Evolution of Solid Waste Management
What is Solid Waste?

- **Solid waste** comprise all the wastes from human and animal activities that are normally solid and that are discarded as useless or unwanted.
- **Solid waste** may arise from *urban communities*, *agricultural* and *industrial activities* or they may be *mining wastes*.

Solid Waste: A consequence of Life

- Humans and animals have used the resources of the earth to support life and to dispose of waste.
- In early times, the disposal of wastes did not pose a significant problem.
- Because, the population was small and the amount of land available for assimilation of waste was large.
- Problems with the disposal of wastes started when humans first began to congregate in tribes, villages and communities.
Materials flow & waste generation

Effects of technological advances

- Increasing use of frozen foods reduces the quantities of food wastes in the home but increases the quantities at food processing plants.
- The use of packaged meals, results in almost no wastes in the home except for packaging materials.
- The engineers responsible for the design of solid waste facilities must be aware of trends and predict all the changes in technology that will affect the characteristics of solid waste.
Solid Waste Management

- May be defined as the discipline associated with the control, generation, storage, collection, transfer and transport, processing and disposal of solid waste.
- Has to be in accord with the best principles of public health, economics, engineering, conservation, aesthetics and that has to be also responsive to public attitudes.
- Includes all administrative, financial, legal, planning and engineering functions involved in solution of all problems of solid waste.

Functional elements of a solid waste management system

- Waste Generation
- Waste Handling, Separation, Storage, and Processing at Source
- Collection
- Transfer and Transport
- Separation Processing Transformation
- Disposal

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Hv-zLzSQcQ
Waste generation

- Encompasses activities in which materials are identified as no longer being of value and are either thrown away or gathered for disposal.
- At present, not very controllable, more control will be exercised in the future.
- Source reduction is now included in system evaluations as a method of limiting the quantity of waste generated.

Waste handling and separation, storage and processing at the source

- **Waste handling** and **separation** involves the activities associated with management of wastes until they are placed in **storage** containers for collection.
- **Processing at source** involves activities such as compaction and yard waste composting
**Collection**

- Includes gathering of solid wastes and recyclable materials, and transport of collected materials, to location where collection vehicle is emptied.
- This location may be a materials processing facility, a transfer station or a landfill disposal site.
- Collection accounts for almost 50% of the total annual cost of urban solid waste management.

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**Separation, processing and transformation**

- *Separation* of commingled wastes and processing of wastes that have been separated at source usually occur at a materials recovery facility (MRF), transfer station or combustion facility.
- *Processing* often includes the separation of bulky items, separation of waste components by size using screens, manual separation of waste components, size reduction by shredding, separation of ferrous metals using magnets, volume reduction by compaction.
Transformation processes are used to reduce the volume and weight of waste requiring disposal and to recover conversion products and energy.

Transfer of wastes from the smaller collection vehicle to the larger transport equipment

Subsequent transport of wastes, usually over long distances, to a processing or disposal site
Transfer and transport

- In Istanbul, the collection vehicles, which are relatively small because of the need to give service within the city, haul their loads to one of the 7 transfer stations.
- At the transfer stations, solid wastes unloaded from collection vehicles are reloaded into large truck trailers.
- The loaded trucks are then driven to Şile-Kömürçüoda or Kemerburgaz-Odayeri Landill sites.

Disposal

- Today the disposal of wastes by landfilling is the ultimate fate of all solid wastes whether they are:
  - residential wastes collected and transported directly to a landfill site,
  - residual materials from materials recovery facilities (MRFs),
  - residue from the combustion of solid waste, or
  - other substances from various solid waste processing facilities.
Disposal

- A modern landfill is not a dump; it is an engineered facility used for disposing of solid wastes on land without creating nuisances or hazards to public health or safety, such as the breeding of rates and insects and the contamination of groundwater.

Example

Question

- Imagine a town where 10,000 households each generate 50 L of MSW per day. What would this MSW occupy in a landfill? Assume that 10% of the volume is occupied by the final cover.
- Solve the problem using a mass balance assuming that the landfill is a black box and the MSW generated (MSW\text{loose}) goes from the households to the landfill (MSW\text{compacted}).

Assumptions:
- Density\text{loose-MSW} = 120 kg/m$^3$
- Density\text{compacted-MSW} = 600 kg/m$^3$
Example

Solution

- Mass\textsubscript{loose} = Mass\textsubscript{compacted}
- \( V\textsubscript{loose-MSW} \times D\textsubscript{loose-MSW} = V\textsubscript{compacted-MSW} \times D\textsubscript{compacted-MSW} \)
- \( V\textsubscript{loose-MSW} = 10000 \text{ ca} \times 50 \text{ L/ca.day} \times \text{ m}^3 / 1000 \text{ L} \)
- \( V\textsubscript{loose-MSW} = 500 \text{ m}^3/\text{day} \)
- \( V\textsubscript{compacted-MSW} = (500 \text{ m}^3/\text{day} \times 120 \text{ kg/m}^3) / 600 \text{ kg/m}^3 \)
- \( V\textsubscript{compacted-MSW} = 100 \text{ m}^3/\text{day} \)
- \( V\textsubscript{landfill} = V\textsubscript{compacted-MSW} \times (1+10\%) \)
- \( V\textsubscript{landfill} = 110 \text{ m}^3/\text{day} \)

Integrated Solid Waste Management

- When all the functional elements have been evaluated for use and all of the interfaces and connections between elements have been matched for effectiveness and economy, the community has developed an ISWM system.
- ISWM can be defined as the selection and application of suitable techniques, technologies and management programs to achieve specific waste management objectives and goals.
Hierarchy of integrated solid waste management

- Prevention
- Minimization
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Waste transformation
- Landfilling

Source reduction

most favoured option

least favoured option

Future challenges and opportunities

- The cost of solid waste management can be supported only by the public, which is responsible for the generation of the vast amount of wastes.
  - Changing consumption habits in society
  - Reducing the volume of waste at the source
  - Making landfills safer (reduce the toxicity of wastes, understand how to manage the landfilled wastes)
  - Development of new technologies (cost effective and conservative of natural sources)