

Turning Waste to Wealth in Nigeria: An Overview

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ABSTRACT In Nigeria, there are no sewage treatment plants hence liquid wastes are managed in an indiscriminate manner. Sullage gets into drains and flows into rivers and streams. Human excreta are managed separately through ventilated improved toilets, pit toilets or septic tanks. In some areas like markets and other public places, excreta are mixed up with solid waste, thus creating nuisance in the recycling facilities. People litter the roads with no civic concern. The markets generate a variety of wastes, for example, corn cobs, vegetable wastes, packaging materials, etc. The household wastes also contain other materials such as paper, glass, metal, plastic, and other non-biodegradable materials. However, some of them are excellent raw materials for various industries in the country. Hazardous waste facilities have not yet been established and hazardous wastes are co-mingled for disposal with municipal solid wastes, despite laws to the contrary. There is the limited involvement of civil society in the execution of waste management projects. This paper reviews current waste management practices in Nigeria and suggests strategies for its improvement. Sustainable Integrated Waste Management which is the selection and application of suitable technologies and management programmes to achieve specific waste management goals was recommended for the country.