

Definitions

The following definitions of terms associated with solid waste and resource recovery are being used with permission from the editors of Solid Waste and Power and have been excerpted from the April 1988 issue.

AVOIDED COST the cost a utility avoids by purchasing power from an independent producer rather than constructing new power plants, generating power itself or buying the power from another utility or group of utilities. A state's public service commission approves avoided costs for each utility, and these costs are the basis upon which independent power producers are paid for the electricity they produce. There are two parts to an avoided cost calculation, avoided energy costs and avoided capacity costs.

AVOIDED ENERGY COSTS the cost of fueling, operating and maintaining utility power plants, sometimes called Running Costs.

AVOIDED CAPACITY COSTS the cost of building new generating plants.

BOTTOM ASH that part of the combustion residue that is not airborne and falls to the bottom of the incinerator.

BULKY WASTE large waste items: appliances, furniture, large auto parts, trees, branches, stumps, etc.

CAPACITY the maximum load a generating unit, generating station or other electrical apparatus can produce or carry under specified conditions over a given time period without exceeding approved limits of temperature and stress.

COMMERCIAL WASTE solid waste that originates from businesses.

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE building materials waste, dredging materials, grubbing (or land-clearing) waste and rubble from construction, remodeling, repair or demolition of buildings, bridges, pavements and other structures.

CORRUGATED PAPER heavy paperboard reinforced with molded ridges and grooves.

CULLET broken or refuse glass used in the manufacture of new glass.

DEMAND the rate at which electric energy is delivered to or by a system, part of a system or piece of equipment, often expressed in watts, kilowatts or megawatts. The primary source of demand is the power-consuming equipment of customers (see Load).

FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS a detailed investigation and report to determine whether a particular project is suitable, reasonable to pursue and capable of being successfully completed.

FLY ASH Airborne combustion residue carried in the gas stream of an incineration system. Fly ash consists mainly of oxides and silicates.

GARBAGE solid waste consisting of animal, grain, fruit or vegetable matter used or originally intended for use as food.

HIGH GRADE WASTE waste paper with the highest market value, including trimmings and cutting from converting plants, computer printouts, tabulating cards and desk-top paper. It is often collected in offices.

INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS private investors who develop, own or operate electric power plants fueled by alternate energy sources such as biomass, cogeneration, hydropower, waste incineration or wind.

INDUSTRIAL WASTES waste materials produced in or removed from industrial operations. Industrial wastes may be liquid wastes, solid wastes or sludge.

LANDFILL a site using an engineered method to dispose of solid wastes on land by spreading the wastes in thin layers, compacting the wastes and applying covering materials at the end of each day's operation.

LOAD the amount of electric power delivered to or required by a point or points in a power system. The peak load or demand is the maximum amount of power likely to be expected of the system at any one time (see Demand).

LEACHATE fluid that issues from a pile or cell of solid waste which contains water, dissolved waste and decomposition products from the solid waste. It can contaminate groundwater and drinking water supplies.

MAGNETIC SEPARATOR equipment that uses either a permanent magnet or electro-magnet to attract and remove magnetic materials from other matter.

MATERIALS RECOVERY that phase of a resource recovery system in which recyclable and reusable materials are removed from the waste stream for sale.

MEGAWATT One megawatt equals one million watts. A kilowatt equals one thousand watts. Watts measure an electrical charge's power or ability to perform work. New York State uses as many as 25,000 megawatts in a day, Long Island about 3,000.

MIXED OFFICE PAPERS mixed waste paper generated in offices and typically is of high recycling values (see High Grade Waste).

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (MSW) the combined residential, institutional and commercial solid waste materials generated in a municipal area. The collection and disposal of these wastes generally are the responsibility of local governments.

PARTICULATES bits of ash, charred paper, dust, soot or other partially incinerated material too small to be seen but nevertheless suspended in the gaseous products of combustion.

PURPA the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act of 1978, a federal statute requiring utilities to purchase the power generated by alternate energy producers at the utility's avoided cost (see Avoided Cost).

RECYCLING in common usage, to use discarded items in original or processed form rather than to waste them. More precisely, recycling describes returning a material to the process by which it was originally formed.

REFRACTORY MATERIAL lining material for incinerators that resists high temperatures, corrosion, abrasion, pressure and rapid temperature changes.

RESIDUE solid or semi-solid materials that remain after incineration, including ash, ceramics, glass, metal and some organic substances.

RESOURCE RECOVERY the extraction of useful materials or energy from waste. Recoverable materials generally are extracted mechanically and may include paper, glass and metals which can be reprocessed and used again. Recovered energy generally is extracted through combustion.

SANITARY LANDFILL a land disposal system whereby solid wastes are deposited and compacted in a specially prepared area which provides for leachate collection, treatment and monitoring.

SEPARATE COLLECTION a system in which specific portions of the waste stream are collected separately from the rest to facilitate recycling or otherwise improve solid waste management. A community might, for instance, establish separate collection systems for newspapers, glass or aluminum.

SOIL, DAILY COVER soil used to cover the working face of a landfill at the close of each working day or at the completion of a section of landfill.

SOIL, FINAL COVER soil placed over completed lifts at a landfill site in preparation for revegetation.

SOIL, INTERMEDIATE COVER soil placed over complete lifts where there is a clear intention to add another lift within one year.

SOLID WASTE any garbage, refuse or sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and other discarded material including solid, liquid, semi-solid or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining and agricultural operations, and from community activities; but not including solid or dissolved material in domestic sewage, or solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return, flows to industrial discharges which are point sources subject to permits under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (86 Statute 880), or source, special nuclear, or byproduct material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (68 Statute 923).