

About WASTE

WASTE is an adviser for development projects in countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. WASTE aims at sustainable improvement of the urban environment and amelioration of the living conditions of the low-income population.

Fields of work

WASTE is active in four fields:

- Solid waste management and resource recovery
- Low-cost sanitation and liquid waste management
- Community based environmental improvement
- Micro and small enterprise development

The focus of activities is on low-income urban areas in order to develop with local residents tools and means for their own development, enabling them to improve their living conditions, the environment and to create employment as a sound economic base for their future.

Another important focal point for WASTE is the role of small-scale entrepreneurs and their (potential) contribution to the provision of urban services and their integration in the municipal services e.g. in resource recovery and the removal of urban waste.

Expertise and knowledge sharing

WASTE has a multi-disciplinary consultancy team of experts on urban environment, solid waste management, urban planning, sanitation and environmental economy based in Gouda, the Netherlands. The team is backed up by an information officer who provides stakeholders with the available knowledge.

The network of expertise is constantly maintained and expanded in order to generate appropriate knowledge applicable to varying situations elsewhere. The emphasis of this network is on countries in the South and in Eastern Europe, to stimulate the exchange of experiences among the countries concerned. WASTE provides technological and methodological support in this knowledge sharing.

Development goals

WASTE considers community participation to be both an aim of development and a tool for achieving the objectives of development projects. All projects should contribute to the aim that men and women, disadvantaged groups and communities, are able to decisively influence the events that affect their lives. Projects of WASTE solicit the participation of men and women in articulating their gender-specific needs and shaping the projects concerned. This ensures that the interventions match the local conditions of life, and that improvements will be sustained by the population.

WASTE is officially registered with non-profit status. The organisation has a special fund fed by the difference in the projects' income and the modest salaries paid to WASTE employees. This fund allows for own project development, small donations and occasional training to external persons. It also enables the WASTE personnel to dedicate 10% of their time to voluntary community work.

Local co-operation

WASTE carries out assignments in close co-operation with its local partners. Through short-term inputs, regular support is given to local organisations, which run their projects and are ultimately responsible for them. Meetings are held, and training, planning and management support is given to strengthen local efforts and the projects' sustainability. WASTE actively involves local institutions, private entrepreneurs, NGOs and public government departments to build up a framework in support of the project.

Alliances

WASTE is part of an alliance (SURCO) with other multi-disciplinary organisations in the South

which have gained their spurs in the field of waste management. The partners in SURCO work together in the identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of research and projects, and in the formulation of a vision and concepts for the urban environment.

The allies are:

- The Institute for the Development of Social Economy (IPES), Lima, Peru
- The Centre for Environmental Sanitation (ACEPESA), San José, Costa Rica,
- The Cabinet d'Etudes Keita - Kala Saba (CEK), Bamako, Mali
- The Centre for Advanced Philippine Studies (CAPS), Manila, the Philippines

Consultancy team

WASTE has a small multidisciplinary team of [specialists](#) who have extensive knowledge of waste materials, community participation, small-enterprise development, integrated planning, financial and institutional mechanisms and creating stakeholder capabilities.