



Environment and climate change

Waste and recycling management

The challenge

Waste volumes are increasing dramatically around the world, especially in emerging economies and developing countries. The potential effects of new materials and chemicals being used in production processes are still often hardly tested, and there is thus a lack of standards for their use, processing and disposal. The municipalities normally responsible for the largest part of waste management can barely cope with the complex task of waste management. This often results in substantial environmental and health problems. Recyclable materials found in waste are often insufficiently used, and where this is done through informal recyclables collectors, it is mostly not sufficiently incorporated into formal waste management. Furthermore, waste management is responsible for around 8 to 12 per cent of greenhouse gases.

Our approach

We advise our partner countries on overall concepts, instruments and frameworks in order to avoid waste as much as possible, use a large part of it as a resource, and dispose of the remaining waste flows without posing risks to health or the environment. We provide advisory services on managing municipal waste as well as on handling chemicals, hazardous waste and contaminated sites. We also offer support in implementing international conventions on waste and chemicals, and in introducing international standards. As the demand for energy and secondary raw materials from waste rises, shifting the sector's focus from disposal services to resource management is important to us. We also support measures for reducing greenhouse gases in waste management. Corresponding measures can also mobilise additional financial resources under international climate financing mechanisms. At the same time, it is important to structure

resource-efficient waste and recycling management in a labour-intensive way. Currently hundreds of thousands of people in developing countries already make a living by utilising recyclable materials found in waste, and there is still great unused potential for income from such materials.

We support the exchange of experiences with other developing countries and emerging economies, arrange contacts with the German and international waste management industry and thus accelerate technology cooperation. We support ministries and environmental agencies in their institutional development. We also promote cooperation with financial institutions for investment-intensive projects.

Our Services

- We advise national governments, provinces and communities in **developing waste management strategies, and waste reduction and recycling concepts**.
- We support our partners in **implementing relevant conventions**.
- We provide advice on improving **institutional frameworks, legislation and standards** for waste management.
- We advise and organise training on **technical approaches**, for example on logistics, treatment and storage.
- We help **improve organisational and operational processes** through organisational development, staff training and management instruments.



- We offer **training courses on chemical management** in small and medium-sized enterprises.
- We provide advice on **financing strategies**, taking into account the ‘polluter pays’ principle.
- We promote the **participation of the private sector and the informal sector**, technology cooperation and technology transfer in waste management.
- We promote **public participation and public relations work** in waste management.
- We provide support in establishing institutions for the environmentally-sound **handling of contaminated sites** and in developing processes for assessing and prioritising such sites.

The benefits

Integrated waste management helps conserve ever-diminishing resources, enhances environmental and climate protection and helps maintain the health of the population. Our work helps ensure comprehensive financing and socially responsible solutions in waste management in partner countries over the long term. We create better income opportunities and working conditions, especially for poor people working in waste management. By promoting the appropriate disposal of hazardous waste, we reduce the associated environmental and health risks. Furthermore, we prevent consequential damage such as future contaminated sites. By supporting economic actors in more resource-efficient production and the reuse of diminishing resources, we help establish sustainable economic development, especially for emerging economies with a dramatically increasing consumption of resources.

An example from the field

The strategic alliance between Gerdau, the largest steel producer in North and South America, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is an example of the great potential for cooperation with the private sector in waste management. The project, which was completed in 2013, had a budget of EUR 3 million (EUR 2 million from private contribution; EUR 1 million from public contribution) and a term of three years. GIZ and Gerdau cooperated in Brazil, Uruguay, Chile and Peru together with 10 NGOs and state partners. The aim was to shape the business relationship between informal scrap collectors and the company Gerdau in a stable and reliable way, and to increase the quality and quantity of the collected scrap metals. The project trained scrap collectors and small informal Gerdau customers, strengthened organisations that support scrap collectors, established a regional network and developed a monitoring scheme for the steel value chain. The cooperation was a great success: 8,000 jobs were formally registered, the scrap collectors increased their income by on average 155% and Gerdau was able to increase its sales to small companies by 183%. Gerdau now implements similar activities independently in nine countries.

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