

Eco-friendly Waste Management –A Proposal

Presented by: Renu Sharma, Librarian

Contents

- 1. What is Waste Management?**
- 2. Popular Methods**
- 3. Objectives of the Waste Management initiative at MSCW**
- 4. Scope**
- 5. Plan of Action**

What is Waste Management?

Waste management simply means the collection, transport, processing or disposal, managing and monitoring of waste materials to minimize its consequences on humans and environment. It continues to be a rising challenge as population grows along with the industrial development in big cities.

Popular Methods

1. Incineration method of waste management

Incineration as a disposal method involves burning the trash. Sometimes this is simply referred to as thermal treatment, as a general category of high temperature treatment of trash material. This method can be used to transform waste into heat, gas, steam and ash. One of the advantages of incineration is that with this method, refuse volume can be reduced by half or more and it requires little usage of land

2. Sanitary Landfills as waste disposal

Landfill is probably the most practiced in more areas of the world than any other method. Landfills are often old and abandoned quarries and mining areas. Considered the most cost-effective way of waste disposal, about 75% of the cost of implementation is attributable to the collection and transportation of waste from residential and businesses to the landfills. The waste is layered in thin spreads and then compacted, with a layer of clean earth covering the waste material before more layers are added over time.

3. Recycling

Recycling of waste material means taking the materials and transforming them into new products. This is a key concept in the modern waste minimization philosophy. It's about lessening the strain on the environment through minimizing the need to fully dispose. In our everyday living, we may already be separating out paper products, aluminium soda cans or glass bottles into different waste containers so that these could be recycled.

4. Avoidance and reduction methods

Prevention of waste material being created is also known as waste reduction. Methods of avoidance include reuse of second-hand products, repairing broken items instead of buying new, designing products to be refillable or reusable (such as cotton instead of plastic shopping bags), encouraging consumers to avoid using disposable products (such as disposable cutlery), removing any food/liquid remains from cans and packaging and designing products that use less material to achieve the same purpose (for example, light weighting of beverage cans).

Objective of the Waste Management initiative at MSCW

As an educational institution we at MSCW produce a lot of 'waste' which can be managed better or avoided in first place. There are reams of paper being wasted across various departments by the staff, by students. Lot of plastic utilities like computers and other parts are disposed of every year.

Educational institutions have been fore-runners in bringing such changes. We should start this within our institution and then take it to the next level from there.

Scope

As discussed above the primary areas we can target to start with will be:

1. Paper Waste (across various departments)
2. Plastic material (disposed of by departments every year)
3. Food material wasted

Plan of Action

Based on above methods for waste management we can adopt the following:



- 1. In the present scenario the most preferable method is to avoid and reduce creation of waste.**

Action Plan:

- Spread awareness among the students and the staff regarding the waste avoid and reduce method through notice boards.
- Maximise the use of e-mails for the official information. Try to make our offices paper free as much as we can by maximising the use of e-mails and SMS alerts. There are some websites which allow free sms all over the world. So we can use this technology among the staff of the college. (Eg: <http://www.160by2.com/Index>)
- Less use of printers by spreading awareness among the staff of college administration, accounts, library. Think before printing a document whether it is necessary to print or not.
- Minimise the use of paper by implementing the Electronic Bulletin Board/Electronic Notice Board in the college.
- Use only small paper for small notices.
- Use both sides of the paper. Set your printer on default to print both sides.
- Make all the necessary editions in the document before printing.
- Use single notice to spread same information among the staff.
- Avoid polythenes and disposable materials in the college premises specially canteen. Use paperbags instead.

- 2. As an educational institution we can opt for reuse of paper and printer.**

Action Plan:

- Reuse the used printed paper for making notes etc.
- Print the notice on the second side of the used paper.

- Use recycled paper.
- Refill the ink in the printers.

3. Recycle of waste disposal can be opted after the above two methods.

Action Plan:

- We can put dustbins in the college premises with the following three naming:
 - ❖ Paper Only
 - ❖ Plastics Only
 - ❖ Organic Waste like food only
- All the waste paper and plastic can be disposed off in an ecofriendly manner. For this we have to contact either NGOs or private companies working for waste management. Hindustan Times has also initiated a project in this regard.

4. The last possible method is for organic waste.

Action Plan:

- Organic waste can be disposed off using landfill method of composting or vermi composting method. For this we have to take the help of any NGO like Indian Pollution Control Association etc.

Requirements:

- The major requirement is the construction of waste management committee from atleast one member from each department and also members from student council.
- Dustbins
- List of NGOs for waste management work.