

Policy and Regulations – Wuxi New District (China)

1.1 Overview

China implements a multi-level administration mode on solid waste management through policy development, law/act establishment, technical standards and other regulations. All these management regulations are effective in Wuxi New District (WND).

China's national legislative and regulatory framework for solid waste management dictates roles and responsibilities at each level of government, including requirements of private sector service agents and waste generators. Typically, central government laws delegate solid waste service responsibilities to local governments and set basic standards, including occupational and environmental health and safety standards. Municipal government laws outline service norms to be provided and the participatory requirements of each waste generator. Municipal laws often define practices that are illegal (such as littering and clandestine dumping) and impose related sanctions. For example, WND government has established many local regulations according to the special situation of WND. This report collected most of these documents such as laws/acts, policy regulations as much as possible. These documents are classified as law/act, technical standard and policy regulation (see appendix 1).

Policy: last year, in the 11th 5 year national development plan from 2006-2010, China calls for building an environment friendly and resource saving society. And the total objective of the magnificent plan is to construct a harmonious society, in which the circular economy is one of the most important features. Generally, Chinese government has established comprehensive policies on the management of solid waste. These policies involve the generation, transportation, reuse, treatment and disposal. As a local government, WND also must implement these regulations though some of these regulations cannot be implemented adequately.

As concerned of the aspect of solid waste administration law/act, there are a large quantity of laws/acts from different departments, including the national, provincial and local government. After the analysis, it is noted that the current Chinese waste administration law/acts and policy & regulations of WND focus on terminal administration in waste producing period. But in the waste source management and commerce process, it lacks explicit and detailed administration instrument, such as policy & regulations on source reduce, process reduce, total quantity control and et al.

Nowadays, in order to facilitate sustainable economy, many national and local governments established some economy policy on reducing waste emissions. For example, WND has constructed an internet platform on the industrial solid waste (ISW) exchange and trade, which has important effect on cutting down the discharge quantity and disposal cost of ISW of the WND enterprises.

1.2 Gaps/problems, issues of concern and cause analysis

1.2.1 Current Gaps/problems

- Though there are a lot of laws/acts established in many aspects of solid waste management, the mess still exists in some real issues. These phenomena will discourage the implementation of the policy and regulations;
- Arrangements are complicated and often overlap, or have areas where no agency is responsible. Increasing volumes of waste, growing budget allocations, increasing sophistication needed for proper service delivery, equipment procurement, and private sector contracting, require improved regulation.
- Some technical standards are too old and can not meet the current situation;
- Many laws are not effectively or completely weren't implemented;
- Some local regulations are conflicted with the national laws or regulations.
- Because of the situation of China, some laws and policies changed fast and it caused some disadvantages on solid waste management.

1.2.2. Issues of concern

- Some technical standards are too old, and they are required environment administration progress day by day;
- The laws haven't been executed well and many phenomena get out of line;
- Protected by local laws, many illegal projects are running now though they are prohibited by the national law.

1.2.3. Cause analysis

- The main causes of old technical standards are that the established environment laws were not suit for the speed of social development.
- In the situation of China, local governments destroy the environment as the prices in order to facilitate the economy development.

- The national and local have their own laws, which make some laws and policies execute ineffectively.