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How I Can Improve the Management of Waste as a Resource

A degree in environmental resource management from Penn State University is how I can improve the management of waste as a resource. Since I have an academic background in water and soil resource management fields, I have been able to determine the quality of water ways and make plans for soil conservation and usability. I can improve the management of waste as a resource because I understand and can use the Universal Soil Loss Equation. In this equation, we measure the amounts of soil that are lost in tons/acre/year by multiplying the variables of rain fall intensity, soil erodibility, length and slope of a field, crop management, and the farming practices used. The rain fall intensity factor cannot be manipulated, however the other factors can and that's where waste can be used as a resource. The only way of improving the soil erodibility factor in the equation is to add organic matter into the soil to give it a higher quality. For example, many waste collection companies and municipalities collect leaves, grass and food waste which can be an organic ingredient in reviving soil when they are composted. We can improve waste management as a resource by composting organic municipal wastes which will slow the fill of landfills and improve soil by adding organic material giving it a higher quality and reduces soil erosion. In addition, many municipalities may be eligible to receive grants because they separate and compost these materials rather than landfilling them. Last but not least, compost can turn into a revenue source.

The first step into improving waste management as a compost resource would be getting more people involved. If more people begin setting out their compost materials on designated compost pick up days, or take it to designated drop-off locations, then we could put into action decreasing the amount of solids in our landfills and be able to provide a higher valued soil with the compost. This is very possible to achieve, and everyone will benefit from practicing this whether they are involved in waste management or not.