

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

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# Energy recovery potential and life cycle impact assessment of municipal solid waste management technologies in Asian countries using ELP model

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## Abstract

Natural resource scarcity and the effects of environmental destruction have pushed societies to use and reuse resources more efficiently. Waste should no longer be seen as a burden but rather as another source of material such as energy fuel. This study analyzes the potential of three waste management scenarios that include the combination of four waste management technologies - incineration with energy recovery, composting, anaerobic digestion, and sanitary landfill gas collection - as ways to recover energy and material from municipal solid waste. The study applies the environmental load point (ELP) method and utilizes municipal waste characteristics and composition from India, Indonesia, and China as case studies. The ELP methodology employs integrated weighting in the quantification process to get a one-unit result. This study particularly uses analytic hierarchical process questionnaires to get the weighting value of the nine impact categories: energy depletion, global warming, ozone depletion, resource consumption, ecosystem influence, water pollution, waste disposal, air pollution, and acid rain. The results show that the scenario which includes composting organic waste and sanitary landfill with gas collection for energy recovery has medium environmental impact and the highest practicability. The optimum material and energy potential is from the Chinese case study in which 254 tonnes of compost fertilizer and 60 MWh of electricity is the estimated output for every 1,000 tonnes of waste treated.

**Keywords:** Life cycle assessment, Environmental load point, Waste management, Analytic hierarchical process, Energy recovery, Asian developing countries

## Background

Developing countries in Asia have a number of similarities in terms of their waste composition and characteristics. High moisture content due to the high percentage of organic waste composition results in low calorific value. This makes it is less suitable for thermal treatments and more suitable for biological treatments, such as composting and anaerobic digestion. The organic fraction of municipal waste equates to 62% in Indonesia, 63.4% in China, and 41.8% in India [1]. Waste volume in this region increases with the growth of population, urbanization, industrialization, and economic development. Indonesia, with a population of 232.7 million, generates 38.5 million tonnes of municipal waste annually. China, with a population of 1.3 billion, generates 1.8 billion tonnes. India, with a population of 1.2 billion, generates 66.69 million tonnes

[1]. Another important waste characteristic is the generation rate per capita per day, which is 0.75 kg in Indonesia, 1.54 kg in China, and 0.2 to 0.5 kg in India, depending on the size of the city. Figures 1 and 2 summarize the waste characteristics in the three countries.

The current common practice of municipal waste treatment in these countries is the use of landfill. Almost 68.86% of waste generated in Indonesia is landfilled, and only 10% of the available landfills meet the requirements for a sanitary landfill. China deposits 56.6% of its municipal waste in landfills. India has a very limited number of sanitary landfills, and thus, open dumping is common and widespread. Incineration is not applied on a large scale in Indonesia, whereas 1.9% of China's municipal waste is incinerated. India initiated several projects to incinerate its waste, such as the 300 t/day capacity incineration plant in Timarpur. However, such projects proved to be unsuccessful [2]. Two pilot projects on incineration plants are ongoing in Delhi, with 1,950 and 1,300 t/day capacities [1]. In Indonesia, composting of

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# Solid Waste Management Technology Assessment

**William G. Tansey**



## **Solid Waste Management Technology Assessment:**

Solid Waste Management ,1975      **Technology Assessment: Its Application to the Solid Waste Management Programs of Urban Governments** John W. Dickey, David M. Glancy, Ernest M. Jennelle, 1973      *Solid Waste Management* General Electric Company, 1976      **Technology Assessment Applied to Urban Solid Waste Management** Program of Policy Studies in Science and Technology, Ecosystems, Inc., National Science Foundation (U.S.), 1971      Technology Assessment Applied to Urban Solid Waste Management Program of Policy Studies in Science and Technology, 1971

**Tennessee Valley Authority Solid Waste Management Technology Assessment** Tennessee Valley Authority. Energy Research Group, 1978      Solid Waste Management Technology Assessment for Roanoke, Virginia William G. Tansey, 1973

*Facing America's Trash* United States. Congress. Office of Technology Assessment, 1989      **An Assessment of Technology for Local Development** United States. Congress. Office of Technology Assessment, 1981      **Facing America's trash : what next for municipal solid waste?.** , 1989      **Generic Technology Assessment Solid Waste Management** New York (State). Division of Solid Waste, 1990      **Technology Assessment--1970** United States. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Astronautics. Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Development, 1970      Solid Waste Technology and Management Thomas Christensen, 2011-08-02

The collection transportation and subsequent processing of waste materials is a vast field of study which incorporates technical social legal economic environmental and regulatory issues Common waste management practices include landfilling biological treatment incineration and recycling all boasting advantages and disadvantages Waste management has changed significantly over the past ten years with an increased focus on integrated waste management and life cycle assessment LCA with the aim of reducing the reliance on landfill with its obvious environmental concerns in favour of greener solutions With contributions from more than seventy internationally known experts presented in two volumes and backed by the International Waste Working Group and the International Solid Waste Association detailed chapters cover Waste Generation and Characterization Life Cycle Assessment of Waste Management Systems Waste Minimization Material Recycling Waste Collection Mechanical Treatment and Separation Thermal Treatment Biological Treatment Landfilling Special and Hazardous Waste Solid Waste Technology Management is a balanced and detailed account of all aspects of municipal solid waste management treatment and disposal covering both engineering and management aspects with an overarching emphasis on the life cycle approach      **Assessment Activities** United States. Congress. Office of Technology Assessment, 1989      *Facing America's Trash* United States. Congress. Office of Technology Assessment, 1989      **Technology Assessment -- 1970** United States. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Astronautics, 1970      Review of the Office of Technology Assessment and Its Organic Act United States. Congress. House. Committee on Science and Technology. Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology, 1978

Appendices p 119 211 include analysis of responses to subcom staff survey on congressional use of OTA technology

assessments p 121 176 and selected bibliography p 188 204      Symbiosis in Industrial and Municipal Resource Management United States. Department of Commerce. Office of Environmental Affairs,1979      Data Summary of Municipal Solid Waste Management Alternatives: Alphabetically indexed bibliography ,1992      *Handbook of Technology Assessment* Armin Grunwald,2024-10-03 This Handbook provides a comprehensive overview of technology assessment TA practices theories methods and cultures across the globe Highlighting the significant influence of rapidly changing technology on human life and development it examines diverse perspectives on how TA can be developed to better meet the challenges of the future This title contains one or more Open Access chapters

## **Solid Waste Management Technology Assessment** Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become more apparent than ever. Its capability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is truly remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Solid Waste Management Technology Assessment**," published by a highly acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound impact on our existence. Throughout this critique, we will delve into the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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