

Section 2 : Conservation and Management of Resources for Development

Chapter 21: Environmentally sound management of solid waste and sewage

A. Minimising waste

A preventative waste management approach focusing on changes in lifestyle and production and consumption patterns.

Objectives

To stabilize or reduce the production of wastes.

To, by the year 2000, ensure sufficient national, regional and international capacity to monitor waste trend information and implement waste minimisation policies.

To by the year 2000, apply programmes to reduce the production of agrochemical wastes, containers and packaging materials.

Activities

These programmes should:

- strengthen national capacities in the design of environmentally sound technologies
- provide for incentives to reduce unsustainable patterns of production and consumption
- emphasise waste minimisation considerations.

B. Maximising environmentally sound waste reuse and re-cycling

The exhaustion of traditional disposal sites, stricter environmental controls governing waste disposal and increasing quantities of more persistent wastes have all contributed to a rapid increase in the cost of waste disposal services.

Objectives

Governments should by the year 2000, in all industrialized countries have a national programme for efficient waste reuse and recycling.

Activities

Governments and institutions should launch programmes to demonstrate and make operational enhanced waste reuse and recycling. These programmes should:

- develop and strengthen national capacity to reuse and recycle an increasing proportion of wastes through the provision of incentives
- develop public education and awareness programmes to promote the use of recycled products.

Supporting activities undertaken by local governments could include:

- reviewing options and techniques for reuse and recycling wastes
- increase funding for pilot programmes for reuse and recycling
- identifying potential markets for recycled products.

C. Promoting environmentally sound waste disposal and treatment

Even when wastes are minimised some wastes will still remain. There is a scope for improving waste treatment and disposal practices.

Objectives

Governments should:

- by the year 2000, establish waste treatment objectives and standards based on the nature and assimilative capacity of the receiving environment
- be able to undertake waste-related pollution impact monitoring
- by the year 1995 ensure that at least 50 per cent of all sewage, waste waters and solid wastes are disposed of within national or international environmental and health quality guidelines.

Activities

Governments, institutions and non-governmental organisations should launch programmes to improve the control and management of waste-related pollution. These programmes should:

- to seek environmentally sound waste disposal solutions as close as possible to the sources of origin
- analyse the impact of wastes in the environment
- recommend national and, where relevant, local environmental quality standards based on scientific criteria and guidelines
- establish an information centre to collect and disseminate information on all aspects of waste management.

D. Extending waste service coverage

The health and environmental impacts of inadequate waste management result in water, land and air contamination and pollution over a wide areas. Extending and improving waste collection and safe disposal services are crucial to gaining control over this form of pollution.

Objectives

To provide health-protecting environmentally safe waste collection and disposal services to all people.

Activities

Governments, in cooperation with relevant organisations should:

- establish financing mechanisms for waste management service development in deprived areas
- apply the "polluter pays" principle, where appropriate
- encourage community participation in planning and implementing procedures for solid waste management
- gather and analyse data to establish goals and monitor progress
- input information into a global information system building upon existing systems.