

Sustainable Sorting, Recycling and Disposal of Solid Waste

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Abstract

Beginning with the post-World War II era, increased consumption of consumer goods became a way of life. Products were designed to be used once and then thrown away. Before the end of the last century, a disposal lifestyle began to cause problems. In western countries, solid waste is managed by landfill dumps, incineration, composting, waste reduction, and recycling. In Southeast Asia, the laws about disposal of waste is not less strict as the west, but greater vigilance by the enforcement agencies to nudge offenders onto the right path is required. This paper discusses how day-to-day choices impact the environment. A healthy environment is all about individuals cultivating sound morals and making the right choices. Whether recycling paper or sorting out trash into a few categories, some countries are already providing a foretaste of daily life to come.

Keywords: *Solid waste, thrash sorting, e-waste, recycled timber, landfill, faux wood.*

Introduction

Solid wastes are all the wastes arising from human activities that are normally solid and are discarded as useless or unwanted. The term is all-inclusive and encompasses the heterogeneous mass of throw away from households and commercial activities, as well as the more homogeneous accumulations of a single industrial activity. Until recently, sanitation was mainly centered on the disposal of human excreta, while the disposal and management of solid wastes remain neglected.

Scope and Objectives

The scope of this study is limited to household waste and its significance in our daily lives. The objectives of this study are:

- Ecological apathy
- The ubiquitous plastic bag
- e-waste
- Sorting thrash into categories
- Sustainable recycling
- Garbage management
- Waste-treatment; a business with high potential.

Time to Trash Ecological Apathy

It has taken decades to educate the Thai public about the importance of environmental protection as a general concept. Unfortunately, environmental awareness is not enough. Action is needed, but not enough people in this country are able or willing to draw a connection between the need to protect the environment and what each individual can do in daily life to save it. The higher the income and the greater the education people have, the more likely they are to express concern for the environment. Unfortunately, even self-proclaimed lovers of the environment do not always practice what they preach. Ask people to sort household refuse for recycling and proper disposal, or pay a fee to properly treat wastewater discharge from their homes, and they will come up with endless excuses. "It's inconvenient", they say. "Why bother?" they ask. Call it disgusting hypocrisy or plain laziness, but if Thailand is to succeed in environmental protection and management, it must effectively identify and tackle the root causes of this public apathy in order to change people's behavior, which will take time. But time and rapid environmental degradation will not wait until Thais are ready for the daunting challenges ahead (Anon. 2004).