

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

Aquifer	Geological formations or portions of them, capable of yielding underground waters in significant amounts, either from streams or from well extraction.
Ambulant population	Occasional population related to projects, infrastructure and/or tourist activities in a specific population center.
Basic sanitation	Sanitary collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of wastewaters, excretes and solid wastes.
Biogas	Group of gases composed mainly of methane gas generated from within the mass of wastes from the decomposition of organic matter.
Collection service coverage	Level of waste collection service in a population center, estimated as the ratio between the amount of waste collected and the total amount of waste generated, expressed as a percentage.
Commercial wastes	Solid or semi solid wastes generated in commercial and mercantile facilities, of goods and services such as: warehouses, supermarkets, banks, deposits, hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, among other similar commercial activities.
Concession contract	The Municipality grants to a company, for a usually long period of time, the exclusive right for planning and executing waste management services in its different stages. The concession contract also includes direct invoicing and collection from the user and can include the responsibility of financing the investments, which means that the contractor assumes all commercial and financial risks.
Controlled landfill	Place where final solid waste disposal takes place, that does not have the infrastructure of a landfill, but which has the minimum conditions for compacting and daily coverage of wastes.
Cooperatives	The community gets legally organized and assumes the planning and implementation of waste management services in their different stages, including the direct invoicing and collection from the user.
Direct municipal service	The municipality is in charge of planning and implementing all the stages of the solid waste management system (sweeping, collection, transfer, transportation, final disposal).
Disease incidence	Number of new cases of a disease in a specific population.
Disease prevalence	Existing cases of a disease in a specific population.
Dispersed population	Human settlements that do not exceed 150 people and where the concentration of households is inferior to 15 houses per road kilometer.
Dump	Inadequate accumulation of wastes in public spaces, as well as in urban, rural or vacant areas that generate environmental or sanitary risks. Lack sanitary authorization.
Ecoclubs	Non-governmental organization usually constituted by children and youth residing in small communities or neighborhoods in some large cities that communicate actions to other community institutions in order to participate in ecological activities with the purpose to improve the community's quality of life.
Entity in charge of the service	Entity operating the waste management service.
Equipment deficit	Ratio between missing equipment and equipment required to cover the needs of urban sanitation services, expressed in percentages.
Equipment status	Percentage of equipment or vehicles operating or that exceed their life cycle.
Final disposal service coverage	Level of waste final disposal service in a population center, estimated as the ratio between the amount of wastes taken to a final disposal site (landfill, controlled landfill, open air dumps, waterways) and the total amount of wastes generated, expressed in percentages.

Formal recycling	Recycling process carried out directly by the organism in charge of the urban sanitation municipal service and/or by a duly organized company.
Gini coefficient	Indicator representing an inequality income or rent measure between all the individuals. It is extended from zero, where the population income is equally distributed, up to one, where the income is completely distributed wrong.
Hazardous wastes	Solid or semi solid wastes that because of their corrosive, reactive, explosive, flammable or pathogen characteristics can represent a real or potential risk to human health or the environment, when it is inadequately managed.
Health care centers	Hospitals, sanatorium, clinic, polyclinic, medical center, maternity, emergency room and all those facilities where any level of human or animal care is practiced, with prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation purposes, and in those centers where research is carried out.
Health- Promoting Schools	Health-promoting strategy in the school environment based on the communicated and synergic development of three components: health education with an integral approach; creation and maintenance of healthy environments; and provide health services, healthy nutrition and active life.
Healthy municipalities	A municipality starts being healthy when its political leaders, local organizations and citizens commit and start a continuous improvement and progressive process of health conditions and the well-being of all the population forming and strengthening a social agreement between local authorities, community organizations and public and private sector institutions.
Hospital hazardous wastes	Wastes generated during the different stages of health care (diagnosis, treatment, immunizations, research, etc.) that contain pathogens. Represent different levels of potential hazard, according to the degree of exposure that they have had with infectious agents that cause diseases.
Hospital wastes	Wastes generated in health care centers when providing care services, including those generated from laboratories.
Household wastes	Solid waste generated at home.
Households in poverty or extreme poverty situation	Percentage of households whose income is below the basic needs cost for food (ECLAC). <i>Canasta básica</i> .
Households in poverty situation	Percentage of households whose income is less than the basic needs (canasta básica) that takes into consideration food and non food expenses (ECLAC). Includes households in poverty situation.
Industrial wastes	Solid or semi solid wastes generated as a result of industrial production processes, including maintenance of equipment and facilities from industry.
Informal recycling	Recycling process carried out by segregators in public areas or final disposal sites.
Inorganic wastes	Materials such as paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, ferrous and non ferrous metals, wastes from a population center.
Investment	Financial economic resources required for the installation, expansion and/or improvement of urban sanitation services infrastructure, including resources guided towards training, environmental education, personnel development and capacity building for solid waste management.
Landfill	Engineering technique for the adequate confinement of municipal solid waste. It includes waste spreading, arranging and compacting, covering it with soil or other inert material at least daily, the control of proliferation of vectors and the adequate management of gases and leachates, in order to prevent environmental contamination and protect the health of the population.
Leachate	Liquid that contains wastes, especially organic matter that accumulates in the mass of wastes disposed off and tends to surface in the lowest parts of the landfill.
Local participative planning	Tool that allows people and the community to know their reality and explain it jointly, at the same time they feel capable of acting on it. It implies a continuous improvement process of involvement, action programming, implementation and evaluation.
Management contract	The municipality transfers (contracts) the operational administration and control of the urban sanitation service to a company foreign to it, during an agreed period of time. It is not in charge of personnel expenses or equipment to provide neither the service nor collecting from the user. This area also includes combined companies.

Municipal wastes	Solid or semi solid wastes from urban activities in general. Can be of residential or household, commercial, institutional origin, from small industry or from street sweeping and cleaning, markets, public areas and others.
Non conventional vehicles	Are used in small population centers and rural communities; are usually used to transport small volumes in short distances; can be driven by animal, human or motorized traction.
Open air dump	Place where wastes are dump in open air in an indiscriminate manner without receiving any type of sanitary treatment; synonymous of dumping site, tipping site or garbage dumping site.
Organic wastes	Wastes from foods generated in household, commercial and industrial activities, as well as wastes from maintenance of green areas.
Pathogens	Microorganisms that can cause disease to the human being.
Population center	Cities, localities, townships, among others, with administrative autonomy for solid waste management.
Protozoon	Organism, almost always microscopic, whose body is formed by only one cell by a colony of equal cells among them.
Rate	Fixed value (applied to the real estate of the whole population center) or differentiated (based on the different characteristics of the real estate of said population center) to be paid for the effective or potential use of the waste management service, independently of the level of use of these services.
Recycling	Activity through which certain solid wastes from urban sanitation services are segregated, collected, classified and processed to reincorporate them to a domestic, commercial or industrial cycle.
Rural population	According to national criteria, populations living outside urban centers.
Sanitation	Collection, transportation, treatment and disposal sanitation services of wastewaters, excretes or other wastes.
Secured landfill	Facility for the final adequate disposal of hazardous waste, that has water proof systems, gases and leachates management, among others, in order to guarantee a secure land filling for these wastes.
Segregator	Person dedicated to the recovery and sale of waste materials for its reuse or recycling. Also known by the name of <i>ciruja</i> (person who sells wastes), scavenger, <i>cachurero</i> , recycler, sampler, diver, among others.
Service contract	The Municipality contracts third parties for the implementation of certain activities or stages of the waste management system with a company, for a definite period of time, through the payment of professional services.
Solid waste management	Every technical administrative planning, coordination, design, application and assessment activity of policies, strategies plans and action programs for appropriate solid waste management in the national, regional or local environment.
Solid waste management	Every waste technical activity that involves the handling, conditioning, transportation, treatment and final disposal of any other operative technical procedure used from the generation to final disposal.
Solid Waste Sector	Group of facilities and resources of different nature that exist in a country, related to urban sanitation services.
Special services	Services provided to a population center, in addition to common urban sanitation services, such as beach cleaning, debris and brushwood collection, conservation of parks and gardens and washing streets and plazas or others.
Special wastes	Solid or semi solid wastes that because of their amount, volume, weight and/or characteristics require special handling. They include wastes from health facilities (chemical products and expired pharmaceuticals), food with expiration dates, wastes from facilities that use hazardous substances, sludges, bulky or heavy wastes (mattresses, furniture, electrical appliances, abandoned automobiles, stone like building material, asphalt, pneumatics).
Sweeping service coverage	Level of sweeping services in population centers, estimated in relation to the streets swept and the total extension of paved roads, expressed in percentages. Exceptionally non paved routes in rural areas can be taken into consideration.
Tariff	Value to be paid for the unit of service provided, based on its cost.

Transfer service coverage	Level of waste transfer service in a population center, estimated as the ratio between the amount of waste transported to a transfer station or collection center and the total amount of wastes collected, expressed in percentages.
Urban population	According to national criteria, populations living within urban centers.
Urban sanitation services	Services demanded by a population center (different size and complexity urban, peri-urban and rural areas), related to cleaning of streets and public areas, collection, transportation, transfer, treatment and final disposal of municipal solid or semi-solid wastes.