

Glossary on Solid Waste Words & Terms

Abatement:

The method of reducing the degree or intensity of pollution.

Aeration

The process of being supplied or impregnated with air. Aeration is used in waste water treatment to foster biological and chemical purification.

Asbestos:

A fiber with countless uses often considered to be a hazardous air pollutant when inhaled.

Backfill

The material used to refill a ditch or other excavated, or the process of doing so.

Backyard composting

composting carried out on the properties of generating residents or businesses.

Baling

A means of reducing the volume of solid waste by compacting in tied bundles.

Bulky items

furniture, household or industrial appliances and other large bulky or heavy objects not normally discarded on a regular basis.

Cells:

With respect to solid waste disposal, earthen compartments in which solid waste is dumped, compacted and covered over daily with layers of earth.

Compaction:

Reducing the bulk of solid waste by rolling and tamping.

Cover Material

Soil that is used to cover compacted solid waste in a sanitary landfill.

Clandestine dumping

the dumping or unloading of waste at an unauthorized point.

Closure

the procedure a landfill operator must follow when a landfill reaches its legal capacity for solid waste disposal.

Collection

the process of picking up, loading and transporting waste from residences, business places or collection points.

Collection points

central points, locations or areas at which individuals bring their waste for collection.

Commercial waste

waste arising from commercial activities taking place in markets, shops, restaurants, hotels, offices etc.

Community bin

a waste storage facility that is shared by community members.

Compactor truck

a vehicle especially designed to collect low density solid waste.

Compostables

refers to materials that can undergo micro-biological decomposition.

Composting

the controlled biological decomposition of organic matter such as food scraps, yard trimmings etc, to produce a humus or soil-like material.

Contract

a legally binding agreement between two or more capable parties, to do or not to do a particular thing in exchange for some form of consideration.

Contractor

one who enters into a binding agreement to perform a certain service or provide a certain product in exchange for valuable consideration, monetary, goods, services, even barter arrangements.

Controlled landfilling

controlling the area where the wastes are placed by covering waste with soil each day, however, no measures are put in place for containing or treating leachate.

Construction and demolition (C&D) waste

all waste arising from construction and demolition processes. Items include; broken bricks, concrete slabs, lumber, packaging materials etc.

Cost recovery

refers to recovering the cost of solid waste management from the users of the service.

Cover

in the context of landfilling, it refers to a layer of soil or inert waste which is laid over waste for the purpose of reducing windblown litter, odours, insects and rodents. It also provides a surface for vehicles to drive on.

Coverage

refers to the percentage of waste generators who receive collection service. Can also refer to the percentage of waste generated in a city, zone or district that is actually collected.

Curbside collection

a method in which householders place their waste at a curb or roadside, at specified times for collection.

Dump:

A Land site where solid waste is disposed of in a manner that does not protect the environment.

Dispose

the final placement of solid waste that is not salvaged or recycled. The process of finally disposing solid waste in a landfill.

Down

term used to describe the condition of mechanical equipment that is not functional, damaged, in need of repair or undergoing repair.

Down-time

the time in which the equipment cannot be used.

Dust bin

a container having a capacity of 60 to 90 litres, which is specially designed for the storage of domestic solid waste.

Environment

the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives or operates.

Efficiency

An economic term used for conditions that create the biggest possible profit with the smallest possible costs. A service is considered efficient if the available resources are used in the best way possible.

Fleet

term used to describe a group of vehicles.

Garbage

spoiled or waste food that is thrown away. Also refers to any other thing considered worthless and is thrown away.

Hauler

a company that transports solid waste to a disposal site. Also known as a waste collector.

Hazardous waste

waste that is reactive, toxic, corrosive or otherwise dangerous to living things and/or the environment when improperly managed.

Household waste

solid waste derived from domestic residences.

Household waste management

the manner in which home owners go about handling the waste they generate.

Illegal waste disposal

the disposing of waste in places other than authorized waste disposal sites.

Incineration

the process of burning solid waste under controlled conditions, to reduce its weight and volume and often to produce energy.

Inorganic waste

waste composed of material other than plant or animal matter.

Landfilling

the final disposal of solid waste at engineered facilities, in a series of compacted layers on land.

Leachate

Liquid that is percolated through solid waste or other mediums and has extracted, dissolved or suspended materials from it.

Litter

waste that is discarded on the ground or otherwise disposed of improperly or thoughtlessly. Items include paper, plastics, bottles, packaging etc.

Medical waste

any waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals.

Mitigative measures

structural and non-structural measures undertaken to limit the adverse impact of natural hazards, environmental degradation and technological hazards.

Mixed waste

unsorted materials that have been discarded into the waste stream.

Monitoring

periodic or continuous surveillance or testing of something, to determine its level of compliance with legal requirements.

Municipal solid waste

includes non-hazardous solid wastes generated from households, commercial establishments and institutions, and non-hazardous industrial process waste, agricultural waste and sewage sludge.

Organic waste

materials that are derived from plant and animal sources which contain carbon and are decomposed by micro-organisms.

Open burning

the practice of setting fire to piles of waste at open dumps.

Open dump

a site where solid waste is deposited in a careless unplanned way, with little or no concern for the environment or for controlling the breeding of insects and rodents.

Open tipper

a truck whose contents can be emptied without handling; the front end of the platform can be hydraulically raised so that the load is discharged by gravity.

Outfall

The mouth of a sewer, drain or culvert where an effluent is discharged into the receiving waters.

Pollution

the contamination of soil, water or the atmosphere by the discharge of waste or other offensive materials.

Public awareness and education

the processes of informing the general population on the importance of proper solid waste management, in order to bring about positive changes in their attitudes. Includes distribution of leaflets, public

hearings, radio programs, advertisements, school lectures etc.

Public consultation

the process of informing interested members of the public about plans for projects, and asking for their comments, ideas, reactions and preferences.

Recyclables

materials that can be separated from solid waste and reprocessed into new products.

Recycling

the process by which discarded materials are collected, sorted, processed and converted into raw materials to make the same product or create new one.

Refuse

another term for solid waste.

Reuse of waste

to extend the life of an item by using it again, repairing it, or creating new uses for it.

Roll-on container

a large container designed to load onto the back of a truck.

Sanitary landfill

a specially engineered site used for the disposal of waste on land.

Secondary material

materials obtained from municipal solid waste by the process of reuse, recycling and/or recovery carried out at municipal solid waste treatment/process facilities.

Service contract

the process by which an employer selects the company which receives a contract, based on qualifications and competitive bidding, and pays the company for providing the service.

Solid waste

any discarded or unwanted material that is not a liquid or gas. Includes litter, garbage, refuse, white goods, organic waste etc.

Solid waste management

the process of minimizing the impacts of solid waste materials on public health and the environment, through collection, transportation, processing and safe disposal.

Source separation

the classifying and segregating of waste by category, (recyclable from non-recyclable items) at the point of generation.

Stakeholder

a person, group or institution with interest (often financial) in a project or program.

Storage

the temporary holding of solid waste awaiting collection, transportation, treatment or disposal.

Transfer station

a facility at which municipal solid waste from collection vehicles are consolidated into loads that are transported by larger trucks or other means to more distant landfills.

Tipping

refers to the unloading of waste at a disposal facility.

Tipping Fee:

A charge levied on a waste hauler for the disposal of waste at a landfill facility usually based on the quantity and type of waste discharged at the said facility.

User charges/fees

payment for a service by the users of that service.

Waste characterization study

an analysis of samples from a waste stream to determine its composition.

Waste generation

the amount of waste produced by a given source. Also refers to the weight or volume of materials that enter the waste stream before the processes of recycling, composting or landfilling take place.

Waste receptacle

a container especially designed for storage waste.

Waste reduction or Waste minimization

techniques used to prevent or decrease the quantity of waste generated or disposed of, includes activities such as source reduction, reuse of waste, recycling or composting.

Waste stream

the flow or movement of waste from the point of generation to final disposal. A waste stream may reduce significantly overtime as valuable items are separated for recycling or composting or other waste reduction processes.

Weigh-bridge

an installation for measuring the weight of a vehicle with and without it's load, in order to determine the weight of the load.

Working face

in terms of a sanitary landfill, it is the place where the waste is actually being deposited, leveled and compacted.

White goods

a general term used for household appliances such refrigerators, stoves, washing machines.

Yard waste

leaves, grass, cuttings and other natural organic matter discarded from yards and gardens.

Zone of service

The geographical area that is the subject of a contract or agreement. In the case of solid waste collection, the area that the contract requires to receive collection service.