

1. Topic: *ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT*  
***IN LAGOS, NIGERIA***

2. Paper Format

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5. Adeyemi – 04 Abstract

This paper appraises the Urban Solid Waste Management in Lagos State, Nigeria. Solid Waste Management has been one of the most serious environmental problems in urban governance. Usually, the more the understanding of the environment the more effectively it can be put at the service of human beings. Man cannot be separated from his environment. Therefore, Waste Management in Urban centers has become crucial more than ever before. Waste disposal facilities especially in recent time have proved most inadequate in the face of volumes of municipal waste.

In tackling this problem, National Waste Management strategy anchored on the concept of recycling among other things, focus on the strategy encouraging recycling organizations in Europe, America and Canada to come and invest in lucrative business of Waste Management.

Nevertheless, this is highly commendable however, for effective and efficient program. Planning an inventory of the recyclable material in our waste is a necessary first step. People must be aware of what to separate from their waste stream.

Consequently upon this, it is worth noting that standard recycle organization is not available in the whole country today {The most populous black nation}. Only some group of people engage in the search of the refuse

heaps in different locations for what they can pick and quickly sell. They are popularly called “SCAVENGERS” they are the heroes of the recycling industry in Nigeria today. Perhaps there is need for Formulation of Integrated Development master plan to manage waste in all municipalities in Nigeria by creating enabling investment environment to manage waste on sustainable level instead of ad hoc approach.

### **Introduction**

The main thrust of this paper is to heal the wound of Nigerian cities inflicted in through ignorance by lack of knowledge and understanding of benefits of waste. This write up will enable the listener, participant and leader to suggest workable measures to meet challengers of solid waste management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. More importantly in Developing World like Nigeria.

In virtually every newspaper and every Television, we are bombarded with over flowing refuse in our urban centers. All too frequently we see screaming headlines “Refuse heaps take over Lagos roads”. Solid wastes are left in Lagos for weeks on the roads, aptly described as culture.

Suffice it to say the persistence and pervasiveness of improperly managed solid waste particular in the country’s urban settlements is of the most pressing environ-social problem confronting urban governance today in Nigeria (Oresanya 1998). This is a curious paradox since inspite of our achievements as a people with treasure trove of ability and intelligence; we cannot take our own house hole garbage and dispose off them properly this freeing our generation and indeed the future generation from solid waste.

Expectedly and more importantly at federal, state and local government levels efforts have been made to deal with the problem of solid waste. However, efficient management of this problem has been like a mirage since it has appeared to be so formidable to have defied the existing administrative, technical and financial capability of the various governments. The problem of solid waste management in Lagos today’s is such that in spite of studies, programs and various measures that have been taken solid waste still remain ubiquitous.

Investigation reveal that through solid waste have been managed in the cities for a very long time to the present, sustainable management practice

have not always been adopted (Ijeoma 1996) often solid waste management has always been involving waste from one location to the other for disposal. Lack of modern equipment to separate different type of waste are usually considered in three major categories namely: - Gaseous, Liquid and Solid (Savas 1976) societal sensitivity to these forms of pollutants tend to vary depending on difference in the level of awareness, technology and socio-economic and development. All these categories of waste need require techniques of handling which Nigeria lack.

### **Solid Waste Management in Lagos, Commercial Capital of Nigeria.**

The waste management in Lagos State is under the supervision of Ministry of the Environment anchored on private sector participation strategy in municipal waste collection and transportation from tenements, markets, motor parks, public buildings to designated land fills, by the waste collectors but it is obvious that this strategy does not work because there is no concrete plan for recycle of waste, despite the fact that tremendous growth of recyclable material in our waste stream. Infact, a cursory look at the heaped up urban solid waste will readily give this picture away. This can be adduced to change of what we consume, our life style and even the way packaged product we purchase as well as growth in urban disposable materials and throw away, continuous growth in the material is in controvertible as our technology develops more. A more sophisticated consumption style means emphasis on consumer durable and hard wares on the product of petrochemical industries such as plastic, packaged manufactured products bottled, tinned product and a variety of other commodities which produce large amount of disposable waste materials.

Suffice is to say, that if systematic management of waste through recycling is not introduce waste might be overhauled us in the future. Consequent upon this Lagos state government currently advertise for competent foreign companies for tender for the collection of municipal waste with waste compactors, recycling machine and equipment interested participants in this seminal can contact.

The Honorable Commissioner  
Ministry of the Environment  
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The nature of waste and recyclables in Lagos Nigeria. It must be emphasized that volume of solid waste generated per se does not invariably measure the degree to which the environment will be polluted. Thus if the waste can be evacuated, disposed of and recycle satisfactorily, and as fast as it is generated and collected, there would be no accumulation and hence on insult abuse and pollution. It is when evacuation and disposal actually lag behind that rate of generation that solid waste becomes an environment nuisance. Solid waste management therefore, concerns the interplay among generation, storage collection and disposal or recycle (Omuta 1988).

Infact, in order to evaluate the option for recycling as a solid waste strategy it is vital to have a clear under standing of the materials involved, even when waste characteristics studies yield highly accurate information, some further identification and estimate must made of the actual percentage of materials that a community can expect to collect for recycling. Hence, a study like this is of paramount importance as enunciated by the ministry of the Environment.

The list of potentially recyclable materials long and continues to grow as technological development enables more materials to be produced, use and recycled into more product. To simplify the discussion it can be grouped the list material into five major categories of post consumer recyclable namely.

1. Paper
2. Glass
3. Plastics
4. Scraps metal
5. Tire Rubber
6. Straps Iron

Meanwhile the recycling of that material as far as solid waste managers are concerned represents both good environment policy and good business. Consequently the need for waste recycle organization cannot be over emphasized.

## **Waste Scavenging**

The emergency of the scavengers is recent phenomenon in Nigeria scavengers scour the waste dump sites for collection of what is considered useful is removed informally for reuse at all stages from household containers up to tipping site. Waste scavenging serves as a means of livelihood was occasioned by the economic woes created by the structural Adjustment program that was introduced in 1988.

Therefore the lack of imagination of appropriate Technological solution with regard to solid waste problem has created a vacuum in the organization formal or modern sector, which scavengers have capitalized upon. Meanwhile, it is recognized to be hazardous to health and is socially frowned upon. NEST (1998) stated that it must be admitted that is helping us to cope with our solid waste disposal problem

## **Eight Reasons Why We Need Modern Waste Recycle System In Nigeria.**

1. Solid wastes pose serious danger to the handlers scavengers who are not trained to do so.
2. Many scavengers have died because of diseases associated with improper handling of solid waste by manual.
3. Volume of waste generated by ever increasing population of Nigeria need appropriate technological solution. Nigeria cannot afford to lag behind.
4. Waste recycle business in Lagos Nigeria is a multimillion-dollar business which investors should not continue to ignore.
5. High risks of injury from glass and metal, with high incidence of lower back injuries to handlers.
6. The government of Nigeria and Lagos state in particular as put special investment incentive in place like low duties rate on imported equipment, tax holidays and provision of landed property at lower cost.
7. Competent Human Resources are available in Nigeria to manage any organization and equipment that might be installed by the investor for the purpose of recycling.

8. All the State and Federal capital territory need to manage their urban center waste and recycling remain the best option because of its sustainability, which is the benchmark of United Nation Environmental protection program.

## CONCLUSION

Since the efficiency of waste management is a function of the relationship between the rate of generation and disposal, the number of personnel alone cannot determine environment quality. A lot also depends on the quantity and quality of the modern equipment at the disposal of the personnel (Omuta 1988) with an increase in Population in Lagos State Nigeria problem of urban solid waste generation is expected to become even more serious in the future if management arrangement do not improve remarkably refuse may over whelmed us. We can not avoid to rely on scavengers and inappropriate, inefficient organization to continue to manage our solid waste with the participants interest in invest in lucrative business of waste management in Nigeria and Lagos in particular. We shall not afraid of refuse problem in our urban centers. Finally I use this opportunity to invite all LALA members Professionals, environmentalist and investor around the world to come and invest in recycling business in Nigeria.

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## **The Main Focus**

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