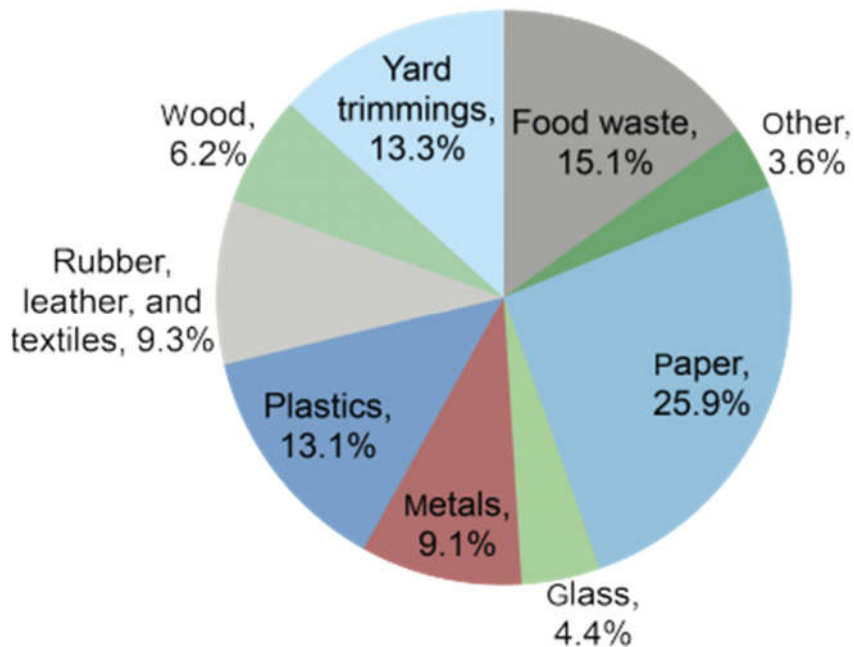


Municipal solid waste

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), commonly called “trash” or “garbage,” includes wastes such as durable goods (e.g., tires, furniture), nondurable goods (e.g., newspapers, plastic plates/cups), containers and packaging (e.g., milk cartons, plastic wrap), and other wastes (e.g., yard waste, food).

This category of waste generally refers to common household waste, as well as office and retail wastes, but excludes industrial, hazardous, and construction wastes. Municipal solid waste does not include industrial wastes, agricultural wastes, and sewage sludge. Typically, municipal solid waste is collected, separate and sent to either a Landfill or municipal Recycling center for processing.

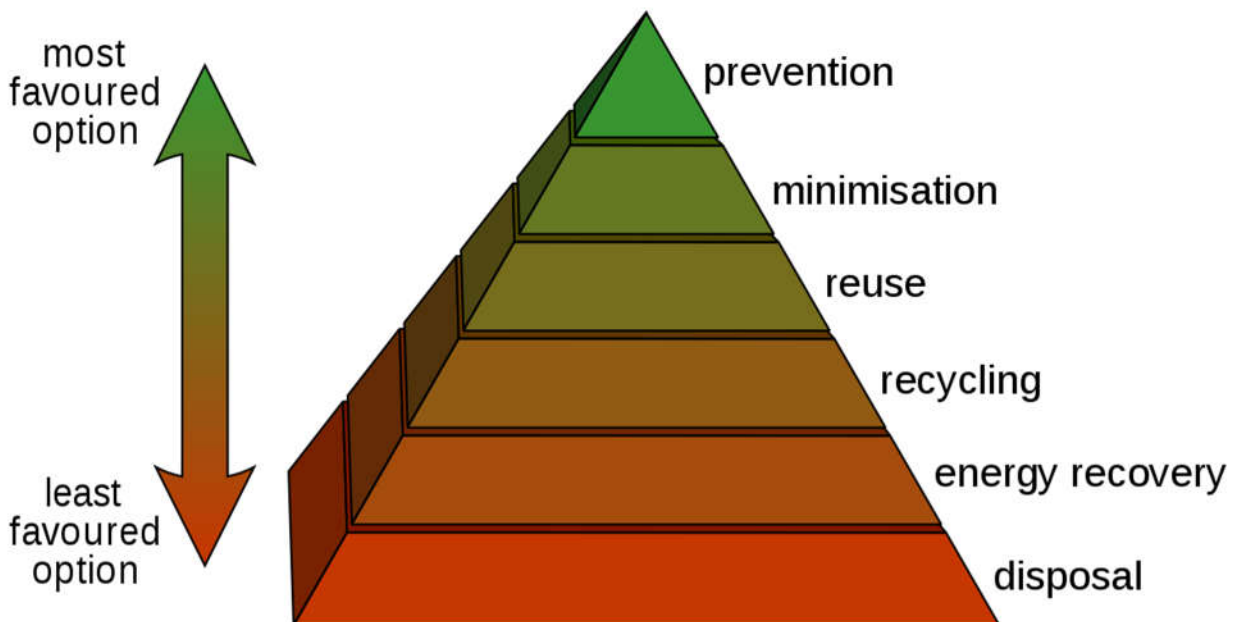
Composition of municipal solid waste



Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM)

Includes the collection, transfer, resource recovery, recycling, and treatment of waste. The main target is to protect the population health, promote environmental quality, develop sustainability and provide support to economic productivity.

Municipal Solid waste management hierarchy



1. Prevention - most preferred

Minimize the amount of waste through various means of control. All items should be re-used to the greatest extent possible through substitution and postponing. Substitution is when no new materials are needed to fulfill the need. Postponing is when the life of the goods is extended through good maintenance practices, repair, cleaning and refurbishment. The goods don't become waste until further down the line.

2. Preparing for re-use

Checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing.

3. Recycling

When raw material can be recycled, major resources are saved. Recycling is usually when the material is returned to its pure state to use for something else. This includes composing if it meets quality protocols.

4. Recovery

Combustible waste is a resource for energy extraction. Although this step destroys the resource it is preferred to disposal by landfill or combustion without gaining the benefit of energy extraction.

5. Disposal - Least preferred

As a final step, deposit at a registered landfill or incineration without energy recovery. Incineration creates bottom ash which ends up in landfill. Landfill must be carefully managed.