

## **Product 044**

### **Municipal waste management**

#### **Description**

In developing and newly industrialising countries, increasing amounts of waste and their geographic concentration in municipal and industrial areas constitute a serious problem for people and the environment. About half of the urban population has to make do without regular waste collection, for example. Appropriate and environmentally sound waste treatment and disposal systems only exist to a limited extent or are only slowly being set up. Hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries also live off recovering secondary resources from waste.

Inadequate waste recovery and disposal systems lead to the contamination of vital resources, such as the soil, air and water, constitute a public health hazard and impede a country's economic development. The growing demand for secondary resources from waste and a redirection of waste policy require the reorientation of the sector in developing and newly industrialising countries, too – away from waste disposal towards closed-loop resource management. In parallel, however, depending on the particular situation, considerable efforts must continue to be made to provide basic waste management services.

The resulting priorities for action are as follows:

- improvement of municipal hygiene through ensuring basic waste management services;
- protection of the environment through appropriate waste treatment and disposal;
- ensuring financing by the generators of wastes that covers the costs and is socially acceptable, in accordance with the local and national economic possibilities;
- further development of the strategic, statutory and institutional framework, involving new approaches (product responsibility, life-cycle assessment);
- further development of the use of waste for material and thermal recycling, thereby making a contribution to conserving resources
- consideration of the informal sector (scavengers) in waste management strategies, thus making a contribution to poverty reduction.

The individual players involved in waste management need to make their contribution – also of a financial nature – within the scope of their responsibility. Thus, support is being given through policy advisory services to multi-sector and multi-player approaches which are based on the environmentally and socially sustainable closed-loop model and which can finance themselves in the long term.

#### **Benefits / Results**

The introduction of an integrated waste management system that takes environmental technology, financial, social, institutional and cultural aspects into account makes a contribution to the following:

- improvement in environmental protection and the protection of public health
- establishment of regular waste management
- improvement in the institutional and legal frameworks
- long-term financing that covers costs
- promotion of environmentally sound behaviour
- commercialisation and private sector participation
- poverty reduction through integration of the informal sector
- improvement in income opportunities and working conditions, particularly for the informal sector
- resource conservation

## Waste management and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Waste management offers earnings opportunities, especially for poor population groups in the informal sector. Optimised integrated waste management can reduce municipal expenditures, releasing funds for other municipal tasks.	▶	MDG 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
More than half of those working in the informal sector are women. Social acceptance and social security boost their self-confidence. In addition, women are a specific target group as they are often responsible for disposing of waste within the household. In this connection they also play a special role as mediators within the context of information campaigns.	▶	MDG 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
Controlled waste management is essential for reducing health hazards and is thus part of an appropriate basic sanitary provision. As a result, there is a reduction in water-induced illnesses, illnesses caused by pollutants and in the number of pests that may be carriers of disease.	▶	MDGs 4 and 5 Reduce child mortality Improve maternal health
Waste avoidance and the recycling of secondary resources conserve natural resources. The controlled disposal of municipal and industrial waste limits the risk of water, soil and air pollution. Through pretreating waste or treating and using sanitary landfill gases, CO <sub>2</sub> emissions can be significantly reduced.	▶	MDG 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

Examples of impact chains are to be found under Results.

## Services

GTZ offers technical, organisational and management consultancy, as well as corresponding basic and further training modules in the following areas:

- sector strategy development at national, regional and local level
- institutional and regulatory policy frameworks
- statutory and policy regimes and their implementation and control
- development of environmentally sound, efficient and integrated waste management systems
- technical consultancy services (logistics, treatment, final disposal)
- enhancing competencies and operational processes (organisational development, staff training, management tools)
- financing, commercialisation, private sector involvement
- public participation and awareness-raising

- transfer of know-how on appropriate technologies
- initiation of cooperation activities (e.g. with the private sector, between chambers of commerce, associations, educational institutions and non-governmental organisations)
- involvement of the informal sector in waste management.

### **What makes us stand out from the competition**

Services in the field of municipal waste management have been an integral part of our technical cooperation activities for decades. The experience gained in numerous projects in Asia, Africa, the Near East and Latin America is integrated into our service package on an ongoing basis.

We have numerous worldwide contacts to and experience with national and international governmental organisations, associations, companies, consulting firms, research institutions and other multipliers. These contacts and the networking of individual GTZ projects promote the exchange of experience and cooperation, thereby contributing to the more efficient and effective performance of services.

The projects cooperate closely with the local, international and European private sector. As a result, there is great potential for public-private partnership, the use of which amplifies the results of the measures implemented.

To perform these services, GTZ pools the experience of the German consulting sector with that of the relevant technical administrations. In order to ensure integrated approaches, GTZ uses its in-house knowledge, including on the subjects of gender, poverty and good governance. We engage in close cooperation with investment and other programmes, particularly with those of the KfW bank and other German development cooperation organisations.

The product ties in with the priorities of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in relation to environment, energy, water and sanitation and the development of a market economy. Furthermore, the development-policy significance of German development cooperation in waste management is enhanced by the country-specific formulation of priorities and programmes.