

**Declaration of Principles
For
Sustainable and Integrated Solid Waste Management (SISWM)**

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Supportive of Good Governance

- SISWM is an integral part of good local governance and one of the most visible urban services influencing local perception of governance
- SISWM provides a minimum level of acceptable service to all urban residents and establishments, with higher levels of service where there is either a greater need (e.g., in terms of business development or tourism) or a greater desire to pay for a higher level
- SISWM is conducted in a transparent and accountable manner to minimize opportunity for corruption and unwarranted political interference
- SISWM provides workers with uniforms, clear-cut performance tasks and outputs, and predictable routes and schedules so that the public can participate in performance monitoring
- SISWM is responsive to the service levels and conditions desired by the residents and establishments receiving service
- SISWM is affordable within the context of available customer funds to meet the necessary range of basic urban services and compatible with the service levels desired
- SISWM establishes management information systems that enable cost-effective accounting of costs and overall cost-related performance monitoring
- SISWM is open to all viable parties, including women and micro-enterprises, that could contribute to the economic provision of services
- SISWM recognizes that willingness to pay is affected by perception of service quality being received and involvement of stakeholders in decision-making, and therefore places a high priority on keeping stakeholders informed and involved regarding issues and proposals
- SISWM looks for ways to enable communities to be responsible and for individuals to take action in ways that build public cooperation with the service

Provides Economic Service Delivery

- SISWM considers economies-of-scale in facility sizing and route designs, and seeks to decentralize or bundle services as needed to optimize such economies
- SISWM recognizes that collection is the major cost element of the solid waste system and requires comprehensive cost analysis for continuous rationalization of routing, crew sizes and technologies, with appropriate planning and supervisory staffing and technical resources applied to enable this outcome
- SISWM includes pre-collection systems, to the extent that they enhance willingness to pay and obtain cooperation of the public with the service
- SISWM ensures that sufficient resources are devoted to preventative maintenance of vehicles and facilities, and that skills, spare parts and consumables are available to assure steady and reliable provision of service
- SISWM recognizes that systems and equipment should be selected according to local conditions, and not be transplanted from other situations without careful consideration of local conditions
- SISWM builds local capacity to engineer and produce equipment and spare parts, to the extent economically viable, so that the skills to maintain and replace such equipment shall be readily available

Establishes Cost Recovery Mechanisms for Long-Term Financial Sustainability

- SISWM is sustainable through a range of revenue sources, including direct fees, indirect general taxes, and revenues from recycling and resource recovery
- SISWM tariffs establish fair distribution of costs according to ability to pay, the service provided, and level of waste pollution generated
- SISWM lets all parties know the costs of the services and what level of service can reasonably be expected for the costs incurred
- SISWM minimizes hidden costs and subsidies, making all costs as transparent as possible
- SISWM sets up cost recovery mechanisms and financial management systems that are leak-proof and constrain the potential for undue political intervention
- SISWM uses segregated accounts for solid waste revenues to ensure reliable cash flow remains available to meet service needs

Conserves Natural Resources

- SISWM encourages indigenous manufacturing capacity for vehicles, machines, and parts required by the service
- SISWM is conducted in an environmentally conscientious manner that conserves natural resources and recovers wastes where appropriate
- SISWM provides incentives for waste minimization, recycling, and resource recovery at the source, or as near to the source as possible
- SISWM involves comprehensive cost analysis of alternatives as essential to sound decision-making; for example, smaller collection systems using more labor and less fuel may have costs that are comparable to larger collection systems using less labor and more fuel
- SISWM seeks disposal sites that minimize area required by optimizing the depth of fill

Embraces Public Participation

- SISWM planning and operations consider gender, children and cultural aspects of the local population, and avoids inconveniencing or placing the work burden unduly on any specific group
- SISWM planning and operations are participatory and enable continuous feedback from those involved in receiving and providing service
- SISWM provides a forum for handling and tracking complaints and related responses
- SISWM provides incentives, education, and public sensitization to foster cooperation with services provided and cost recovery mechanisms
- SISWM sensitizes the public to environmental issues, occupational health and safety issues, waste minimization opportunities, and the values of recycling and resource recovery
- SISWM enables the public to perform its role in monitoring service delivery, environmental impacts, and costs

Fosters Environmentally Appropriate Technologies and Sites

- SISWM conducts environmentally appropriate facility siting investigations and ensures that facilities are designed to meet environmentally cost-effective discharge and impact standards
- SISWM monitors the emissions and environmental changes related to all waste storage, handling, and disposal activities
- SISWM recognizes that landfill is an anaerobic technology that generates methane, that methane is a significant greenhouse gas, and that efforts to recover or flare landfill gases containing methane need to be addressed in landfill design
- SISWM recognizes that compost has benefits to the rural economy outside of the municipal service area, for replenishment of soils, minimization of erosion, development of high-nutrient foods, and reduction of water irrigation needs; thus every effort to enhance the cost-effective production of high quality compost and the development of compost markets needs to be made
- SISWM involves environmental impact assessment and public involvement for all new transfer, treatment, and disposal facilities

- SISWM addresses traffic and queuing impacts of all new facilities and routing changes
- SISWM involves the phased closure of all open dumps unless they can be upgraded to controlled landfills that pose no significant environmental threat
- SISWM involves the curtailment of dumpsite waste picking, with interim steps to upgrade their status, earning power and working conditions
- SISWM prevents children and domestic animals from having access to waste disposal sites and other waste handling facilities
- SISWM employs systems to track and document hazardous wastes to ensure that significant quantities are not mixed with other wastes but are taken to secured facilities for hazardous wastes treatment and disposal
- SISWM recognizes the need for reliable data to ensure effective planning and management
- SISWM recognizes that the state of literature on the health and safety consequences of waste management is still developing and that cautious health and safety obligates cautious measures, such as providing a buffer zone between people and other living creatures and any significant waste storage and handling facilities or disposal sites
- SISWM requires minimum occupational safety and health be met for all waste workers and waste pickers, whether engaged by the public or private sector

Seeks Appropriate Levels of Source Segregation, Recycling and Resource Recovery

- SISWM requires separate transport, treatment and disposal of significant quantities of medical, hazardous, or construction/demolition wastes from general municipal wastes
- SISWM optimizes waste minimization and segregation of recyclable materials at the source of waste generation
- SISWM encourages the development of markets for recyclable materials in major centers of waste generation, including the provision of incentives for increased industrial demand of secondary materials as feedstock

Conducts Strategic Facility Planning and Development

- SISWM invites structured participation of key stakeholders in the strategic planning process
- SISWM requires long-term strategic planning so that the lands necessary for handling wastes are set aside for the future
- SISWM requires acceptable resettlement, property compensation, and livelihood assistance standards be applied to siting of any new facilities and closure of any existing facilities
- SISWM does not include incineration of general municipal wastes unless the year-round calorific value supports self-sustainable combustion at temperatures adequate to protect air quality
- SISWM recognizes that modern and environmentally safe landfill is a part of every long-term disposal strategy, and that there will always be some wastes that can not be otherwise economically treated, recycled, or recovered

Builds Institutional Capacity

- SISWM has adequate local authority and autonomy provided to enable good municipal governance over the solid waste sector and self-sustainable financing and cost recovery
- SISWM allows local governments to enter into multi-year private sector arrangements that match periods of depreciation for investments provided
- SISWM strengthens local capacity in planning, operations, rationalization of operations, maintenance and repair of equipment, labor management, performance monitoring, tendering, procurement, accounting, management information systems, and private sector involvement
- SISWM places key functions at the appropriate level within municipal government, so that access to cash flow and decision-making powers are commensurate with the work required
- SISWM separates planning, operations, performance monitoring, and regulatory functions to avoid conflicts of interest
- SISWM has a supportive and equitable foundation of clear regulations, licensing arrangements, procurement procedures, and sanctions

- SISWM receives appropriate central government support for its regulatory framework, and avoids duplication of efforts by central government activities to conduct research, establish norms, and provide technical assistance
- SISWM provides a level playing field and a fair and supportive investment climate for private sector involvement

Invites Private Sector Involvement

- SISWM invites private sector involvement as a means of increasing investment, human resources, and expertise in the planning and operations, particularly where cost savings and service improvements are expected to result
- SISWM recognizes that a mix of small and large, local and foreign private sector partners is one way to optimize competition and minimize collusion
- SISWM requires that the private sector and public sector operations meet the same minimum standards for environment, health and safety
- SISWM monitors the performance of the private and public sector in a comparable, equitable, competitive, and transparent manner
- SISWM requires that transitions to private sector involvement fairly accommodate the needs of labor for security of earned retirement benefits and rights to earned severance pay
- SISWM requires that the private sector does not unfairly exploit labor by relying on daily workers or involving child labor
- SISWM considers jobs creation in the assessment and selection of technologies
- SISWM supports opportunities for small and micro enterprise development
- SISWM explores private sector involvement in dumpsite reclamation and development through public/private partnerships
- SISWM obliges the private sector to the same environmental impact assessment requirements as the public sector, and does not fast-track private sector systems to avoid normal public review and participation processes