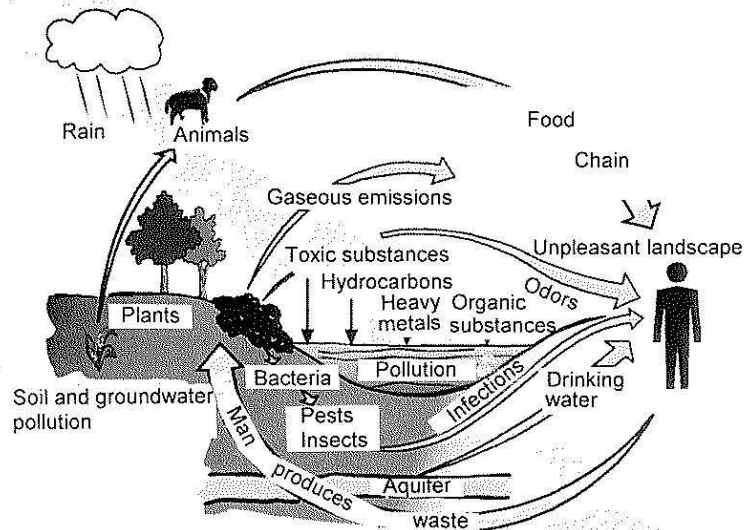


Problems, causes and effects originated by waste

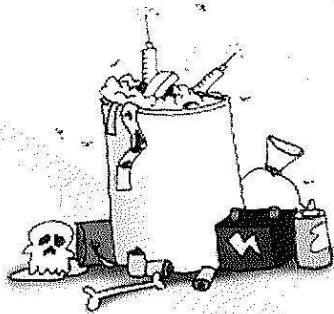
Effects of waste on human health and the environment

The lack of sanitation in the habitat and environment, flood occurrences, the formation of ponds and promontories of waste contribute to the proliferation of disease-transmitting vectors, and to the contamination of food, water, soil, air and others, putting the population at risk.



Risks for humans due to inappropriate solid waste management

Hazardous materials contained in waste



A great variety of chemicals can be found in waste, especially batteries; oil and fats; pesticides and herbicides; solvents, paintings and tints; cleansing products, cosmetics, medicines, syringes and aerosols that are highly harmful to man's health.

Water pollution

One of the main problems in waste management is water pollution by **leachate** infiltration (dark liquid resulting from the decomposition of waste and rainwater runoff through waste) in the groundwater used for human consumption. Surface waters are also contaminated because many residents of AMSS use "quebradas", ravines, rivers and watercourses as places for waste disposal. The obstruction of drainage by waste causes floods that put the population at risk.



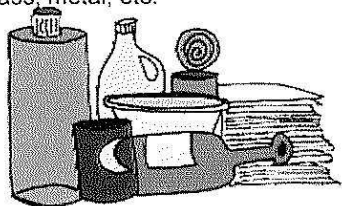
Methods to reduce waste amount

Waste, solid waste or simply garbage as it is commonly referred to, can be mainly categorized into recyclable and non-recyclable. Waste is generated by domestic, commercial, medical and industrial activities as well as leaves and branches from plazas, parks, gardens, etc.

Where differentiated collection service is provided, the separation of waste into recyclable and non-recyclable makes recycling activities much easier.

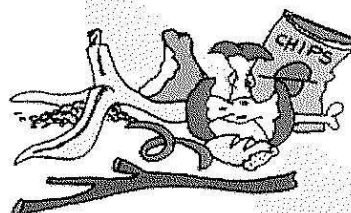
Recyclable waste:

All materials that can be recovered through recycling such as paper, plastic, glass, metal, etc.



Non-recyclable waste:

All the materials that cannot be recovered by means of recycling

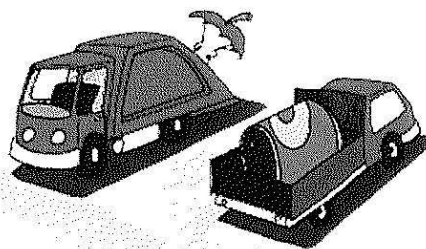


Organic waste can be categorized as recyclable waste if it is composted and then commercialized.

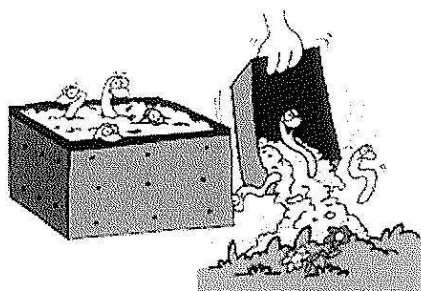
Reduction of waste generation by means of sanitary/environmental education programs that raise citizens' awareness.



Separation at the source of the different types of waste at the generation source (domestic, industrial, commercial or medical).



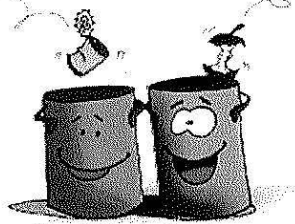
Separate collection for each type of waste separated at the generation source.



Reuse of waste by composting and recycling

Methods to reduce waste amount

Why separate waste?



Waste separation at the generation source and separate collection are indispensable means of reducing the amount of waste which goes to the final disposal sites; they contribute to resource recovery and protect the human health and the environment.

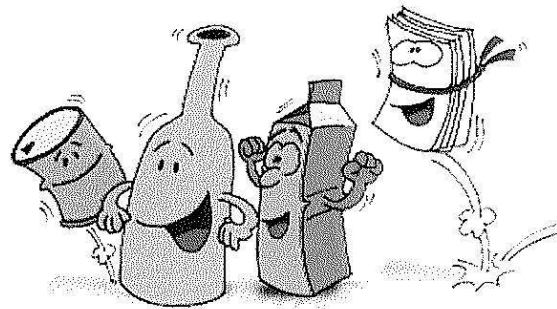
- Waste separation contributes to recycling and reduces the reliance on municipal landfills.
- Waste separation allows extended use of natural resources
- Waste separation facilitates the collection



For **separate collection**, firstly waste separation should be carried out at the generation sources (at home, schools, offices, industries, shops, etc.). In parallel, the municipalities and/or private companies should carry out separate collection within their economic capacities.

What is recycling?

Recycling means recovering used materials for other purposes. In other words, it means separating, collecting, processing, marketing, and ultimately using materials that would have been discarded.



Why recycle?

- Waste resource recovery and recycling contribute to conserving our natural resources because they reduce the need for raw materials.
- Recycling reduces pollution, conserves resources and protects our health and the environment.
- It also helps to save space and increase the life span of municipal landfills.

50 kg of old
paper

Converted into
new paper

Save a tree

