



ISWA Technical Session on Closing Dumpsites and moving to Integrated Waste Management Systems

Waste disposal to landfills remains the primary waste disposal strategy in India, however, many of these sites are running close to full capacity and are urgently running out of space leading to the illegal dumping of waste at unauthorized dumpsites.

Dumpsites pose a serious health threat to surrounding residents, threaten marine and coastal areas and are a contributor to climate change. The [International Solid Waste Association's \(ISWA\) Initiative to close open dumpsites](#) and to promote sustainable alternatives wants to tackle these issues. The diversion of waste from landfill through waste minimization and recycling is now also a national policy objective in India, but reducing landfills/dumpsites and finding different disposal methods, such as recycling and alternative treatment solutions will require an alignment of initiatives, legislation, and administrative systems.

This session will address the need to adopt a holistic view of waste management – consider the total waste system, and then develop the most appropriate mix of infrastructure and services to manage the waste. The panelists will discuss incentives and policies required to help create an alternative to dumping of waste including introducing a landfill tax and eliminating illegal dumping/open burning of waste. Panelists will also talk about technological solutions and how available funding resources can be leveraged for waste infrastructure projects. Discussions will address unlocking the economic potential of waste as it has been identified as a sector that can contribute to job creation and enterprise development. Furthermore, the session will highlight that integrated and sustainable waste management systems will be crucial to achieving the Smart Cities Mission.