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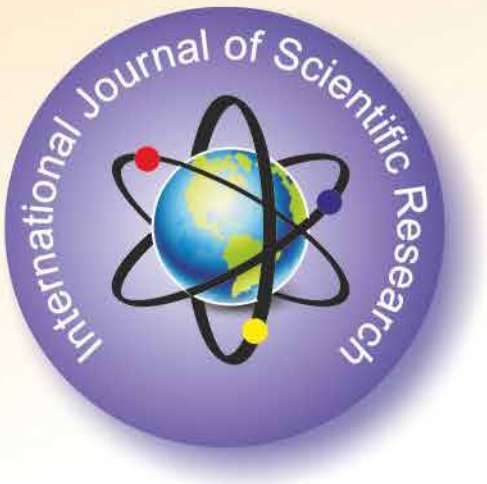

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Research Paper

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Waste Management: A New Paradigm of Contemporary Business

Commerce

KEYWORDS : Waste, Management, Business.

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ABSTRACT

Today waste management had attracted the attention of every industrialist. Within every company, management needs to be concerned about the ever-evolving waste management environment. In today's daily advancement of technology, interpretation of regulations and a hungry waste management industry, companies are missing out on opportunities to save money, streamline their processes, reduce risk and minimize waste, simply by conducting business as usual. Attentions regarding waste management leads to waste reduction, reuse, recycle and better tools to manage the remaining hazardous waste. The present paper gives a glimpse of waste management issues in present era, how to deal with it, benefits of waste management, waste management strategies for businesses, waste management plans etc. The study provides important strategies to overcome waste problems.

INTRODUCTION

Waste Management in simple words means recycling or converting the used material again into usable form. The waste products or the thrown products are put into use by means of recycling. Recycling is the process of making the waste products use again & again i.e. it portrays that nothing is waste. The process of turning waste into new useful things is called recycling. Today waste forms the main problem everywhere & if this waste is converted to effective use again it gives a new importance even to waste products. Rock Garden is a live example of Waste Management. These costs can be as much as 4.5% of your annual turnover. The concept waste management comprises of two words waste + management. Let us examine the concept with the help of these two words:

Waste:

Waste can be defined as something which the original owner or user no longer values, and has been discarded or discharged by the original owner or user. It is something we do not want any more and want to throw away. For example, we buy a pair of shoes wrapped in a paper or contained in a box. We take out the shoes for use and have no further use for the paper or box because it has no value anymore. So, it becomes waste. All businesses create waste and all businesses have a legal duty to dispose of their waste responsibly. Waste is created in many ways and begins with purchasing, the first step of every business. Even your final product is likely to become someone else's waste in the future. Waste can be categorised differently, but one way of categorising waste is into the following:

- Domestic waste
- Commercial waste
- Industrial waste
- Mine waste
- Hazardous waste
- Health care waste
- Agricultural waste
- E waste

The management regimes for these different classes of waste are not well defined in some cases, particularly e-waste. Regardless of the class of waste, its management typically involves 5 stages which are:

- Generation
- Storage
- Collection
- Transportation
- Disposal

Management: Management in simple words means controlling or supervising. Here management means controlling or making reusable the wasted material like, disposal, tins, jars, paper, board, computer waste, broken glass, used plastic bags, left over food and food remains, torn cloth, yard sweepings, electronics waste etc. Proper management of waste requires that all the 5 aspects of waste, i.e. generation, storage, collection, transportation and disposal should be managed well – the volumes of waste that are generated should be controlled and minimised wherever possible; storage containers should be adequate and suitable; collection should be frequent; transportation vehicles should be appropriate for the purpose; and disposal of waste should be at well managed sanitary landfills.

Waste Management is the collection and proper disposal of waste in a systematic manner, regularly and in time. Proper disposal includes: recycling, composting, treatment, and regulated dumping.

How to Deal With Waste

There are three global options for dealing with waste.

1. The first option is to collect the waste and transport it to a legal and well protected dumpsite, where it can be disposed off. In this case waste remains as waste.

2. The second option is to re-use waste, or recycle it. This includes composting of any waste that can rot. In this option waste becomes something useful again.

3. The third option is the treatment of waste. This includes controlled burning and controlled burying of waste. In this case waste can become a source of useful energy for example in the form of heat or gas for cooking.

Benefits of Waste Management

a) Economic benefits

An effective waste minimisation and management program can reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill by over 60%. Savings on collection and disposal costs can then be offset against the cost of initiating waste minimisation and management programs. Landfill sites are becoming harder to find and are located further away from city centres. Much higher operating standards are also now expected, as well as restrictions on the types of waste that can be sent to landfill. All these factors have led to an increase in costs. A cooperative approach is key to reducing costs. As suppliers and producers respond to 'green' pressure and streamline their systems to minimise packaging and waste their costs should also decrease. The many potential benefits to be gained from minimising waste can only be realised by identification of all costs associated with existing disposal systems, including hidden costs.

b) Enduring public relationships

Minimising waste is an ideal way to reinforce existing community attitudes and current environmental awareness and education programs. Market research consistently shows that concern for the environment rates highly within the community. Waste minimisation and management programs are seen by many as an ideal opportunity to do something for the environment. These programs can create goodwill within the community, and thus opportunities for centres and retailers to promote their 'green image'.

c) Environmental reimbursement
Minimising waste conserves resources. Conserving resources not only reduces waste, it can reduce pollution. As industry consumes fewer raw materials, it uses less fossil fuel and less pollution as a result. At present most solid waste ends up in landfill. Specific risks associated with landfill sites are now better understood. An effective waste minimisation and management program can take a proactive approach to lessening the impact of businesses on the environment.

Waste Management Strategies for Businesses
A sound waste management strategy is needed to minimize the cost and liability associated with the management of waste materials. A management strategy should focus on efforts to reduce or recycle waste rather than to continue to rely upon disposal. The following are the waste management strategies:

· Waste Audits
An audit will facilitates business to gain an understanding of the types and quantity of waste being generated. A waste audit is the first step to identifying what waste is being generated in an organisation. It is wise to not only understand what wastes are generated daily, but also to identify wastes that are generated on a less frequent basis. Waste services are often referred to as "overhead costs", but a closer look at waste generation often generated by very specific activities.

· Waste Reduction
The best way to manage a waste stream is to reduce or eliminate the amount of waste being produced. Waste reduction will often result in a better use of resources or material a business uses. This leads to cost savings & better productivity.

· Waste Management Practices
The waste being generated would be reconstructed by putting it to the one of the four management categories: 1) Recycling, 2) Hazardous Waste, 3) Solid Waste Disposal, and 4) Document Destruction.

· Other strategies are:
Ensure that recyclable packaging waste (e.g. glass, paper, metal, wood and plastic) arising on their own premises is segregated and either passed back up the supply chain or collected by an authorised recovery operator for recovery i.e. the producer must ensure that the operator holds a valid waste collection permit from the relevant local authority.

Ensure that recyclable packaging waste is not sent for disposal. A limited exemption is provided for contaminated packaging waste. It is illegal to deliberately contaminate packaging waste that is recyclable. Local authorities can give written directions to a producer to separate specified packaging to avoid contamination and facilitate recycling.

The marketers can provide information to customers on the weight of packaging material/packaging supplied.

Further, producers can participate in a collective producer recycling scheme operated by an approved body and can take steps to comply with the Regulations by registering with their relevant local authority and complying with specific requirements such as the take back of packaging waste from customers. This option is known as self-compliance.

Waste Management Plans
Waste management plans have a key role to play in achieving sustainable waste management. Their main purpose is to give an outline of waste streams and treatment options. More specifically they aim to provide a planning framework for the following:

- Compliance with waste policy and target achievement: Waste management plans, national as well as local/regional are important instruments contributing to implementation and achievement of policies and targets set up in the field of waste management at the national and the International level.

- Outline of waste characteristics and sufficient capacity for managing waste: Waste management plans give an outline of waste streams and quantities to be managed. Furthermore, they contribute to ensuring that the capacity and the nature of collection and treatment systems are in line with the waste to be managed.

- Control of technological measures: An outline of waste ensures identification of areas in which technological measures should be taken to eliminate or minimise certain types of waste.

- Outline of economy and investment requirements: Waste management plans make way for a statement of financial requirements for the operation of collection schemes, treatment of waste etc. On this basis, the needs for future investments in waste treatment plans may be determined.

CONCLUSION
Waste management has become a significant business issue for every business in recent years. The Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended, regulates all waste management activities. There is a general duty of care on business to manage the waste streams. Waste management costs businesses money. Managing waste poorly costs even more. A good environmental performance is increasingly noticed and valued by clients, customers, staff, suppliers and the public, bringing proven loyalty and public relations benefits. Customers increasingly request evidence from businesses of what efforts have been made to reduce their impact on the environment. From own experience of living in an urban settlement we know that waste disposal is a problem and that there is no proper solid waste management system in some of the areas. This paper has given a way-out to the business houses as to how to reuse their wastes and what are the benefits of proper waste management. As the solution to many waste management problems requires the involvement of several participants/authorities, coherent planning helps to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and thus benefits all participants in their workings.

Finally, the business itself is responsible to ensure the waste being generated is handled in an environmentally sound manner. It is a business' duty to ensure that contractors are fulfilling the scope of services outlined in service contracts. So, waste management leads to numerous benefits to a business society.

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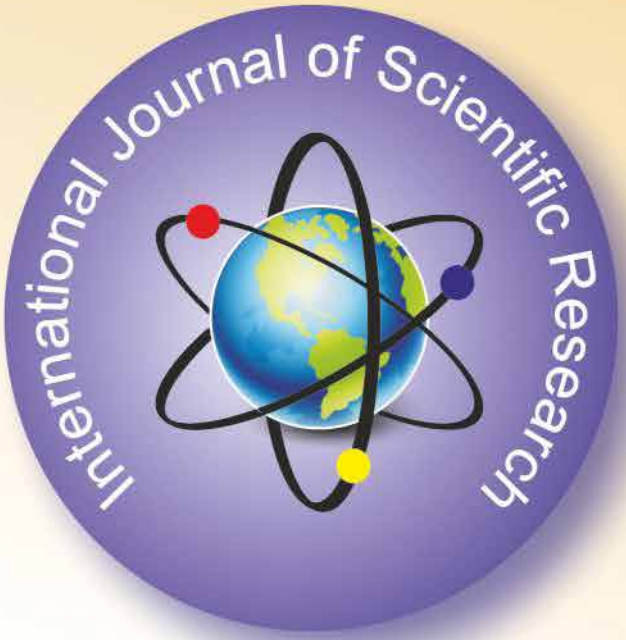

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