

International Conference on

Pollution Control & Sustainable Environment

April 25-26, 2016 Dubai, UAE

Solid waste management practice in FCT Abuja, Nigeria

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Environmental sustainability is a global issue that has received a lot of attention in developed countries. Its importance and relevance cannot be over emphasized, but yet it hasn't received the attention required in developing countries and seems menial compared to other problems facing the populace. It seems an issue far from the everyday person on the street, but in reality it's a ticking time bomb just waiting to explode. Municipal solid waste is generated daily with an average of 0.5-1.5 kg/daily per household. Municipal solid waste management has become a health hazard in Nigeria, which is yet to be tackled properly by the government and local authority. It seems less relevant and quite capital intensive, as well as being an area that immediate or long term revenue generation from the sector seems bleak. The everyday person on the street of Nigeria seems unaffected by the waste piles on the streets, around residential and nonresidential dwellings. Improper waste management poses the greatest health risk facing Nigerians. It is quite common to see waste in water ways, streets, storm drains, and gutters and around public places. Literature has attributed the lack of awareness and low perception of the populace as contributing factors of municipal solid waste management issues. There are large populated areas which don't have any solid waste collection services available to them, and the informal collection system existing consists of individuals whom collect solid waste from residents and dispose of it improperly, which acts to further make issues worse. It is usual for African nations to believe there are more pressing needs of the population that need funding but we are running out of space to hide our garbage. The revenue spent on clearing improperly disposed waste and damages caused could be used towards setting up skeletal solid waste management service in areas where no solid waste management services are available. Improperly disposed solid waste has become an environmental and health hazard in areas like the suburbs of Abuja, the Federal Capital of Nigeria. A survey was carried out in FCT, Abuja towards establishing the solid waste management practice of residents in the Federal Capital and it determined areas within the resident's practice that affects the proper function of the existing system where applicable.

Biography

A A Kadafa is a Lecturer at Nasarawa State University Keffi, Nigeria. She holds a PhD in Environmental Planning and Management, as well as of Master of Environment Degree with specialization in Environmental Sciences both from University Putra Malaysia in Malaysia. She also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Microbiology from Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria. She has carried out research on Solid Waste Management in FCT, Abuja and is currently working on a new research project in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. She is passionate about all things concerning the environment.

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