



Research Proposal on Recycling



Introduction

The population of the world stands at seven billion people. Every year, a population change of about eighty million people occurs. Better health care services and better living standards are the factors attributable to this development. The increase in population is beneficial in numerous ways. One of the most notable ways is the expansion of the labor market and the increase in the market for goods and services. However, it has come with a number of shortcomings too. For instance, due to the bulging population, there has been a significant rise in waste products. It is estimated that the world population that resides in urban areas alone produces 1.3 billion tonnes of waste annually. This translates to about 1.2 kilograms for every person that lives in an urban area. Research points to the rise in income, particularly in the urban areas as the main contributing factor. All over the world, the number of affluent people is on a steady rise. This group of people has a higher spending capability and frequently acquires goods, some of which end up as wastes. Thus, the amount of wastes is on the rise too. Research reveals that by 2025, the population in urban areas will be adding 2.2 billion tonnes of waste to the environment every year. What this means is that if proper measures are not put in place to manage these wastes, then we are likely to turn our home, the Earth, into one of the most toxic places in the universe. Nevertheless, there is still hope. Through recycling, we can salvage what is left of our environment. After all, most of the rubbish disposed in the environment is recyclable. They include plastics, paper and food scraps. Recycling is an important way of environmental conservation. It helps in

cutting down on the amount of wastes continuously disposed in the environment by utilizing these products in the manufacture of the original product or the production of new products altogether.

Literature Review

Recycling is the utilization of waste products to form new commodities or to make the original product. It involves industrial processes that turn a commodity considered a waste product into a useful form that can be used again. For instance, waste paper can easily be converted into pulp, a form that allows for the formation of a wide range of products. In the same way, scrap metal can be melted and molded into a new form.

Recycling as a method of conservation of the environment has many benefits that accrue to it. These benefits can widely be categorized into environmentally based advantages and human based advantages. One of the environmentally based benefits of recycling is the positive role it plays with regard to global warming and control of the greenhouse effect. Global warming refers to the gradual but steady rise in temperatures of the atmosphere. This rise is due to destruction of the ozone layer. The high temperature causes melting of the ice caps leading to a rise in the water levels. The consequential result is frequent flooding of coastal areas. This comes with lots of losses. Greenhouse effect refers to the penetration of harmful rays into the Earth's atmosphere. This may lead to

cancer of the skin and other skin ailments. Global warming and the greenhouse effect are mainly caused by inappropriate disposal of hazardous wastes, such as chemicals. When such waste chemicals and other products are recycled instead of being disposed, it minimizes the effect they would have had on the atmosphere, thus controlling global warming.

Wastes can be put to use in two ways; disposing them and recycling them. Disposing them in the environment and water bodies may have far-reaching consequences on ecosystems. Due to the toxicity of the rubbish, it may result in death of organisms, such as fish. In addition, inappropriately disposed rubbish may create an unsightly environment. Through recycling, these negative aspects can be turned around. Recycling provides for utilization of the rubbish that would have otherwise been dumped carelessly. In this way, it facilitates conservation of the environment.

The human based benefits of recycling apply to the contribution of human labor in the recycling process. For instance, recycling offers a cheaper means of production. The energy used in the production process is conserved. This is because some waste products have undergone prior processing. Therefore, on being taken back to the industry of recycling, they have fewer processes to undergo compared to the original raw materials. This conserves the energy that would have otherwise been used if it were the original raw materials. Such energy and resources can be channeled to other activities thereby leading to an increase in output.

Recycling also creates job opportunities for people who work in the

industries. These are commonly referred to as green jobs. People employed in the recycling industries earn a living and are able to improve their living standards.

Despite all the benefits that accrue to recycling, the process also comes with a number of shortcomings. To begin with, it may require a huge amount of capital to start and maintain the process. The capital, which is needed for equipment, to pay the workers and other administrative functions may not be available. Recycling may also call for the need to employ more staff. For a company running on a low budget, this may be an added expense and may not be welcome.

Not all waste products can be recycled. A few circumstances and situations may call for the need to recycle. For example, hazardous chemicals, which can be neutralized or reutilized to form a more useful product, can undergo recycling. In addition, solid wastes, such as papers and plastics, which can be used to create completely new products or serve as inputs in the manufacture of the original product, can be recycled. Other wastes that can be made less toxic through processing can also undergo recycling.

Methodology

Participants

Six individuals took part in the research process. The six were then divided into three groups. Each group was assigned a distinct task.

Materials

The materials used in the study include different types of media, both print and visual. The television, newspapers, articles and even the internet, all came in handy. The use of these materials was employed to acquire broader knowledge on the case study.

Procedure

The three groups were all assigned a task of finding out more about their topics. The researchers were to use the available material at their disposal. These included the library for print media, the television, and the Internet among other sources. The first group was assigned the task of finding out about the background of the company. The second group was to find out about the methods of recycling that the company has adopted. Lastly, the third company was assigned the task of analyzing the consequences of recycling to the company.

Design

The researchers were to gather all the information they could about the topic of study. Stretching beyond one's assigned task was not an issue. Later, they met for a discussion and corroboration of the knowledge they

had collected.

Case Study

The Onondaga County Water Authority is a local authority body responsible for managing the water needs of the County. It embarked on a number of measures in a campaign to enhance environmental conservation. The company set up an e-waste management program that sees it work hand in hand with Bruin Computer in Liverpool. It also carries out a collection of disposed batteries and recycles them before putting them into good use. In addition, the company sends out agents to monitor community members who are doing well in the field of recycling and awards such characters.

Analysis

Such practices have seen the company reap numerous benefits. Most notably, the company has cut down on the expenses incurred in waste management magnificently. In addition, it has instilled an attitude of responsibility in the locals who now find more pride in conserving their resources, particularly water.

Conclusion

In conclusion, recycling is an important way of managing wastes in a productive way. It offers a viable alternative of making use of wastes and has no adverse effects on the environment.