

LANDFILL MANAGEMENT: 6 TIPS FOR EXCELLENCE IN LANDFILL OPERATIONS

Managing municipal solid waste is more than landfilling: publicity, education, engineering, long-term planning, and landfill gas waste-to-energy are all specialties needed in today's complex environment. Here are six tips to improve landfill management and achieve excellence in operations:

Create an Awareness Campaign

Define your objectives: Is your city or county moving to a single-stream processing facility? Work well in advance to determine messaging to residents and stakeholders. Conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis to identify focus areas.

Develop Waste and Recycling Educational Programs

Get creative in ensuring your educational messages are current with the times and trends in waste management and recycling. Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities upgraded their education facility to better represent current trends and feature art from recycling. Waste Management created an intern program to train college students as "recycling ambassadors." For other creative educational program ideas, visit bit.ly/WREPideas

Invest in Improved Collection Systems

Conduct an audit to ensure that automated collection systems can be used where available. Conduct a comprehensive study to determine optimum collection times. Tacoma, WA, SWM transitioned to Every-Other-Week (EOW) for residential garbage & recycling collection and realized savings of over \$1M/year.

Best Practices Plan for Integrated Solid Waste Management

Organize around the waste management hierarchy in decreasing preference: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Compost, Energy Recovery, and Landfill. Begin with waste reduction and reuse programs because that's where you'll find the most leverage per dollar invested, followed by recycling and refuse collection.

Create a Long-Term Landfill Management Plan

Landfills never die, but sites may eventually find new uses, with significant community benefits. Landfills have become golf courses, and even solar facilities. Enlist community leaders to create a vision plan for the next cycle in landfill life.

Landfill Gas Waste-to-Energy

Investments in ferrous metal recovery can improve recovery rates by up to 100%. Non-ferrous metal recovery via Eddy Current systems can have quick payback. These make WTE operations more efficient. Establish continual improvement budgets to ensure that your WTE facility stays current with technology and becomes more efficient each year.