

BHOPAL (INDIA)

General information

Area:	285.88 km ²
Population:	1.4 million
National GDP per capita:	USD 2,358

Solid waste generation

Total generation:	600 ton/day
Waste generation per capita:	0.43kg/person · day
Waste composition:	Approximately 50% organic

Solid waste management

Collection rate:	60-70%
Recycling:	Carried out by scavengers
Composting:	Private company composts 20% (120 ton/day) adjacent to the landfill site; compost is sold commercially
Landfill:	75 acres, open dumping
Expenditure:	25% of municipal budget. Current cost recovery includes a conservancy tax as part of property tax/sanitary tax.

Major challenges and strategies

The major challenge facing the Bhopal Municipal Corporation is to increase the awareness of the public to dispose of waste in designated storage bins and containers. Residents generally prefer to dispose of waste when and where it is generated. The practice of recycling is not well organised and segregation of recyclable waste at source has not yet been adopted. As a result, recyclable waste is intermixed with garbage disposed at different places. The Municipal Corporation has not yet been able to adopt a system of door-to-door collection of waste, and street sweeping remains the main method of waste collection to date. Like other cities in developing countries, the emphasis of the municipal corporation is on the collection and transportation of solid waste; the issue of disposal is of less priority. Solid waste in Bhopal is composed of materials that can be composted (approximately 50%); therefore, composting is a technique that can greatly relieve pressure on landfill sites. Composting plants compost about 20% of the total waste.

Improvements in planning, financial and managerial capacity are major strategies for the Municipal Corporation. Additionally, the Municipal Corporation aims to increase operating revenue through user charges, service taxes, landfill taxes and tipping fees. These measures would relieve financial limitations that are currently issues for the Municipality. Well-trained human resources remain a bottleneck for effective planning and management, which are being improved by ongoing capacity building activities. Partnerships with the private sector, community groups and NGOs are also sought as major strategies. The Municipal Corporation has paid special attention to legal impediments and labour concerns for private sector participation.