ISWA TECHNICAL POLICY NO. 6

RECYCLING

AS PART OF INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT

Policy

ISWA supports waste recycling programmes which are a part of an integrated waste management system, and supports the diversion, recovery, and recycling of materials from the waste stream. Waste recycling programmes should be subject to provincial/state and local government permits, licenses, rules, and regulations, and should be consistent with good economic, environmental, worker safety and public health practices. ISWA supports the efforts of industry, business, government, and individuals that will lead to the maximum recovery and utilization of materials from the various waste streams.

Position

ISWA supports the regulation of waste management systems to protect worker safety, human health, and the environment. Facilities, services, and systems in an integrated waste management system, including recycling systems, should conform to applicable local, provincial/state, and national worker safety, environmental, and public health regulations.

ISWA supports initiatives by industries, businesses, institutions, government, and individuals to establish recycling as a method of managing waste. Such initiatives should be consistent with an integrated waste management plan.

Industry, Businesses and Institutional Recycling Initiatives

Industries, businesses, and institutions should implement waste recycling initiatives which:

- establish recycling programmes consistent with, and in conformance with, local government integrated waste management plans,
- use purchasing power to purchase products which include recycled content materials,
- adopt business practices which promote the diversion of materials from the waste stream,
- address, through design and production, the utilization of secondary materials in the manufacture of products and materials,
- establish diversion programmes consistent with economic analyses, to maximize the diversion and recovery of materials from their waste streams for recycling, and
- establish intermediate processing facilities, or secure the services of intermediate processing facilities, to process and prepare diverted materials.
**Government Recycling Initiatives**

ISWA supports the following actions by governments to stimulate increased diversion and recycling of materials diverted from waste:

- identify funding sources for mandated programmes,
- assure uniformity in specifications for secondary materials and products made from secondary materials,
- assure interstate and international consistency in the movement of primary and secondary materials,
- foster materials use practices which stimulate markets for recyclables,
- foster the development of markets for new materials diverted and recovered from the various waste streams through economic and regulatory incentives and disincentives,
- implement policies for purchase of recycled material content products,
- establish national recycling goals for integrated waste management, and
- support public education to stimulate industry, business, institutions, government, and individual support of recycling.

**Provincial and State Government Recycling Initiatives**

Provincial/state governments should implement programmes for the diversion and recycling of materials from waste with initiatives which:

- establish uniformity in specifications for secondary materials and products made from secondary materials,
- foster materials use practices which stimulate new markets for recyclables,
- foster the development of markets for new materials diverted and recovered from waste through economic and regulatory incentives and disincentives,
- establish provincial/state diversion goals, but not mandatory diversion rates, for recycling from both public and private generators, and overall waste systems,
- assist businesses and industries in the assessment and development of recycling programmes,
• sponsor (support) pilot waste recycling programmes to demonstrate the efficacy of new recycling programmes and to generate increased support for waste recycling programmes,

• provide information through clearinghouses about waste recycling programmes, methods and initiatives,

• implement policies for purchase of products containing recycled materials,

• support public education to stimulate industry, business, institutions, government, and individual support of recycling, and

Local Government Recycling Initiatives

Local governments should implement economically feasible waste recycling initiatives which:

• assist businesses and industries to establish diversion and recycling programmes,

• establish short and long-term diversion goals for recycling, consistent with economic, technological, and market analyses, and within an integrated waste management plan, 

• establish, or foster the establishment of, waste recycling programmes to implement the diversion goals of integrated waste management plans, 

• encourage waste management private sector service providers to prescribe to the diversion goals established in integrated waste management plans, 

• establish programmes for the diversion and utilization of yard waste such as special collection and management programmes, 

• sponsor (support) reuse programmes, 

• provide public education programmes to support volunteer participation in local government-sponsored recycling programmes, 

• establish, or foster the establishment of, collection and drop-off programmes for recyclable materials in the waste stream, 

• establish, foster the establishment of, or secure the services of, intermediate processing facilities to process the materials diverted from waste within their jurisdiction, and

• establish public education programmes to promote and advance the ethic of recycling.

Individual Recycling Initiatives

Individuals should support waste recycling initiatives such as:
• leaving grass cuttings on the lawn,
• participating in recycling programmes,
• purchasing habits which result in the generation of less waste,
• donating, rather than discard, usable items no longer needed,
• maintaining and repairing items to extend their useful life, and
• educating for children to instill the waste recycling ethic.