

Remediation of Waste Dumpsites

Technical workshop on Enhanced Landfill Mining in India. Process, Feasibility, Economy, Benefits and Limitations

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The accelerated growth of urban population, increasing economic activities and lack of training in modern solid waste management practices in India complicate the efforts to improve this service sector. Although the urban residents of India produce less solid waste per capita than the high-income countries, the capacity of the cities to collect, process or reuse and dispose solid waste is limited. The most prevalent way of disposing MSW in Indian cities is open dumping which is the easiest and considered to be the cheapest method of removing waste from the immediate environment. Many old landfills and dumpsites existing throughout India pose a threat for public health and environmental quality around the dumpsites.

It is well known that landfill mining reduce or eliminate closure costs and in most cases reduce the long term environmental problems. Despite its many benefits, some potential limitations exist to landfill mining. Authorities considering the establishment of a landfill reclamation program must weigh several benefits and drawbacks associated with this waste management approach before getting started.

Landfill mining is the process of excavating waste from operating or closed solid waste landfills, and sorting the unearthed materials for recycling, processing, recovery of energy or for other dispositions. Almost all major Indian cities are facing the problem of open landfill and there is an immediate need for sustainable solutions.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

What are effective techniques of waste separation and technologies for the extraction of materials and resources?

What are some of the recirculation pathways and market policy instruments to incentivize landfill mining across Indian cities?

What are the economic, financial and legal aspects of landfill mining in India?

Land monetisation - Case studies from around the world.