

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS IN KANSAS

by

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INTRODUCTION

Existing studies of solid waste disposal practices in Kansas over the past years have shown that there is a serious and persistent lag in the development and application of adequate solid waste management techniques. Although a few communities have undertaken detailed planning for the management of an operational solid waste system, the increasing demand by the public for goods and services and other unforeseen developments have created newer and more difficult problems that must be solved. Because of the increasing demand by the public to keep the cost of government low, local governments generally have felt no pressures to investigate or encourage the development of new and efficient techniques for solid waste management. This in turn has discouraged private enterprise from developing more efficient ways of handling solid waste.

The past few years have seen an increasing awareness of the natural environment. Political leaders, in the State as well as nationally, have become personally involved in the drive to protect the quality of our natural resources particularly those of land, water, and air. Federal legislation in the form of the Solid Waste Disposal Act provided the impetus to steadily award grant monies to states for research, training, demonstrations, and planning of solid waste management systems.

As a result of studies conducted by the Kansas Department of Health and the impact of solid waste problems in Kansas, there developed the need to revamp the fragmented and uncoordinated approaches to solid waste management. The Solid Waste Management Act, House Bill 1141, was created to require a workable plan for solid waste management for all counties and/or cities in the State.

In general, the basic objectives of this report are to assist in delineating possible solutions to solid waste management problems, and to develop a systematic approach applied to solving the solid waste management needs in Kansas.

This report involves the interrelated tasks for assessing and implementing a total solid waste management system in Kansas. These tasks cover:

- 1. An examination of existing problems, programs, and anticipated results.
- 2. Solid waste disposal systems and considerations.
- 3. Solid waste management.
- 4. Implementation of a solid waste management system.
- 5. The development of a solid waste management system.

The conceptualization of a "solid waste management system" provides a new perspective in analyzing the problems of solid waste management. The system allows for the development of a long-range conceptual management plan for both urban and rural areas that will meet predetermined health, aesthetic, legal, socioeconomic, and projected management goals to provide an optimum environment for urban and rural areas.