

Critical Thinking Questions – Sustainable Waste Management

I. Sustainable Waste Management Principles

1. Discuss how human behavior affects sustainable waste management
2. How can governmental regulations and policies affect solid waste management sustainability?
3. Sketch the three axis triangle (economy, society, environment) and place the following waste management approaches on this triangle:
 - a. Drop off recycling,
 - b. Landfill closure incorporating renewable energy technologies (wind turbines, PV panels on cover),
 - c. Construction and demolition landfill without a liner, and
 - d. Food waste diversion with home pick up and transport to anaerobic digester with methane beneficial use.
4. After reading “What Does the Paris Climate Agreement Say about Waste?”, Summarize ways that solid waste management affects climate change.

II. Sustainable Waste Management Case Studies

1. View two of the following three case studies from the video on Sustainable Waste Management Fundamentals:
 - a. Case Study 1: Catawba County Ecocomplex
 - b. Case Study 2: St. Vincent de Paul
 - c. Case Study 3: Seneca Meadows Landfill
2. Explain how each case study represents sustainable solid waste management from the perspective of the three legs of sustainability - societal, economics, and environmental.