ISBN-978-81-69623-02-5

MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:

PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES

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ISBN : **978-81-69623-02-5**

Page(s) : **261, xix**

Price : **Rs.1800/-**

Published Year : **May, 2026**

Published by : **Excellent Publishers**
No. 38/48, Second street, Ellappa Nagar
Kanchipuram – 631501, Tamilnadu, India.
Cell +91-9842641794
excellentpublishers2013@gmail.com
www.excellentpublishers.com

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PREFACE

Dear Reader,

Solid Waste Management has become one of the most important components of environmental engineering and sustainable development. Rapid population growth, urbanization, industrialization, changing lifestyles, and increasing consumption have resulted in significant changes in the quantity, composition, and complexity of solid waste. Effective management of these wastes is therefore essential not only for maintaining clean and healthy surroundings but also for protecting natural resources, reducing pollution, improving public health, and supporting sustainable development.

This book, **Solid Waste Management**, has been prepared to provide a systematic and practical understanding of the principles, processes, technologies, regulatory aspects, and emerging trends associated with solid waste management. The book adopts an integrated approach, beginning with the fundamental concepts of solid waste, its classification, sources, characteristics, generation, storage, collection, transportation, processing, recovery, and final disposal. It emphasizes that modern solid waste management is not simply a disposal-oriented activity but an integrated environmental management system involving resource recovery, sustainability, public participation, technological innovation, and effective governance.

The book has been organized into **15 chapters** to provide a gradual progression from basic concepts to advanced and emerging applications. The initial chapters introduce the foundations of solid waste management, sources and characteristics of waste, waste generation and collection systems, and segregation and resource recovery. The subsequent chapters discuss biological treatment, anaerobic digestion and biogas production, thermal treatment technologies, and sanitary landfill engineering. These topics provide students with an understanding of both conventional and modern methods of waste treatment and disposal.

Considerable emphasis has been given to specialized waste streams. The book covers industrial solid waste, hazardous waste, biomedical waste, plastic waste, and e-waste, together with their treatment, recovery, environmental impacts, and management requirements. A dedicated chapter on **Solid Waste Management**

Rules and Regulations in India introduces the regulatory framework and the responsibilities of different stakeholders. This is particularly relevant to students and practitioners who need to understand the relationship between engineering practice and environmental legislation.

An important feature of the book is its inclusion of **design-oriented and application-based topics**. Design problems related to compost yards, sanitary landfills, collection routes, and waste-to-energy systems are included to help students connect theoretical principles with engineering practice. The book also introduces GIS, IoT-based smart bins, data analytics, automation, and smart-city waste management systems, reflecting the increasing role of digital technologies in improving the efficiency and sustainability of waste management operations.
The final chapter looks towards the future of the field through topics such as **Zero Waste, Circular Economy, Waste as a Resource, technological innovation, sustainable materials, policy innovations, and future research directions**. These themes highlight the transition from a traditional "collect–transport–dispose" approach towards resource recovery, circular material flows, and sustainable waste management systems.

The book has been written primarily for **undergraduate students of Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and related disciplines**, while also being useful to postgraduate students, faculty members, researchers, municipal professionals, environmental practitioners, and others interested in solid waste management. Care has been taken to present the subject in a clear, structured, and accessible manner, while retaining the essential engineering principles and practical aspects.

It is hoped that this book will help students develop not only a conceptual understanding of solid waste management but also an appreciation of the broader environmental, economic, technological, and social dimensions of the field. Above all, the book seeks to encourage a shift in perspective—from viewing waste as an unwanted burden to recognizing it as a **potential resource and an important component of a sustainable circular economy**.

The authors sincerely acknowledge the contributions of researchers, engineers, policymakers, institutions, and practitioners whose knowledge and experience have influenced the development of this book. We also express our gratitude to our students and colleagues whose questions, discussions, and practical experiences have helped shape the presentation of the subject.

We hope that this book will serve as a useful academic resource and encourage readers to contribute towards the development of **scientific, sustainable, resource-efficient, and environmentally responsible solid waste management systems**.

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Dr. T. Muralidhara Rao
B. Sri Datta Subrahmanyam
Ayyagari Lakshmi Prasanna
Dr. Pitta Sundara Kumar
Dr. Kusuma Sundara Kumar

Foreword

The management of solid waste has emerged as one of the most important environmental and public health challenges facing rapidly urbanizing societies. Population growth, industrialization, changing lifestyles, increasing consumption, and the widespread use of disposable and complex products have resulted in significant increases in the quantity and diversity of solid waste. Effective waste management is therefore no longer limited to collection and disposal; it has become an essential component of environmental protection, resource conservation, sustainable development, and the circular economy. The present book, **Solid Waste Management**, provides a comprehensive and systematic treatment of these important aspects.

The book begins with the fundamentals of solid waste management, including its definition, scope, classification, historical development, stakeholders, functional elements, and significance to sustainable development. It appropriately emphasizes that modern solid waste management extends beyond disposal to include waste minimization, segregation, treatment, resource recovery, technological innovation, public participation, and environmental governance.

The subsequent chapters provide a progressive understanding of waste sources and characteristics, waste generation and collection systems, segregation, processing, recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, thermal treatment, and sanitary landfill engineering. The inclusion of design-oriented topics such as compost yard design, landfill design, collection route design, and waste-to-energy calculations is particularly valuable for engineering students, as it connects theoretical concepts with practical applications.

The book also gives due attention to industrial, hazardous, biomedical, plastic, and electronic wastes, along with the regulatory framework governing waste management in India. This is important because effective solid waste management requires not only appropriate technologies but also a clear understanding of institutional responsibilities, regulatory requirements, and environmental safeguards.

A notable strength of this book is its emphasis on emerging approaches. The chapters on GIS, IoT-based smart bins, data analytics, smart-city waste systems, Zero Waste, circular economy, resource recovery, technological innovation, and future research directions bring contemporary dimensions into the subject. The book recognizes the growing importance of viewing waste not simply as an unwanted material but as a potential source of secondary raw materials, nutrients, energy, employment, and economic value. This perspective is essential for moving from a conventional **"collect–transport–dispose"** model towards a more sustainable and resource-efficient system.

The book is written with a clear educational orientation and will be useful for **B.Tech./B.E. students, postgraduate students, teachers, researchers, practicing engineers, municipal professionals, and environmental practitioners**. Its combination of fundamental concepts, process descriptions, design considerations, regulatory aspects, and emerging technologies makes it a useful reference for both academic study and professional practice.

The challenges associated with solid waste management are continuously evolving, and no single technology or management strategy can address them all. Sustainable solutions require a combination of scientific knowledge, engineering design, appropriate technologies, effective policies, institutional coordination, and responsible participation from society. This book makes a valuable contribution by presenting these interconnected dimensions in a structured and accessible manner.

I commend the authors for their effort in compiling this comprehensive volume and hope that the book will serve as a useful academic and professional resource. More importantly, I hope it will encourage students and practitioners to look at waste management not merely as a sanitation requirement, but as an opportunity to **conserve resources, protect the environment, generate value, and build healthier and more sustainable communities**.

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ISBN 978-81-69623-02-5
9 788169 623025