

Online course "Municipal Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries"

Learn about the key elements of a solid waste management system, with a focus on challenges of and solutions for urban settlements of low and middle income countries.

About the course

Have you come across large piles of garbage in neighborhoods and streets, or smelly waste disposal sites polluting the environment of low and middle income countries? Are you also convinced that improvements are necessary and do you want to know what kind of sustainable solutions are appropriate to better manage waste and enhance recycling and recovery? If yes, this course is for you!

This course provides an overview of the municipal solid waste management situation in developing countries covering key elements of the waste management system, with its technical, environmental, social, financial and institutional aspects. Besides understanding the challenges you will learn about appropriate and already applied solutions through selected case studies. The course also covers strategic planning and policy issues discussing future visions for waste management and the aspect of a circular and green economy. Considering the importance of the organic waste fraction, the course covers several organic waste treatment technology options such as composting, anaerobic digestion, and some other innovative approaches.

Besides learning the science behind organic waste treatment, the course also provides information on the practical everyday issues and presents case studies from around the globe.

Course outline

- **Weeks 1&2:** Introduction to solid waste management in developing countries
- **Weeks 3&4:** Organic waste treatment technologies
- **Week 5:** Assessment and planning methods

Course format

- **Video lectures:** The course content is divided into short modules, which are approximately 8 minutes long, and will be online on 22 February 2016. You can complete the whole course or watch only specific video lectures. In total, there will be 5 hours of video lectures. The audio language is English and there will be subtitles in English, Français and Español.
- **In-video quizzes:** You can test your knowledge of solid waste management by taking quizzes during the videos.
- **Forum:** In the forum, you can interact with the lecturers and with your peers from more than 170 countries. The lecturers will participate in the forum from February 22 until March 27.
- **Statement of Accomplishment (SoA):** You can earn a SoA by passing the homework quizzes and the final exam.



Solid Waste Management in Tanzania

Recommended background

For this course, all you need is an Internet connection, an interest in solid waste management, and the time to view video lectures and to read the given references.

Course at a glance

Duration:	22 February - 27 March 2016
Workload:	4 - 6 hours/week
Language:	English
Subtitles:	French, Spanish, English
Costs:	The course is free

Sign up for the course

We offer this course for free. Please visit the course website to sign up: www.coursera.org/learn/mswm

MOOC series "Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development"

This course is one of four in the series "Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development". Students completing all four courses successfully will earn an overall certificate for the series. Please visit our webpage for more information: www.eawag.ch/mooc



MOOC I:
Introduction to Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage
Dr. Richard Johnston & Dr. Sara Marks



MOOC II:
Planning & Design of Sanitation Systems and Technologies
Dr. Christoph Lüthi



MOOC III:
Municipal Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries
Dr. Christian Zurbrugg



MOOC IV:
Faecal Sludge Management
Dr. Linda Strand