

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

The following acronyms and words are used throughout the entire resource guide and workbooks.

<u>ACRONYMS</u>	
AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
ADEC	State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ANHB	Alaska Native Health Board
ANTHC	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
AS	Alaska Statutes
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DCED	State of Alaska Department of Community & Economic Development
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
IGAP	Indian General Assistance Program (EPA sponsored)
IHS	Indian Health Service
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
OSW	EPA Office of Solid Waste
OSWER	EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
USC	United States Code
VSW	State of Alaska Village Safe Water Program

DEFINITIONS:

Baler: A machine used to compress recyclables into bundles to reduce their volume. Balers are often used on newspaper, plastics, aluminum cans, and corrugated cardboard.

Biodegradable: Capable of being broken down by microorganisms into simple compounds.

Burn Barrel: A container in which open burning takes place in a yard or by a business, often illegally.

Burn Box: An enclosed steel structure used to burn waste in a controlled manner.

Buy-Back Center: A facility to which individuals or communities bring recyclables in exchange for payment.

Carcinogen: A substance that can cause cancer if it comes in contact with the body (through ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption).

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

Clean Air Act: The Clean Air Act is a federal law that requires EPA to set national health-based air quality standards to protect against common pollutants including ozone, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur dioxide, and particulate soot.

Clean Water Act: The Clean Water Act established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States.

Closure Costs: The amount of money it will take to meet the requirements of state and federal regulations for land fill closure.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): These are the rules made by the federal government and agencies of the federal government. It is divided into 50 sections, known as “Titles,” that represent broad areas of federal regulation. **Title 40** of the CFR (referenced as 40 CFR) lists all environmental regulations, including those associated with solid and hazardous wastes.

Collection Centers: Community waste and/or recyclables drop-off centers. They typically consist of one or more bins for waste and/or recyclables and are located at spots convenient for residents, such as near major roads, stores or community centers.

Collection System: A system by which wastes are taken from households and businesses either to collection centers or directly to sorting, storage and/or disposal facilities (landfill, incinerator or burn box).

Combustible: Capable of easily catching fire, though in legal terms combustible substances are slightly less of a fire hazard than *flammable* substances, as measured by the flash point (temperature at which an item will burn). Old rags soaked with gasoline are highly combustible.

Combustion: A process by which waste is burned to produce heat, steam or electricity.

Compaction: To crush something. For example, waste in a landfill are compacted by making a minimum of five (5) passes over the waste with a bulldozer or other heavy equipment.

Compost: The relatively stable decomposed organic material resulting from the composting process. Also referred to as humus.

Composting: The controlled decomposition of organic materials, such as leaves, grass, food scraps, and fish waste, by microorganisms. The result of this decomposition process is “compost”, a crumbly, earthy-smelling soil-like material.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): The Act is commonly known as the “Superfund” law was enacted by Congress in 1980. This law provides for the cleanup of closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites. It also provided Federal authority to respond directly to

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris: Materials resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, or demolition of buildings, bridges, road pavement, and other structures.

Corrosive: Capable of causing deterioration of another material; a corrosive chemical might dissolve or rust metal or burn skin (examples of corrosive materials: acids, lye, drain cleaner, battery acid).

Curbside Collection/Pick-up: Programs in which waste or recyclable materials are collected at the curb or house, often from special containers, and then taken to a recycling area or disposal facility, such as an incinerator or landfill.

Dispose: To get rid of. For example, waste can be disposed of by recycling, burning, burying at a waste disposal facility.

Drop-off Collection: A method of collecting waste, recyclables or compostable materials in which the materials are taken by individuals to collection sites, where they are deposit the materials into designated containers.

Dump: Open, uncovered, unsanitary or unsafe waste disposal site that does not meet current federal, state or tribal environmental regulations. Also referred to as an *open dump*.

Energy Recovery: Conversion of waste to energy, generally through the combustion of processed or raw waste to produce steam or heat.

Explosive: Capable of being ignited by a spark or a sharp impact; usually refers to hazardous wastes. Aerosol cans are considered an extremely explosive form of waste.

Flammable: Capable of easily catching on fire. Examples: gasoline, paint thinner, solvents, starting fluid; lacquer.

Garbage: Spoiled or waste food that is thrown away, generally defined as wet food waste. It is often used as general term for all wastes that are thrown away.

Generation Rate: Amount of solid waste produced over a given period of time. For example, a community may produce 200 tons of waste per year. For a community of 200 people, that amounts to 5.47 pounds of waste per day per person.

Generator: Any entity that produces solid waste. Generators are usually divided into the following types: residential – single or multi-family households; commercial – offices, retail and wholesale businesses; institutional – social, educational or

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

charitable activities (examples: schools, health clinic and community center);
industrial – industrial processes or manufacturing operations (examples: cannery,
mining facility, boat building plant).

Groundwater: Water beneath the ground's surface that fills underground pockets (known as aquifers) and moves between soil particles and rock, supplying wells and springs.

Hazardous Waste: Solid waste or trash that may pose a threat to human health or the environment, the disposal and handling of which is regulated by federal and/or state law. Wastes that meet EPA's definition of solid waste and possess the characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity or are included on EPA's list of hazardous wastes. For example, the lead in lead-acid batteries can cause severe burns if it contacts the skin. (Note: the legal definition is less inclusive).

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): The leftover content of products used for jobs around the home that contain hazardous components, including certain paints, cleaners, stains and varnishes, car batteries, anti-freeze, motor oil, petroleum products, and pesticides. Certain types of household hazardous waste have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers; contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets; and present hazards to children and pets if left around the house. Under federal law these items can be disposed of in municipal solid waste landfills, however, they are often collected by communities and managed as hazardous wastes. Households do not have to separate household waste from trash under federal law, but may be required to do so under state or local laws or regulations.

Incinerate: To burn in a well-designed burning device, such as an incinerator, that has airflow control and smokestack pollution controls.

Incineration: Using controlled burning, in a specially designed device, to reduce the volume of solid waste.

Incinerator: Facility in which the controlled burning of solid waste takes place. Time, turbulence, and temperature are controlled. Typically are commercially manufactured and require special training and maintenance to operate.

Industrial Waste: Materials discarded from industrial operations or waste coming from manufacturing processes. Processing waste from a cannery could be considered industrial waste.

Inorganic: Composed of material that does not come from plants or animals. This type of material does not compost or easily decompose. Plastic is a form of inorganic waste.

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

Institutional Waste: Waste materials originating in schools, clinics, hospitals, and other public buildings.

Integrated Solid Waste Management: A management system composed of the following actions, steps, methods, processes, and facilities: planning, financing, regulation, operation, and management. It also includes: reduction of solid waste generation (source reduction); collection, transfer, materials recycling, composting, combustion (incineration), and disposal. EPA defines integrated solid waste management as a process for managing solid wastes and materials diverted from solid waste through a combination of any of the following four methods of management: source reduction, recycling, combustion, and landfilling.

Integrated Solid Waste Management Planning: A process of evaluating several alternative waste management techniques to manage and dispose of specific components of a community's waste stream.

Landfill: A site used to store *solid waste* either on or in the land. The term is usually used to refer to a legal and sanitary site. The site is specially designed and constructed to prevent leaking of *leachate* into the ground. They are covered and maintained on a regular basis and when no longer in use. See “dump” for further definition.

Leachate: A liquid, usually consisting of water and contaminants, resulting from rainwater or snowmelt passing through garbage. Think of it as “garbage tea”.

Manual Separation: The separation of recyclable or compostable materials from waste by hand sorting.

Monitor: To check up on something on a regular basis. For example, you monitor a landfill for the presence of litter or to be sure that wastes are put in the right place.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): Includes non-hazardous waste generated in households, commercial and business establishments, institutions, and light industrial process wastes, agricultural wastes, mining waste, and sewage sludge.

Open Burning: The uncontrolled burning of waste materials in barrels, open pits, or an open dump either intentionally or accidentally.

Open Dump: Any land disposal site that does not meet the standards for a *sanitary landfill* under Section 4004 of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Participation Rate: A measure of the number of people participating in a recycling program compared to the total number that could be participating.

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Program: A waste and recyclables collection program that encourages waste minimization and materials recovery by charging residents for hauling or disposal costs based on the amount of garbage they throw away.

Pollutants: Substances that cause *pollution* and contamination of the environment.

Pollution: Contamination of the air, land or water by harmful substances.

Public Participation: Involvement of local residents and businesses (commonly referred to as community members) in a community-based project, program or planning process.

Reactive: Unstable or capable of creating a rapid or violent chemical reaction (e.g., explosion, combustion) when combined with other materials. (Examples of *reactive* chemicals: bleach; oxidizers; chlorine).

Recyclables: Materials that still have useful physical or chemical properties after serving their original purpose and that can, therefore, be reused or remanufactured into additional products.

Recycle: To collect, sort, process and reuse materials, either in the same form or as different products.

Recycling: A series of activities that includes collecting recyclable materials that would otherwise be considered waste, sorting and processing recyclables into raw materials and manufacturing raw materials into new products or reusing them for another use.

Residential Waste: Waste materials generated in single and multiple-family homes.

Reuse: Using a product more than once, either for the same purpose or for a different purpose. Reusing items by repairing them, donating them to charity and community groups, or selling them also reduces waste.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): The federal law, which regulates the handling and disposal of solid waste and the use and management of landfills and other activities associated with solid waste management.

Resource Recovery: A term describing the extraction and utilization of materials and energy from the waste stream.

Re vegetate: To plant disturbed soil with grass or plants.

Sanitary Landfill: Land waste disposal facility that is located, designed, and constructed to minimize water pollution from runoff and leaching. Waste is spread in thin layers, compacted, and covered with a fresh layer of soil each day to minimize pest, appearance, disease, air pollution and water pollution problems.

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

Solid Waste: Trash, garbage, litter or any substance, hazardous or non-hazardous, liquid or solid, that is no longer being put to use, not including liquid honeybucket wastes or sewage. Solid waste includes wastes from residential, commercial and institutional sources, such as durable and non-durable goods, containers and packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings, inorganic wastes, and construction and demolition debris. See Federal regulations and Alaska Statutes for a more detailed definition.

Source Reduction (or Waste Prevention): Any activity that reduces waste at the source, before it can be generated. Refers to any change in the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials or products (including packaging) to reduce their amount or toxicity of the waste produced. Source reduction also refers to the reuse of products or materials.

Special Waste: Refers to items that require special or separate handling, such as household hazardous wastes, used vehicles and appliances, bulky wastes, tires, and used oil.

Subtitle C: Refers to Section C of the Resource Conservation Recovery Act that establishes a regulatory framework for managing the generation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

Subtitle D: Refers to Section D of the Resource Conservation Recovery Act that establishes a system for managing solid waste, including both garbage/trash and non-hazardous industrial wastes.

Toxicity: The capability of a substance to cause harm, either after a single exposure or dose (acute toxicity), or after long-term exposure to low doses (chronic toxicity).

Tipping Fee: A fee for the unloading or dumping of waste at a landfill, transfer station, recycling center, or combustion facility, usually stated in dollars per ton; also called a disposal or service fee.

Transfer Station: A permanent facility where waste materials are taken from smaller collection vehicles and placed in larger vehicles for transport, including truck trailers, railroad cars, or barges. Recycling and some processing may also take place at a transfer station.

Trash: Material considered worthless, unnecessary or offensive that is usually thrown away. Generally defined as dry waste material, but in common usage, it is also another word for garbage, rubbish, or refuse.

User Fees: Fees paid by residents and businesses for a service, e.g., waste collection.

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

Waste Combustion: A method by which certain wastes are reduced by burning. Energy that is created during this process can be recovered, and turned into heat, steam or electricity.

Waste Generation: Refers to the weight of materials and types of waste as they enter a community's waste stream from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sources before the waste is recycled, recovery, burned or disposed of in a landfill. Source reduction activities, such as composting or reusing materials take place before waste enters into a community's waste stream.

Waste Reduction: Lessening the amount of waste produced by "source reduction" and/or "recycling." Also referred to as "pollution prevention" or "waste minimization."

Waste Stream: A term describing the total flow of solid waste from homes, businesses, institutions, and manufacturing/processing facilities that must be recycled, burned, or disposed of in landfills; or any part of the total system, such as the "residential waste stream: or the "recyclable waste stream." Typically, it is the types of trash that go into a community's landfill (for example, food scraps from households, paper from the school, and packaging from stores).

WasteWise: WasteWise is a free, voluntary, EPA program through which tribes, communities, and organizations can work to eliminate waste, benefiting their bottom line and the environment? The WasteWise program can help partners design their own solid waste reduction programs tailored to their needs.

Water Table: Level below the earth's surface at which the ground becomes saturated with water. Landfills and composting facilities are designed with respect to the water table in order to minimize potential contamination from *leachate* in the waste.

Wetland: An area that is regularly wet or flooded and has a *water table* stands at or above the land surface for at least part of the year. Most tundra areas that stay wet would be classified as a "wetland" area. Federal regulations apply to landfills sited at or near wetlands.

Yard Waste or Trimmings: Leaves, grass, clippings, tree branches and natural waste that comes from yards and gardens. Yard trimmings may also include tree stumps and brush, but these materials are not normally composted.

LEGAL DEFINITIONS:

These definitions are the legal definitions for the solid waste, hazardous waste, and household waste, as established by federal and state law. In most cases, rural communities are under the jurisdiction of Alaska's laws; therefore the state definitions apply when defining what is waste or regulating waste, as defined by state law.

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

SOLID WASTE

Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 USC6903)

“Solid waste: means any garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities, but does not include solid or dissolved material in domestic sewage, or solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges which are point sources subject to permits under section 1342 of title 33, or source, special nuclear, or byproduct material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (68 Stat. 023) [42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.].

Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (40 CFR 258.2) – Same definition as above.

RCRA Hazardous Waste Regulations (40 CFR 261.2)

Solid waste is any material that is (a) discarded, (b) abandoned, (c) used in a manner constituting disposal, or (d) inherently waste-like material. Solid waste does not include material excluded by 40 CFR 261.4(a).

Alaska Statute (AS 46.03.900)

“Solid waste” means all unwanted, abandoned, or discarded solid or semi-solid material whether or not subject to decomposition, originating from any source.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

RCRA Hazardous Waste Regulation (40 CFR 261.2)

Hazardous waste is a solid waste that meets one of the listed criteria:

- 1) Listed Waste (U-Listed, K-Listed, F-Listed)
- 2) Characteristic hazardous waste
 - a) Ignitability (40 CFR 261.21)
 - b) Corrosivity (40 CFR 261.22)
 - c) Reactivity (40 CFR 261.23)
 - d) Toxicity (40 CFR 261.24)

Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 USC 6903)

“hazardous waste means a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may—

APPENDIX 1 – ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

- (A) cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or
- (B) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.

Alaska Statute (AS 46.03.900)

“hazardous waste means a waste, or combination of solid wastes that because quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may (A) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (B) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (40 CFR 258.2)

Household waste means any solid waste (including garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks) derived from households (including single and multiple residences, hotels, and motels, bunkhouses, ranger stations, crew quarters, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and day-use recreation areas).

Alaska Solid Waste Regulations (18 AAC 60.990(63))

“household waste” means solid waste; “household waste” includes garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks derived from household; for the purpose of this paragraph, household” includes single and multiple residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, ranger stations, crew quarters, campgrounds, and day-use recreation areas.