LEGISLATION AND REGULATION
LANDFILL TIPPING FEES

Rationale

Landfill tipping fees often do not reflect to the true cost of disposal. As a result materials that would be better handled through source reduction, recycling or composting continue to be landfilled, even when these alternatives are more cost effective because the proper economic incentives are not in place.

Policy

Local prices at landfills should be set at replacement costs or higher to encourage source reduction, recycling and composting, and to encourage waste generators and haulers to keep recyclable materials separate from other wastes. Incentives or lower fees for "clean" loads (those that can be easily separated for post-source recycling, as in a load of wastepaper from business offices only) will enable landfill operators to produce higher quality recycled materials, and provide benefits to waste generators to encourage their participation in such programs.

Expenses for public education, research and development, and regulatory costs should be factored into the basic rates of disposal. Local solid waste plans should foster such rate restructuring.

Cross-reference: Recycling Economics