

## WASTE

Waste can be generally defined as that which is no longer required. The waste that we generate in our day-to-day life can be broadly classified into:

- 1) Domestic waste
- 2) Hospital waste
- 3) Industrial waste
- 4) Agricultural waste

Wastes can be toxic / hazardous as generated from industries; and hospitals or toxic wastes when generated from the domestic sector.

Wastes can also be divided into bio-degradable (which can be decomposed by bacteria, e.g., organic wastes like vegetable peels from homes, sewage etc.) or non bio-degradable (eg., plastics).

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management is very essential in the present day's context for the following reasons:

- To prevent pollution of the environment and its natural resources like air, water and land.
- To prevent complete exhaustion of the resources like minerals, water, etc.
- To produce energy which could be an alternative for the fast depleting fossil fuels and other conventional sources of energy.
- To make optimum use of the wastes generated.
- For a better and sustainable future.

### A few tips on waste management

- Always remember the three R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle waste.
- Segregate domestic waste into bio-degradable and non bio-degradable. The bio-degradable items like food left-overs and vegetables and fruit wastes can be composted, and non bio-degradable items like plastic can be recycled.
- Reuse every bit of space on paper. Do not feel shy to use paper that has been used on one side.
- Avoid using plastic covers or bags. Take a cloth bag when you go shopping.
- Do not accept products handed to you in a plastic bag. Instead, ask for a paper or hard board bag.
- Do not throw away old bottles, but clean them well and use them to buy oil, fuel etc.
- Collect old plastic and glass items that cannot be reused and sell them in exchange for new articles.
- Maintain your vehicles well so that they serve you longer.

### Composting and Vermiculture

- Bio-degradable or organic waste is easy to handle because it will decompose over a period of time. It is used to produce rich manure, which is safe and better than chemical fertilizers. The use of earthworms in the process of composting is known as vermiculture, which is proving to be very useful and successful.
- Educate and create an awareness on waste management among your friends and elders.