

Urban Organic Waste Management

Waste management services at an urban level are basic in delivery through disposal options of green waste, recycling, and general waste. A typical Australian household garbage bin consists of 35% of food organics, 16.5% garden organics, 7.5% of other organics and residuals, 13% of paper and cardboard, and 28% metals, plastics, glass and other inert material (NGER, 2014). While the average household's garbage waste including recyclables and disposable resources presents a direct avenue of disposal, food and garden organics present multiple avenues in which they can be disposed. Food and garden organics represent a large majority of the typical Australian household garbage bin, and their decomposition in landfills contributes to a considerable portion of greenhouse gas emissions (NGER, 2014). The reduction of organic waste can be easily achieved through the practice of household composting; this once common practice has been reducing in popularity due to the shifting population demographics of rural to urban living as well as the increase in high density households. Composting uses microbial organism to decompose organic waste, most households can sort through their own waste and dispose of food and garden waste suitable for the compost bin (Adewale & Taiwo, 2011). The product from composting can produce fertiliser which can promote urban agricultural projects, this helps fill the gap between urban food demand and supply especially for developing countries (Umoh, 2006). Promoting composting through urban cultures in both developed and developing worlds can achieve the primary waste management objective that scholars have highlighted in reduction per the integrated waste management hierarchy (Adewale & Taiwo, 2011). It can also considerably reduce the amount of greenhouse gases produced from land fill. Composting is a cost-effective, environmentally friendly and sustainable practice of waste management at an urban level, and should be encouraged to reduce the amount of waste produced per person and their carbon footprint.

References

1. Adewale M. Taiwo., 2011. Composting as A Sustainable Waste Management Technique in Developing Countries. *Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*, 4(1), pp 93-102. ISF, 2011.
2. National Food Waste Assessment, S.I.: Institute for Sustainable Future. NGER, 2014.
3. Technical Guidelines for the Estimation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Facilities in Australia. In: National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Determination. Canberra: Department of the Environment, pp. 480. Umoh, G.S., 2006.
4. Resource use efficiency in urban farming: An application of stochastic frontier production function. *International Journal of Agriculture and Biology*, 8(1), pp.38-44.

Max Gunther, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia