**Brief content of lectures Waste management**

**Lecture 1.**

**Waste management** or **waste disposal** includes the processes and actions required to manage waste from its inception to its final disposal.

This includes the collection, transport, treatment and disposal of waste, together with monitoring and regulation of the waste management process and waste-related laws, technologies, economic mechanisms.

Waste can be solid, liquid, or gases and each type has different methods of disposal and management. Waste management deals with all types of waste, including industrial,

biological, household, municipal, organic,

 biomedical, radioactive wastes.

 In some cases, waste can pose a threat to human healthю

Health issues are associated throughout the entire process of waste management

Health issues can also arise indirectly or directly: directly through the handling of solid waste, and indirectly through the consumption of water, soil and food.

Waste is produced by human activity, for example, the extraction and processing of raw materials.[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-UN97-4)

Waste management is intended to reduce adverse effects of waste on human health, the environment, planetary resources and aesthetics.

The aim of waste management is to reduce the dangerous effects of such waste on the environment and human health. A big part of waste management deals with municipal solid waste, which is created by industrial, commercial, and household activity.

Waste management practices are not uniform among countries (developed and developing nations); regions ([urban](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_area) and rural areas), and residential and industrial sectors can all take different approaches.

**Lecture 2** Impact of waste management on human health and life

Proper management of waste is important for building sustainable and liveable cities, but it remains a challenge for many developing countries and cities. A report found that effective waste management is relatively expensive, usually comprising 20%–50% of municipal budgets.

 Operating this essential municipal service requires integrated systems that are efficient, sustainable, and socially supported.

 A large portion of waste management practices deal with municipal solid waste (MSW) which is the bulk of the waste that is created by household, industrial, and commercial activity.

 According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), municipal solid waste is expected to reach approximately 3.4 Gt by 2050; however, policies and lawmaking can reduce the amount of waste produced in different areas and cities of the world.

 Measures of waste management include measures for integrated techno-economic mechanisms  of a circular economy, effective disposal facilities, export and import control and optimal sustainable design of products that are produced.

In the first systematic review of the scientific evidence around global waste, its management and its impact on human health and life, authors concluded that about a fourth of all the municipal solid terrestrial waste is not collected and an additional fourth is mismanaged after collection, often being burned in open and uncontrolled fires – or close to one billion tons per year when combined.

They also found that broad priority areas each lack a "high-quality research base", partly due to the absence of "substantial research funding", which motivated scientists often require.

Electronic waste (ewaste) includes discarded computer monitors, motherboards, mobile phones and chargers, compact discs (CDs), headphones, television sets, air conditioners and refrigerators. According to the Global E-waste Monitor 2017, India generates ~ 2 million tonnes (Mte) of e-waste annually and ranks fifth among the e-waste producing countries, after the United States, the People’s Republic of China, [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) and [Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany).

**Lecture 3 . Principles of waste management**



Diagram of the waste hierarchy

**Waste hierarchy**

The [waste hierarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_hierarchy) refers to the "3 Rs"

**Reduce,**

**Reuse and**

**Recycle, which classifies waste management strategies according to their desirability in terms of  waste minimisation.**

The waste hierarchy is the bedrock of most waste minimization strategies.

The aim of the waste hierarchy is to extract the maximum practical benefits from products and to generate the minimum amount of end waste; see: [resource recovery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resource_recovery).

 The waste hierarchy is represented as a pyramid because the basic premise is that policies should promote measures to prevent the generation of waste.

The next step or preferred action is to seek alternative uses for the waste that has been generated, i.e., by re-use.

The next is recycling which includes composting.

Following this step is material recovery and waste-to-energy.

The final action is disposal, in landfills or through incineration without energy recovery.

This last step is the final resort for waste which has not been prevented, diverted or recovered.

The waste hierarchy represents the progression of a product or material through the sequential stages of the pyramid of waste management. The hierarchy represents the latter parts of the life-cycle for each product.

**Lecture 4 Life-cycle of a product**

The life-cycle begins with the design, then proceeds through manufacture, distribution, and primary use and then follows through the waste hierarchy's stages of reduce, reuse and recycle.

Each stage in the life-cycle offers opportunities for policy intervention: to rethink the need for the product, to redesign to minimize waste potential, and to extend its use.

Product life-cycle analysis is a way to optimize the use of the world's limited resources by avoiding the unnecessary generation of waste.

## Sources of recovery

### Solid waste

### Organic matter

### Industrial waste

## Recovery methods







**Lecture 5. Resource efficiency**

**Resource efficiency**  reflects the understanding that global economic growth and development can not be sustained at current production and consumption patterns.

Globally, humanity extracts more resources to produce goods than the planet can replenish.

 Resource efficiency is the reduction of the environmental impact from the production and consumption of these goods, from final raw material extraction to the last use and disposal.

**Resource efficiency**  is the maximising of the supply of money, materials, staff, and other assets that can be drawn on by a person or organization in order to function effectively, with minimum [wasted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste) ([natural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_resource)) [resource expenses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resource_intensity). It means using the Earth's limited resources in a sustainable manner while minimising environmental impact.

**Polluter-pays principle**

The polluter-pays principle mandates that the polluting party pays for the impact on the environment. With respect to waste management, this generally refers to the requirement for a waste generator to pay for appropriate disposal of the unrecoverable material.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-17)



[Manlove, Alliott & Co. Ltd.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manlove%2C_Alliott_%26_Co._Ltd.) 1894 destructor furnace. The use of [incinerators](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incinerator) for waste disposal became popular in the late 19th century.

The dramatic increase in waste for disposal led to the creation of the first [incineration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incineration) plants, or, as they were then called, "destructors". In 1874, the first incinerator was built in [Nottingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham) by [Manlove, Alliott & Co. Ltd.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manlove%2C_Alliott_%26_Co._Ltd.) to the design of Alfred Fryer.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-Lewis-20) However, these were met with opposition on account of the large amounts of ash they produced and which wafted over the neighbouring areas.

Similar municipal systems of waste disposal sprung up at the turn of the 20th century in other large cities of [Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe) and [North America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_America). In 1895, [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) became the first U.S. city with public-sector garbage management.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-NWRA-22)

Early [garbage removal trucks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garbage_truck) were simply open bodied [dump trucks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dump_truck) pulled by a team of horses. They became motorized in the early part of the 20th century and the first closed body trucks to eliminate odours with a dumping lever mechanism were introduced in the 1920s in Britain.

These were soon equipped with 'hopper mechanisms' where the scooper was loaded at floor level and then hoisted mechanically to deposit the waste in the truck. The [Garwood Load Packer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garwood_Load_Packer) was the first truck in 1938, to incorporate a hydraulic compactor.

**Lecture 6. Waste handling and transport**

*Waste collection vehicle,*[*Waste collector*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_collector)*, and*[*Waste sorting*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_sorting)



Moulded plastic, wheeled waste bin in [Berkshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berkshire), England

Waste collection methods vary widely among different countries and regions. Domestic waste collection services are often provided by local government authorities, or by private companies for industrial and commercial waste. Some areas, especially those in less developed countries, do not have formal waste-collection systems.

**Waste handling practices**

Curbside collection is the most common method of disposal in most European countries, Canada, New Zealand, United States, and many other parts of the developed world in which waste is collected at regular intervals by specialised trucks. This is often associated with curb-side waste segregation. In rural areas, waste may need to be taken to a transfer station. Waste collected is then transported to an appropriate disposal facility. In some areas, vacuum collection is used in which waste is transported from the home or commercial premises by vacuum along small bore tubes. Systems are in use in Europe and North America.

*Main article:*[*Automated vacuum collection*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automated_vacuum_collection)

In some jurisdictions unsegregated waste is collected at the curb-side or from waste transfer stations and then sorted into recyclables and unusable waste. Such systems are capable of sorting large volumes of solid waste, salvaging recyclables, and turning the rest into bio-gas and soil conditioner. In [San Francisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco), the local government established its *Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance* in support of its goal of "Zero waste by 2020", requiring everyone in the city to keep recyclables and compostables out of the landfill. The three streams are collected with the curbside "Fantastic 3" bin system – blue for recyclables, green for compostables, and black for landfill-bound materials – provided to residents and businesses and serviced by San Francisco's sole refuse hauler, Recology. The city's "Pay-As-You-Throw" system charges customers by the volume of landfill-bound materials, which provides a financial incentive to separate recyclables and compostables from other discards. The city's Department of the Environment's Zero Waste Program has led the city to achieve 80% diversion, the highest diversion rate in North America.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-26) Other businesses such as [Waste Industries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_Industries) use a variety of colors to distinguish between trash and recycling cans. In addition, in some areas of the world the disposal of municipal solid waste can cause environmental strain due to official not having benchmarks that help measure the environmental sustainability of certain practices.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-27)

**Waste segregation**

*Further information:*[*Waste separation*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_separation)



Recycling point at the [Gdańsk University of Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gda%C5%84sk_University_of_Technology)

This is the separation of wet waste and dry waste. The purpose is to recycle dry waste easily and to use wet waste as compost. When segregating waste, the amount of waste that gets landfilled reduces considerably, resulting in lower levels of air and water pollution. Importantly, waste segregation should be based on the type of waste and the most appropriate treatment and disposal. This also makes it easier to apply different processes to the waste, like composting, recycling and incineration. It is important to practice waste management and segregation as a community. One way to practice waste management is to ensure there is awareness. The process of waste segregation should be explained to the community.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-28)

Segregated waste is also often cheaper to dispose of because it does not require as much manual sorting as mixed waste. There are a number of important reasons why waste segregation is important such as legal obligations, cost savings and protection of human health and the environment. Institutions should make it as easy as possible for their staff to correctly segregate their waste. This can include labelling, making sure there are enough accessible bins and clearly indicating why segregation is so important.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-29) Labeling is especially important when dealing with nuclear waste due to how much harm to human health the excess products of the nuclear cycle can cause.[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-30)

Financial models[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Waste_management&action=edit&section=11)]

In most developed countries, domestic waste disposal is funded from a national or local tax which may be related to income, or property values. Commercial and industrial waste disposal is typically charged for as a commercial service, often as an integrated charge which includes disposal costs. This practice may encourage disposal contractors to opt for the cheapest disposal option such as landfill rather than the environmentally best solution such as re-use and recycling.

Financing of solid waste management projects can be overwhelming for the city government, especially if the government see it as an important service they should render to the citizen. Donors and grants are a funding mechanism that is dependent on the interest of the donor organization. as much as it is a good way to develop a city's waste management infrastructure, attracting and utilizing grants is solely reliant on what the donor considers as important. Therefore, it may be a challenge for a city government to dictate how the funds should be distributed among the various aspect of waste management.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-31)

In some areas like [Taipei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taipei), the city government charges its households and industries for the volume of rubbish they produce. Waste is collected by the city council only if it is put in government issued rubbish bags. This policy has successfully reduced the amount of waste the city produces and increased the recycling rate.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-32)

Another example from a country that enforces a waste tax is [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy). Instead of using government issued bags like [Taipei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taipei), the tax is based on two rates: fixed and variable. The fixed rate is based on the size of the house while the variable is determined by the amount of people living in the house.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-33)

The World Bank finances and advises on solid waste management projects using a diverse suite of products and services, including traditional loans, results-based financing, development policy financing, and technical advisory. World Bank-financed waste management projects usually address the entire lifecycle of waste right from the point of generation to collection and transportation, and finally treatment and disposal.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-wb1-6)

Disposal methods[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Waste_management&action=edit&section=12)]

**Landfill**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Waste_management&action=edit&section=13)]

*This section is an excerpt from*[*Landfill*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landfill)*.*[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Landfill&action=edit)]

A [landfill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landfill) site, also known as a tip, dump, rubbish dump, garbage dump, or dumping ground, is a site for the disposal of [waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste) materials. Landfill is the oldest and most common form of [waste disposal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_disposal), although the systematic burial of the waste with daily, intermediate and final covers only began in the 1940s. In the past, refuse was simply left in piles or thrown into pits; in archeology this is known as a [midden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midden).

Some landfill sites are used for waste management purposes, such as temporary storage, consolidation and transfer, or for various stages of processing waste material, such as sorting, treatment, or recycling. Unless they are stabilized, landfills may undergo severe shaking or [soil liquefaction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_liquefaction) of the ground during an [earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthquake). Once full, the area over a landfill site may be [reclaimed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landfill_restoration) for other uses.



A [landfill compaction vehicle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_compaction) in action.



Spittelau incineration plant in [Vienna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna)

**Incineration**



Tarastejärvi Incineration Plant in [Tampere](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tampere), Finland

Incineration is a disposal method in which solid organic wastes are subjected to combustion so as to convert them into residue and gaseous products.

This method is useful for disposal of both municipal solid waste and solid residue from waste water treatment. This process reduces the volumes of solid waste by 80 to 95 percent.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-34) Incineration and other high temperature waste treatment systems are sometimes described as "[thermal treatment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thermal_treatment)". Incinerators convert waste materials into [heat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heat), [gas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas), [steam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steam), and [ash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incineration#Solid_outputs).

Incineration is carried out both on a small scale by individuals and on a large scale by industry. It is used to dispose of solid, liquid and gaseous waste. It is recognized as a practical method of disposing of certain [hazardous waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazardous_waste) materials (such as biological [medical waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_waste)). Incineration is a controversial method of waste disposal, due to issues such as emission of gaseous [pollutants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollutants) including substantial quantities of [carbon dioxide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_dioxide).

Incineration is common in countries such as [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) where land is more scarce, as the facilities generally do not require as much area as landfills. [Waste-to-energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste-to-energy) (WtE) or energy-from-waste (EfW) are broad terms for facilities that burn waste in a furnace or boiler to generate heat, steam or electricity. Combustion in an incinerator is not always perfect and there have been concerns about pollutants in gaseous emissions from incinerator stacks. Particular concern has focused on some very persistent [organic compounds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organic_compound) such as [dioxins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polychlorinated_dibenzodioxins), [furans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Furan), and [PAHs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polycyclic_aromatic_hydrocarbon), which may be created and which may have serious environmental consequences and some heavy metals such as [mercury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_%28element%29)[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-35) and [lead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead) which can be volatilised in the combustion process..

Recycling



Steel crushed and baled for recycling

Recycling is a [resource recovery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resource_recovery) practice that refers to the collection and reuse of waste materials such as empty beverage containers. This process involves breaking down and reusing materials that would otherwise be gotten rid of as trash. There are numerous benefits of recycling, and with so many new technologies making even more materials recyclable, it is possible to clean up the Earth.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-36) Recycling not only benefits the environment but also positively affects the economy. The materials from which the items are made can be made into new products.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-37) Materials for recycling may be collected separately from general waste using dedicated bins and collection vehicles, a procedure called [kerbside collection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kerbside_collection). In some communities, the owner of the waste is required to separate the materials into different bins (e.g. for paper, plastics, metals) prior to its collection. In other communities, all recyclable materials are placed in a single bin for collection, and the sorting is handled later at a central facility. The latter method is known as "[single-stream recycling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-stream_recycling)."[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-38)[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-39)



A recycling point in [Lappajärvi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lappaj%C3%A4rvi), [Finland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finland)

The most common consumer products recycled include [aluminium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aluminium) such as beverage cans, [copper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copper) such as wire, [steel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steel) from food and aerosol cans, old steel furnishings or equipment, rubber [tyres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tire), [polyethylene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HDPE) and [PET](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recycling_of_PET_Bottles) bottles, [glass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass) bottles and jars, [paperboard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paperboard) [cartons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carton), [newspapers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspapers), magazines and light paper, and [corrugated fiberboard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corrugated_fiberboard) boxes.

[PVC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polyvinyl_chloride), [LDPE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LDPE), [PP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polypropylene), and [PS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polystyrene) (see [resin identification code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resin_identification_code)) are also recyclable. These items are usually composed of a single type of material, making them relatively easy to recycle into new products. The recycling of complex products (such as computers and electronic equipment) is more difficult, due to the additional dismantling and separation required.

The type of material accepted for recycling varies by city and country. Each city and country has different recycling programs in place that can handle the various types of recyclable materials. However, certain variation in acceptance is reflected in the resale value of the material once it is reprocessed. Some of the types of recycling include waste paper and cardboard, [plastic recycling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_recycling), [metal recycling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metal_recycling), electronic devices, [wood recycling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wood_recycling), [glass recycling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass_recycling), cloth and textile and so many more.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-40) In July 2017, the Chinese government announced an import ban of 24 categories of recyclables and [solid waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solid_waste), including [plastic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_waste), textiles and mixed paper, placing tremendous impact on developed countries globally, which exported directly or indirectly to China.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-41)

Re-use

**Lecture 7 Biological reprocessing**



Recoverable materials that are organic in nature, such as plant material, food scraps, and paper products, can be recovered through composting and digestion processes to decompose the organic matter. The resulting organic material is then recycled as mulch or compost for agricultural or landscaping purposes. In addition, waste gas from the process (such as methane) can be captured and used for generating electricity and heat (CHP/cogeneration) maximising efficiencies. There are different types of composting and digestion methods and technologies. They vary in complexity from simple home compost heaps to large scale industrial digestion of mixed domestic waste. The different methods of biological decomposition are classified as aerobic or anaerobic methods. Some methods use the hybrids of these two methods. The anaerobic digestion of the organic fraction of solid waste is more environmentally effective than landfill, or incineration.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-42) The intention of biological processing in waste management is to control and accelerate the natural process of decomposition of organic matter.

**Lecture 8 Energy recovery**

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Energy recovery from waste is the conversion of non-recyclable waste materials into usable heat, electricity, or fuel through a variety of processes, including combustion, gasification, pyrolyzation, anaerobic digestion, and [landfill gas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landfill_gas) recovery

 This process is often called waste-to-energy. Energy recovery from waste is part of the non-hazardous waste management hierarchy. Using energy recovery to convert non-recyclable waste materials into electricity and heat, generates a renewable energy source and can reduce carbon emissions by offsetting the need for energy from fossil sources as well as reduce methane generation from landfills.

Globally, waste-to-energy accounts for 16% of waste management.

The energy content of waste products can be harnessed directly by using them as a direct combustion fuel, or indirectly by processing them into another type of fuel.

Thermal treatment ranges from using waste as a fuel source for cooking or heating and the use of the gas fuel (see above), to fuel for boilers to generate steam and electricity in a turbine.

Pyrolysis and gasification are two related forms of thermal treatment where waste materials are heated to high temperatures with limited [oxygen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxygen) availability. The process usually occurs in a sealed vessel under high [pressure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pressure).

Pyrolysis of solid waste converts the material into solid, liquid and gas products. The liquid and gas can be burnt to produce energy or refined into other chemical products (chemical refinery). The solid residue (char) can be further refined into products such as [activated carbon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Activated_carbon). Gasification and advanced [Plasma arc gasification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plasma_arc_gasification) are used to convert organic materials directly into a synthetic gas ([syngas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syngas)) composed of carbon monoxide and hydrogen. The gas is then burnt to produce electricity and steam. An alternative to pyrolysis is high temperature and pressure supercritical water decomposition (hydrothermal monophasic oxidation).

**Lecture 9 Resource recovery**

Resource recovery is the systematic diversion of waste, which was intended for disposal, for a specific next use.

It is the processing of recyclables to extract or recover materials and resources, or convert to energy.

These activities are performed at a resource recovery facility.

Resource recovery is not only environmentally important, but it is also cost-effective.

 It decreases the amount of waste for disposal, saves space in landfills, and conserves natural resources.

Resource recovery (as opposed to waste management) uses LCA (life cycle analysis) attempts to offer alternatives to waste management. For mixed MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) a number of broad studies have indicated that administration, source separation and collection followed by reuse and recycling of the non-organic fraction and energy and compost/fertilizer production of the organic material via anaerobic digestion to be the favoured path.

As an example of how resource recycling can be beneficial, many items thrown away contain metals that can be recycled to create a profit, such as the components in circuit boards. Wood chippings in pallets and other packaging materials can be recycled to useful products for horticulture. The recycled chips can cover paths, walkways, or arena surfaces.

Application of rational and consistent waste management practices can yield a range of benefits including:

1. Economic – Improving economic efficiency through the means of resource use, treatment and disposal and creating markets for recycles can lead to efficient practices in the production and consumption of products and materials resulting in valuable materials being recovered for reuse and the potential for new jobs and new business opportunities.
2. Social – By reducing adverse impacts on health by proper waste management practises, the resulting consequences are more appealing civic communities. Better social advantages can lead to new sources of employment and potentially lifting communities out of poverty especially in some of the developing poorer countries and cities.
3. Environmental – Reducing or eliminating adverse impacts on the environment through reducing, reusing and recycling, and minimizing resource extraction can result in improved air and water quality and help in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Inter-generational Equity – Following effective waste management practises can provide subsequent generations a more robust economy, a fairer and more inclusive society and a cleaner environment.

**Lecture 10 Waste valorization**

Waste valorization, beneficial reuse, value recovery or waste reclamation is the process of [waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste) products or [residues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Residue_%28chemistry%29) from an economic process being [valorized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valorisation) (given economic value), by [reuse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reuse) or [recycling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recycling) in order to create economically useful materials.

The term comes from practices in [sustainable manufacturing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufacturing) and [economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_Economics), [industrial ecology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_ecology) and waste management. The term is usually applied in industrial processes where residue from creating or processing one good is used as a raw material or energy feedstock for another industrial process. [Industrial wastes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_waste) in particular are good candidates for valorization because they tend to be more consistent and predictable than other waste, such as [household waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Household_waste).

Historically, most industrial processes treated waste products as something to be disposed of, causing [industrial pollution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Pollution) unless handled properly.

However, increased regulation of residual materials and socioeconomic changes, such as the introduction of ideas about sustainable development and circular economy in the 1990s and 2000s increased focus on industrial practices to [recover these resources](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resource_recovery) as value add materials.

Academics focus on finding economic value to reduce environmental impact of other industries as well, for example the development of non-timber forest products to encourage conservation.

**Lecture 11. Industrial wastewater**

Industrial wastewater treatment.



Wastewater from an industrial process can be converted at a treatment plant to solids and treated water for reuse.

[Industrial wastewater treatment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_wastewater_treatment) describes the processes used for [treating wastewater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wastewater_treatment) that is produced by industries as an undesirable by-product.

After treatment, the treated industrial wastewater (or effluent) may be reused or released to a sanitary sewer or to a [surface water](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surface_water) in the environment.

Some industrial facilities generate wastewater that can be treated in sewage treatment plants.

 Most industrial processes, such as petroleum refineries, chemical and petrochemical plants have their own specialized facilities to treat their wastewaters so that the pollutant concentrations in the treated wastewater comply with the regulations regarding disposal of wastewaters into [sewers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sewerage) or into rivers, lakes or [oceans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocean).

This applies to industries that generate wastewater with high concentrations of organic matter (e.g. oil and grease), toxic pollutants (e.g. heavy metals, [volatile organic compounds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volatile_organic_compounds)) or nutrients such as [ammonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammonia).  Some industries install a pre-treatment system to remove some pollutants (e.g., toxic compounds), and then discharge the partially treated wastewater to the municipal sewer system.

Most industries produce some [wastewater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wastewater). Recent trends have been to minimize such production or to recycle treated wastewater within the production process. Some industries have been successful at redesigning their manufacturing processes to reduce or eliminate pollutants.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-63) Sources of industrial wastewater include battery manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, electric power plants, [food industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_industry), iron and steel industry, metal working, mines and quarries, nuclear industry, [oil and gas extraction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_and_gas_extraction), [petroleum refining](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_refining) and [petrochemicals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petrochemicals), pharmaceutical manufacturing, [pulp and paper industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulp_and_paper_industry), smelters, [textile mills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textile_mill), industrial [oil contamination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_contamination), water treatment and [wood preserving](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wood_preserving). Treatment processes include brine treatment, solids removal (e.g. chemical precipitation, filtration), oils and grease removal, removal of biodegradable organics, removal of other organics, removal of acids and alkalis, and removal of toxic materials.

**Lecture 12. Sewage sludge treatment**



Sludge treatment in anaerobic digesters at a [sewage treatment plant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sewage_treatment) in [Cottbus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cottbus), Germany

**Sewage sludge treatment**

 describes the processes used to manage and dispose of sewage sludge produced during sewage treatment.

Sludge treatment is focused on reducing sludge weight and volume to reduce transportation and disposal costs, and on reducing potential health risks of disposal options. Water removal is the primary means of weight and volume reduction, while [pathogen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pathogen) destruction is frequently accomplished through heating during thermophilic digestion, [composting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composting), or [incineration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incineration).

The choice of a sludge treatment method depends on the volume of sludge generated, and comparison of treatment costs required for available disposal options. Air-drying and composting may be attractive to rural communities, while limited land availability may make aerobic digestion and mechanical dewatering preferable for cities, and [economies of scale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economies_of_scale) may encourage [energy recovery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_recovery) alternatives in metropolitan areas.

Sludge is mostly water with some amounts of solid material removed from liquid sewage. Primary sludge includes [settleable solids](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Settleable_solids) removed during primary treatment in primary [clarifiers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarifier).

Secondary sludge is sludge separated in secondary clarifiers that are used in [secondary treatment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_treatment) [bioreactors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioreactor) or processes using inorganic [oxidizing agents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxidizing_agent). In intensive sewage treatment processes, the sludge produced needs to be removed from the liquid line on a continuous basis because the volumes of the tanks in the liquid line have insufficient volume to store sludge.

This is done in order to keep the treatment processes compact and in balance (production of sludge approximately equal to the removal of sludge). The sludge removed from the liquid line goes to the sludge treatment line. Aerobic processes (such as the [activated sludge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Activated_sludge) process) tend to produce more sludge compared with anaerobic processes. On the other hand, in extensive (natural) treatment processes, such as [ponds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_stabilization_pond) and [constructed wetlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructed_wetland), the produced sludge remains accumulated in the treatment units (liquid line) and is only removed after several years of operation.

Sludge treatment options depend on the amount of solids generated and other site-specific conditions. Composting is most often applied to small-scale plants with aerobic digestion for mid-sized operations, and anaerobic digestion for the larger-scale operations. The sludge is sometimes passed through a so-called pre-thickener which de-waters the sludge.

Types of pre-thickeners include centrifugal sludge thickeners, rotary drum sludge thickeners and belt filter presses.

Dewatered sludge may be incinerated or transported offsite for disposal in a landfill or use as an agricultural soil amendment.

Energy may be recovered from sludge through [methane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methane) gas production during anaerobic digestion or through incineration of dried sludge, but energy yield is often insufficient to evaporate sludge water content or to power blowers, pumps, or centrifuges required for dewatering. Coarse primary solids and secondary sewage sludge may include toxic chemicals removed from liquid sewage by [sorption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sorption) onto solid particles in clarifier sludge.

Reducing sludge volume may increase the [concentration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concentration) of some of these toxic chemicals in the sludge.

**Lecture 13. Waste minimization .**

Avoidance and reduction methods

An important method of waste management is the prevention of waste material being created, also known as [waste reduction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_reduction).

Waste Minimization is reducing the quantity of hazardous wastes achieved through a thorough application of innovative or alternative procedures.

 Methods of avoidance include reuse of second-hand products, repairing broken items instead of buying new ones, designing products to be refillable or reusable (such as cotton instead of plastic shopping bags), encouraging consumers to avoid using [disposable products](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disposable_products) (such as disposable [cutlery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cutlery)), removing any food/liquid remains from cans and packaging, and designing products that use less material to achieve the same purpose (for example, lightweighting of beverage cans).

**Lecture 14.** **International waste trade**

The global waste trade is the [international trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_trade) of [waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste) between countries for further [treatment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_treatment), [disposal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_disposal), or [recycling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_recycling). Toxic or [hazardous wastes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazardous_waste) are often imported by [developing countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developing_countries) from developed countries.

The [World Bank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank) Report *What a Waste: A Global Review of Solid Waste Management*, describes the amount of solid waste produced in a given country. Specifically, countries which produce more solid waste are more economically developed and more industrialized.

 The report explains that "Generally, the higher the economic development and rate of urbanization, the greater the amount of solid waste produced."

Therefore, countries in the [Global North](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_North), which are more economically developed and urbanized, produce more solid waste than [Global South](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_South) countries.

Current international trade flows of waste follow a pattern of waste being produced in the Global North and being exported to and disposed of in the Global South.

Multiple factors affect which countries produce waste and at what magnitude, including geographic location, degree of [industrialization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrialization), and level of integration into the global economy.

Numerous scholars and researchers have linked the sharp increase in waste trading and the negative impacts of waste trading to the prevalence of [neoliberal economic policy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoliberalism#Economic_neoliberalism).

With the major economic transition towards neoliberal economic policy in the 1980s, the shift towards ["free-market"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_market) policy has facilitated the sharp increase in the global waste trade. [Henry Giroux](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Giroux), Chair of Cultural Studies at McMaster University, gives his definition of neoliberal economic policy:

"Neoliberalism ...removes economics and markets from the discourse of social obligations and social costs. ...As a policy and political project, neoliberalism is wedded to the privatization of public services, selling off of state functions, deregulation of finance and labor, elimination of the welfare state and unions, liberalization of trade in goods and capital investment, and the marketization and [commodification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commodification) of society."

Given this economic platform of privatization, neoliberalism is based on expanding free-trade agreements and establishing open-borders to international trade markets. [Trade liberalization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_trade), a [neoliberal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoliberal) economic policy in which trade is completely [deregulated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deregulation), leaving no tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions on international trade, is designed to further developing countries' economies and integrate them into the global economy. Critics claim that although free-market trade liberalization was designed to allow any country the opportunity to reach economic success, the consequences of these policies have been devastating for Global South countries, essentially crippling their economies in a servitude to the Global North.

Even supporters such as the [International Monetary Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund), “progress of integration has been uneven in recent decades”.

 Specifically, developing countries have been targeted by trade liberalization policies to import waste as a means of [economic expansion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_expansion).

The guiding neoliberal economic policy argues that the way to be integrated into the global economy is to participate in trade liberalization and exchange in international trade markets. Their claim is that smaller countries, with less infrastructure, less wealth, and less manufacturing ability, should take in hazardous wastes as a way to increase profits and stimulate their economies.[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-Global_waste_trade_cato-81)

Challenges in developing countries

Areas with developing economies often experience exhausted waste collection services and inadequately managed and uncontrolled dumpsites. The problems are worsening.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-UN-16)[[*page needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACiting_sources)][[82]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-82) Problems with governance complicate the situation. Waste management in these countries and cities is an ongoing challenge due to weak institutions, chronic under-resourcing and rapid urbanization.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-UN-16)[[*page needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACiting_sources)] All of these challenges, along with the lack of understanding of different factors that contribute to the hierarchy of waste management, affect the treatment of waste.[[83]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-83)[[*full citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACiting_sources#What_information_to_include)]

In developing countries, waste management activities are usually carried by poor, for their survival. It has been estimated that 2% of population in Asia, Latin America and Africa are dependent on waste for their livelihood. Family organized, or individual manual scavengers are often involved with waste management practices with very little supportive network and facilities with increased risk of health effects. Additionally, this practice prevents their children from further education. Participation level of most citizens in waste management is very low, residents in urban areas are not actively involved in the process of waste management.[[84]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-84)

Technologies

*Environmental monitoring*

Traditionally, the [waste management industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management_industry) has been a late adopter of new technologies such as [RFID](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio-frequency_identification) (Radio Frequency Identification) tags, GPS and integrated software packages which enable better quality data to be collected without the use of estimation or manual data entry.[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-85) This technology has been used widely by many organizations in some industrialized countries. Radio frequency identification is a tagging system for automatic identification of recyclable components of municipal solid waste stream.[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management#cite_note-86)

**Lecture 15.**

**Transboundary movement of e-waste**

The Transboundary E-waste Flows Monitor quantified that 5.1 Mt (just below 10 percent of the total amount of global e-waste, 53.6 Mt) crossed country borders in 2019. To better understand the implication of transboundary movement, this study categorizes the transboundary movement of e-waste into controlled and uncontrolled movements and also considers both the receiving and sending regions.

**Global E-Waste Data**

<https://globalewaste.org/map/> Future: E-waste will double by 2050.

**Method**

Arrange to take your e-waste to a recycling firm like Great Lakes Electronics Corporation. The benefits of doing so are enormous.

2. Recycling remains the most effective way to keep e-waste from damaging our environment and our health.

3. The best thing you can do is to resist buying a new device until you really need it. Try to get your old product repaired if possible and if it can’t be fixed, resell or recycle it responsibly.

4. Before you recycle your device, seal up any broken parts in separate containers so that hazardous chemicals don’t leak. Wear latex gloves and a mask if you’re handling something that’s broken.