ISWA TECHNICAL POLICY NO. 1
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT

Policy

ISWA supports the practice of integrated waste management (IWM). IWM is a series of complementary actions to reduce the quantities of waste generated and manage the waste which is generated in an economically and environmentally sound manner. The selection of methods of management should be based upon the environmental, economic, and public policies of local government. Integrated waste management relies on a number of different approaches to manage solid, hazardous, and other special wastes from generation to disposal and all stages in between. All stakeholders participating in and affected by the waste management system are considered covering cultural, social, economic and environmental factors.

Position

ISWA views IWM to include the following:

- materials use policies - initiatives by industry that result in product and packaging designs which reduce the amount of material, product or package to be discarded or enhances the reuse, recycling or longevity of products and packaging;

- waste reduction - initiatives by manufacturers, businesses, institutions, governments and individuals to reduce the amount of waste generated;

- planning - initiatives and steps of local government to develop comprehensive waste management plans for the waste generated within, or imported into their jurisdictions;

- financing - initiatives and steps taken to provide the appropriate capital money required for the implementation of waste management plans;

- funding - initiatives and steps taken to provide the money necessary to operate, maintain and manage IWM systems;

- management and operations - initiatives and steps taken to implement waste management plans, including determination of feasibility of the ownership and operations of systems and facilities and the procurement and management of private sector service providers;

- storage, collection and transport initiatives and steps taken to store, collect and transport waste generated within, or imported into a waste management system;

- siting of integrated waste management facilities based on local land use, planning and zoning and shall not discriminate based on racial, ethical, cultural or economic characteristics of a community.

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• processing methods including:
  
  => recycling of materials,
  
  => biological treatment of organic fractions of waste,
  
  => incineration with the recovery of energy, and
  
  => sanitary landfilling.

ISWA views these as a menu of methods that can be used to manage various waste types. The selection of methods of management should be based upon the environmental, economic, and public policies of local government.

ISWA supports the policy that local authorities should be responsible for waste management, but that they need not own or operate all, or any part of, a waste management system. With this responsibility, local authorities must plan, determine the manner in which waste is to be managed and assure that waste management plans are implemented to protect the public interest.

ISWA supports the use of public and/or private sector service providers to provide waste operational services as they apply to the IWM planning efforts developed by local governments. Such services should be provided under local government control, consistent with established national, regional and/or local government waste management plans and within a competitive environment established by local government. The role of the public and/or private sector service providers is to provide waste management services consistent with legal requirements within a competitive environment.

ISWA supports the use of a competitive process by local authorities that evaluates cost, quality of service, and the long term protection of public health, safety and environmental quality when selecting to use public, private or a combination of public and private service providers to provide waste management services.