



THE CHALLENGES OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Waste management plays an integral role in human activity and societal development. Waste management does not only involve rational decision making about whether to bury, burn, recycle or produce less waste, it must bring to bear the impacts to health, safety and environment. Assessing the costs-benefits implications of various waste management policies and project is equally a complex business involving numerous, interconnected economic, social and biological components. The challenges to effective municipal waste are not simply lack of policy, but lack of infrastructure, education, social awareness of problems and solutions, and lack of committed institutions promoting sustainable actions.

This paper provides a comparative analysis of various waste management options, as well as discusses the health and environmental impacts of municipal solid waste and the challenges confronting municipal solid waste management in Nigeria. It recommends that government should encourage private investment in this sector by providing land for the construction of basic waste management infrastructure as well as providing enabling legislation that would encourage investment in waste management.

Key words: Municipal Solid Waste, Waste Management, Challenges, Compositing, Incineration, Engineered Landfills.