

Approaches for solid waste minimization

by

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Facts About Recycling

- 90% of residential and commercial waste is disposed of in some type of landfill.
- Large scale incineration plants were introduced when garbage dumps were identified as a public health threat.
- In the 1980's a garbage crisis began.

Recycling continued...

- Several states have established waste disposal technologies with the goal of waste reduction and recycling for as much as 50% of the waste.
- Theoretically, 90% of municipal waste can be recycled.



Myth or Fact?



Myth

Recycling is not necessary because landfilling trash is environmentally safe.

Fact

Landfills are major sources of air and water pollution including greenhouse gas emissions.

Myth or Fact?



Myth

___ Recycling is not cost effective. It should pay for itself.

- Prices of recyclable materials fluctuate, so that an accurate estimate of revenues emerges only over time (costs tend to decline as programs mature).

Fact

___ We do not expect landfill or incinerators to pay for themselves, nor should we expect this of recycling. No other form of waste disposal, or even waste collection, pays for itself.

Myth or Fact?

Myth

Recycled materials are worthless; there is no viable market for them.

Fact

— While the prices of recycled materials fluctuate over time, the volume of major scrap materials sold in domestic and global markets is growing steadily.

• Many robust manufacturing industries in Pakistan already rely on recycled materials

• These businesses are an important part of our economy and provide the market foundation for the entire recycling process.

• New mills that recycle paper to make newsprint, commercial tissue products, and folding cartons generally have lower capital and operating costs than new mills using virgin wood, because the work of separating cellulose fibers from wood has already occurred.

Myth or Fact?



Myth

Recycling doesn't "save trees" because we are growing at least as many trees as we cut to make paper.

Paper recycling can help reduce the pressure to convert remaining natural forests to tree farms

Fact

__ Growing trees on plantations has contributed to a severe and continuing loss of natural forest.

Myth or Fact?



Myth

Consumers needn't be concerned about recycling when they make purchasing decisions,

- Many products made from recycled materials are competitive in price and function with virgin products

Fact

Even the most regulated industries generate a range of environmental damages or “externalities” that are not reflected in market price.

Myth or Fact?



Myth

Recycling imposes a time consuming burden on the public.

Fact

— Convenient, well designed recycling programs allow people to take simple actions in their daily lives to reduce the environmental impact of the products they consume.

Is It Time to start Recycling?

- Valuable resources are apparently being squandered with potentially serious environmental consequences

Recycling Seems to be an Answer

- Recycling has not received wide-spread public support
- Recycled material has grown much faster than the capacity for converting them to useful products
- The economics of recycling is necessarily beneficial to Pakistan

Understanding the Problem

- The country is running out of landfills and lack of space for disposing of waste
- Recycling is seen as a public-spirited activity that generates money and conserves valuable resources

Wrappin' it up

- MSW is a very serious issue and any solution whether it be recycling, incineration, or landfilling will probably cause more harm than good.
- The long term solution is the management of MSW is most likely to be in the form of green design, materials choice, component reuse and incineration as well as recycling.