

Nairobi Household Solid Waste Management Practices: Need for Re-Strategizing

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A Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for the Degree of Master of Science in Environmental Legislation and Management in the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

2011

ABSTRACT

Evidence from research data considers the total waste generated in the city of Nairobi to be approximately 3,000 tons/day. The rate of solid waste generation is far greater than the capacity of the City authorities to collect/dispose it and these uncollected wastes are evidenced in garbage heaps, and litter everywhere. The problem of the mixed waste, uncollected waste, unsafe waste disposal methods and failure to enforce environmental legislations remains a serious problem. The current waste management practices have failed to deliver; hence there is need for multi-sector and integrated approach that includes public engagement and political prioritization of the waste recovery and recycling efforts. This could be a step in the right direction for the benefit of our society and protection of environmental heritage.

For this study, primary data was collected using semi-structured questionnaires and personal interviews with respondents. Secondary data collection entailed a comprehensive review and analysis of up to date literature on solid waste management strategies and existing Acts that relate to SWM. The sample population for questionnaires was 60 respondents per income stratum. Analysis of the household perceptions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to waste management practices was done and comparisons made between waste generated from high income, middle income and low income areas. Kenya's policy/legal framework was reviewed and public awareness at community level ranked.

This study has identified a workable solution to improve the legal, institutional and strategy arrangements for Solid Waste Management (SWM) at both national and local levels.