The fundamental goals of the pilot project were to:

- Evaluate the current waste management practices in the two communities,
- Evaluate those practices which could be changed with benefits for both the community and the environment,
- Evaluate the means by which those practices could be changed and paid for,
- Devise a means by which the need for those changes could be communicated to the local communities and businesses
- Identify any adjustments and innovations to institutional and regulatory practices required to facilitate those changes to waste management practice,
- Arrange publicity for the benefits to the communities of integrated waste management, and
- To identify two local specialists who would be recruited onto the project for training and technology transfer.
-

The project started in 2004.
Project duration: 5 month

The European Union numbers 15 Member States: 15 different nations determined to shape their future closely together. Over a period of enlargement of 40 years, they have, together, built a zone of peace, stability, progress and solidarity. The European Union is a model for overcoming conflict and promoting reconciliation through close cooperation to achieve common goals, while respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. But the EU is not focused on itself: its ambition is to share its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

Communal Policy-Public Information Centre (CP-PIC)

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The European Union's TACIS programme for Armenia

Policy advice for the development of integrated sustainable municipal solid waste management plans for Marzes of Ararat and Vayots Dzor

A project implemented by

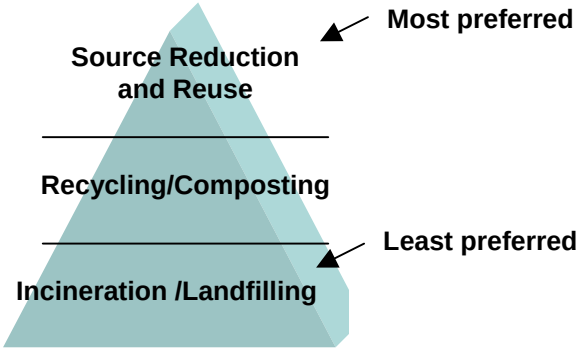
Parsons Brinckerhoff Limited
(United Kingdom)

This project is funded by the EUROPEAN UNION.

Waste recycling is one of the major problems of present-day civilisation. Prior to invention of artificial organic compounds (nylon, polyethylene, polyvinylacetate, etc.) natural sanitary organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, carrion-eating animals, had been taking care of environmental cleanliness and processing all the organic wastes. Year by year our waste now accumulates in the environment. Huge areas are used under waste disposals where rodents, disease-carrying insects and micro organisms propagate themselves intensely. The organic wastes from landfills evolve greenhouse gases including the methane gas, which trap heat in the upper atmosphere, occur naturally and help create climates that sustain life on our planet.

And where is the way out?

Source reduction or waste prevention, which includes **reuse**, is the best approach, followed by **recycling**. Waste that cannot be prevented or recycled can be **incinerated** or **landfilled** according to proper regulations.

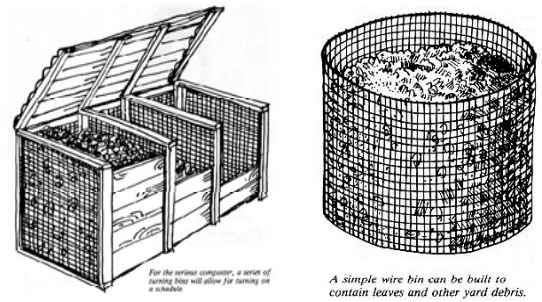


Why is **Source Reduction** at the top of the hierarchy? Because the best approach to managing solid waste is to avoid creating it in the first place. This means reducing the amount of trash you discard and reusing containers and products instead of throwing them away.

Recycling is a process of turning materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources and generates environmental, financial, and social benefits. Some materials (e.g., glass, metal, plastics, and paper) can serve as sources of new materials or products.

Armenia is already taking the first steps of recycling of some waste components. In Masis the process of recycling paper into the egg boxes has recently begun.

Composting is nature's way of **recycling organic wastes** into new soil used in vegetable and flower gardens, landscaping, and many other applications Composting is the controlled biological decomposition of organic matter, such as food and yard wastes, into humus, a soil-like material.



How can each of us contribute to reducing environmental and health contamination?

- Don't buy products that are over-packaged
- Re-use plastic shopping bags or, even better, use the reusable textile bags.
- Don't burning plastic waste in wood stoves because it produces dioxins.
- Don't make new uncontrolled dumpsites or landfills
- Take your garbage home from your forest, field, or lake picnics because soon our children will not find a clear nook in the environment
- Try to collaborate with municipalities for increasing of effectiveness of waste management
- Try to conform to the "polluter pays" principle.

Remember that our home also continues beyond the porch of our house, and the environment needs to be kept clean just as our home.