasible, but they will not be in place from day one.

The time frame for the drawing up or revision of the plan depends on a number of factors. To reflect this, the plan can consist of two parts: Part 1, which would be for immediate action, and Part 2, which would be a long-term perspective.

The reason for the long-term perspective part of the plan is that considerable difficulties can be expected in identifying suitable sites for waste treatment facilities or landfills within, or close to, urban areas. Also, it will be necessary to put considerable effort into site selection, environmental impact assessment, and public consultation in order to obtain permission for new sites. Finally, waste treatment facilities represent large investments that need to be redeemed over a longer period.

Costs of collection are more short-term in nature and less capital intensive. The main items are more likely to be contracts with entrepreneurs that typically have a lifetime of no more than five years.

From a practical point of view, the time frame of the plan should also be long enough to make it possible to evaluate whether the targets in the plan are reached. Therefore it will not be practical to re-evaluate the plan until after more than three years. The time frame of the plan may also reflect other considerations on the political scene e.g. the period between local elections. Thus, a time frame of three to five years would be appropriate for revision of the action part of the waste plan.

■ *Links to Other Policy Areas*

Waste planning has to be an integrated part of the total national planning system, both as a wider approach to sustainable development and in order to achieve the overall goals set down in the waste management plans. A number of different policy areas relate directly to waste planning and they ought to be considered when the scope of the waste management plan is decided upon.

- Demography
- Economic growth
- Public health impacts
- Occupational health
- Energy resources
- Space (land use)
- Material resources
- Water quality
- Contamination of soil
- Greenhouse gases

Summary of Swiss Guidelines for Waste management

Scientific and technical guidelines:

- Waste disposal systems should generate materials that can be recycled or deposited in a final disposal site.
- Hazardous substances must be concentrated, not diluted.
- Organic substances are not compatible with final disposal sites.

Political guidelines:

- Waste management is guided by the objectives of the environmental protection laws.
- Waste disposal systems must be environmentally compatible.
- Waste should be disposed of within Switzerland.
- Regional responsibility for planning of landfill sites is applicable.
- Public authorities play a subsidiary role in waste management.

Economic guidelines:

Public authorities should not subsidize waste disposal systems.
The *polluter pays* principle is to be adhered to.

Source: Municipal Solid Waste Management, 2003, p. 7

■ **Economic Consequences and Financing**

Although it can be argued that proper waste disposal is affordable, the initial investments for the infrastructure are nevertheless, considerable. In particular, the construction of MSW incineration plants and of well-equipped landfill sites is expensive. However, costs must be considered over a long period of time. From past experience, it can be observed that cleaning up old, polluting waste deposits may cost more than investment in proper facilities and adequate treatment of the waste. Therefore, it is not so much a question of affordability as of choosing to pay enough for waste disposal at the outset, rather than being faced with uncontrolled, inflated costs later.

Achieving the preferred mix of treatment methods for each waste stream in the future system is the real puzzle of waste management planning. The final result will consist of a number of measures and instruments (legal and economic) to be activated, awareness campaigns, new waste collection schemes and access to new treatment installations.

Besides estimating the effectiveness of initiatives in terms of volumes of waste (tonnes per year) to be directed and redirected in the overall waste stream, the future waste management system will typically represent significant investment and additional operating costs.

A major factor for the final decisions and approval of the new waste management system will be to decide on the economic consequences, both for initial investment and for the future level of user payments and fees. Again, each initiative will have to be evaluated in terms of economic consequences, and finally included in one aggregated overview, as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Economy of Existing and Future Waste Management Systems

	Total cost of existing waste management system	Total short-term cost (3 - 5 years)	Total long-term cost (8 - 12 years)
General administrative initiatives			
General initiatives on waste prevention			
Initiatives on waste stream 1			
Initiatives on waste stream 2			
Initiatives on waste stream 3, etc.			
Total cost			
Total cost per tonne			

The aim is to estimate the total costs in terms of capital costs and operating costs. However, as collection equipment, landfills and other installations needed in the overall waste management system have various lifetimes and depreciation periods, calculation is needed in order to compare and aggregate the costs of numerous operations. One way is to calculate the total annual costs, i.e. operating cost plus the annual payback for capital investments.

Table 1 suggests differentiating in the total cost between general administrative initiatives (e.g. cost for waste planning, issuing permits, legislation, etc.), general initiatives on waste prevention and the various waste streams. This should make it possible to keep track of the economic costs of reaching the objectives. It should also make it possible to compare the costs of the existing waste management system with the future costs of the new waste management plan.

It is important as suggested, to calculate costs per tonne. This establishes the average cost and may also be used to compare the costs with other alternatives.

As mentioned, the plan may only cover 3 - 5 years, while it may be necessary to have a long-term perspective to establish the necessary capacity to manage the future quantities of waste. Thus, some consideration of long-term capacity and costs is often useful. In Table 2 the long-term is defined as the period of 8 - 12 years from the start of the waste management plan, but this will always depend on national or regional conditions.

■ **Defining Performance Indicators**

One of the difficulties in setting up a new waste management plan is the transformation of qualitative political objectives into quantitative measurable targets and indicators. However, measurable targets and indicators are important in order to assess whether or not the political objective is met.

One approach is to define political objectives for each of the elements in the hierarchy of waste management options. For each objective at least one measurable target, measurable indicator, instrument and precondition should be defined. If the objective is of a rather broad nature several targets, indicators and instruments may be useful or necessary.

The matrix provided in Table 2 may be useful to summarise the objectives and proposed initiatives.

Table 2. Objectives for the Waste Management System

	Political objective	Measurable targets	Measurable indicators	Instruments	Preconditions
Waste Prevention					
Recycling					
Recovery					
Landfilling					

Each of the political objectives may have several targets and instruments or measures. A possibility is to have an overall target for recycling and combine it with recycling targets for specific waste streams or specific sources such as households.

Reducing the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste within Europe is provided as an example in Table 3.

Table 3. Example: Reducing Landfilling of Biodegradable Municipal Waste

	Political objective	Measurable targets	Measurable indicators	Instruments	Preconditions
Landfilling: Reduce the use of landfills	To save natural resources by increasing recycling of waste to avoid unproductive use of land and to reduce negative environmental impacts on natural resources	Year 2006: The amount of BMW going to landfill must be reduced to 75% of the total amount by weight of BMW produced in 1995.	Year 2004: Treatment facility for BMW to be established parallel to gradual development of separate collection schemes for paper, cardboard, garden waste, and food waste	Year 2002: a) Approve the legislative framework in order to secure the individual separation of biodegradable wastes. b) Increase the taxes on waste that goes to landfill by 20% each year.	Year 2001 - 02: Conduct a baseline study on relevant treatment methods
		Year 2009: must be reduced to 50%.			
		Year 2016: must be reduced to 35%.			

Note: Targets are from the Council Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste. BMW is an abbreviation for biodegradable municipal waste.

4. Implementing the Plan

When all the analyses of the existing situation and the future developments in waste quantities are made and the objectives are set, it is time to decide how these objectives are to be met. In a way this is the core of the planning process.

As a minimum, three types of decisions will have to be made decisions regarding:

- the choice of collection system,
- the waste management installations
- the division of responsibilities between local authorities (or other competent authority) and industry.

Collection systems for all identified types of sources and waste streams should be decided on. What sorts of systems are necessary to reach the objectives? Will special regulation be needed, such as a legal obligation for regions or municipalities to establish collection systems in areas of more than a certain size? Also, does it have to be a kerbside collection, which is typically more expensive but also more effective, or will it be enough to have a bring system either as bring banks or as a recycling site? These are the sorts of questions that should be asked for each source and waste stream.

The strategy should also include decisions on type, capacity and location of existing as well as future waste management installations. At least for the development period of the waste management plan. This may be one of the most difficult issues to deal with in the planning, which is why the public should be involved in the decision, at least through a consultation process.

Before deciding on collection and treatment methods it may be useful to carry out one or more cost-benefit analyses (CBA) for different initiatives for waste streams or sources. The CBA is a tool to create an overview of the consequences/impacts of different options and, of course, to help decision-makers. The use of CBAs may also be an opportunity to examine the impact of the waste management system on other plans, such as health, spatial planning, etc.

The third decision concerns the division of responsibilities between public administration and industry. Often household waste and waste from trade and industry that is similar to household waste are being collected and treated under the responsibility of the municipalities. Alternatively, collection, recycling and treatment of industrial waste may be the responsibility of the industries themselves. Another division of responsibility is the concept of producer responsibility, where the producer has some kind of obligation to take back and treat a product when it becomes waste.

5. Public Participation and Individual Involvement

Public participation is crucial in order to implement the waste management plan. *ISWA and UNEP see public participation--resulting from public awareness raised through education--as being necessary for the plan to be implemented.*

❖ Communication and Social Issues

ISWA and UNEP believe that there is a need for a stronger focus on communication and social issues in order to effect a structural change that will move society towards less waste of resources and less contaminating behaviour.

However, in order to change consumers' value systems it is important to focus on the different players, on their individual interests and how those interests change. It is important to be aware of the following:

- The inter-relations between different social groups, specific living conditions and backgrounds, all of which have a major influence on people's consumption and environmental behaviour.
- There can be conflicting representations of a single thing/idea/place. People live in different worlds, even though they share the same locality.
- Environmental awareness is not the same thing as environmental behaviour. People may well see the benefit for the environment of using reusable or recyclable products, but their social needs may take them stick to traditional patterns. Price and convenience are two essential factors here.

Part of the solution is that the communication should aim at turning inappropriate behaviour into awareness. People expect solutions, but they must become aware that they too are part of the problem and it is therefore a natural consequence that they should contribute to a solution.

Waste education will become one of the prime issues in years to come. An interesting option is to firmly embed environmental issues in the school syllabus starting at a very basic level.

n During the Planning Process

It is important to be in contact with all stakeholders throughout the entire planning process - this will lead to more successful implementation. In some cases it can be necessary for the government to help mobilise the “weaker” interests groups.

It is important that all stakeholders with rights responsibilities and interests play an active role in decision making.

Links to examples of Waste management plans can be found at the back of this booklet, in Annex 2.

Reference

Christian L., Stefanie H., and Samuel S. (2003) Municipal Solid Waste Management: Strategies and Technologies for Sustainable Solutions, p.7.
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