Integrated Solid Waste Management: Engineering Principles and Management Issues

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4/5 From 353 Reviews
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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well Written, but ObsoleteBy E. D. AntmannI purchased this text for an upper-level (500-series) design course covering solid and hazardous waste management. The book is divided into two major parts, with the first 11 chapters providing an overview of waste composition, characteristics, collection, treatment and conversion, and disposal, and the remainder of the book providing more in-depth technical coverage of material recovery and conversion technologies. Overall the book is well-written and maintains a strong narrative throughout, although the homework exercises require assumptions to be made regarding background condition which are not clearly discussed in the text.The single greatest detractor to this volume is its age, as it was first published well before most current student users were born. While the methods, techniques, and formulate utilized for the first part of the text have not changed greatly in the past three decades, statistics have. Information regarding waste generation rates and composition is 20 years old at best, and modern trends, which have changed markedly in the last several years, are omitted entirely. Any instructor utilizing this text should feel compelled to provide students with up-to-date information, which may be obtained from the EPA, state departments of environmental protection, and many county governments.Furthermore, as a result of the text's age, many modern techniques are completely omitted from the latter portion. In the discussion of composting, techniques covered are limited to various windrow and in-vessel methods; any modern course covering composting should cover modern vermicomposting and larvae composting methods not invented at the time of publication. Likewise, in the discussion of material recovery facilities, modern optical sorting techniques, the rise of single-stream recycling, and Clinton-era goals on paper recycling (the origin of the ubiquitous 30% recycled copy paper we use daily) are also excluded, and all merit treatment in a course covering solid waste and/or material recovery.Coverage of hazardous waste in the text is perfunctory at best, as this is not part of the author's objectives, and thus cannot be held against the book. However, I would advise users planning to cover hazardous waste to either supplement the book substantially or look elsewhere.Overall, the narrative quality of this volume is better-than-average, although its obsolescence makes it far from optimal for utilization at present. Thus, unless users solely wish to