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Strategy of waste minimization, recycling and reuse

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Waste is a wide ranging term encompassing most unwanted materials, defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Several studies of solid waste policy show that a range of policy instruments can achieve a socially optimal amount of waste disposal and recycling. The simplest instrument is a Pigouvian tax on disposal. A combined output tax and recycling subsidy, usually referred to as a deposit-refund, can also achieve the first-best outcome and will be preferable if taxing disposal leads to illegal dumping (Dinan 1993; Sigman 1995; Fullerton and Kinnaman 1995; Palmer and Walls 1997). These optimal policy instruments, however, depend on fully functioning private markets, including a fully functioning recycling market. Waste is a wide ranging term encompassing most unwanted materials, defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Waste includes any scrap material, effluent or unwanted surplus substance or article that requires disposal because it is broken, worn out, contaminated or otherwise spoiled. (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/alldefs.htm>). Wastes are 'those substances or objects which fall out of the commercial cycle or chain of utility' (HMSO, 1994) for example glass bottles that are returned or reused in their original form are not waste, whilst glass bottles banked by the public and dispatched for remoulding are waste 'until they have been recovered' (EIB, 1995).

Biography

Akhire Nathaniel is currently working in Joint Professional Training and Support International

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