

HANDBOOK ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

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The significant challenges associated with managing waste continue to attract international scholarly attention. This international *Handbook* scrutinizes both developed and developing economies. It comprises original contributions from many of the most prominent scholars researching this topic. Consisting primarily of empirical research efforts – although theoretical underpinnings are also explored thoroughly – the *Handbook* serves to further the understanding of the behaviors of waste generators and waste processors and the array of policies influencing these behaviors.

The *Handbook* reveals how, broadly speaking, research in the area of waste management appears to be motivated by two sources of intellectual curiosity. First is the attempt to directly or indirectly inform our understanding of the development of solid waste policy. Economic incentives, including advanced disposal fees, recycling subsidies, unit-based pricing programs, and landfill taxes, appear commonly across developed countries, and understanding how effective these policies are at diverting waste is examined carefully in the *Handbook*. Second, other economists are motivated to study solid waste management decisions as an avenue to understanding how incentives and norms affect individual behavior. The blossoming area of behavioral economics is especially appropriate for application to solid waste management decisions, and the *Handbook* contains new research contributions that add to this expanding literature.

Readership will be broad including academic economists researching waste issues and researchers specializing in waste management and more widely in environmental policy, behavioral economics, and public economics. International policymakers engaged in waste management decisions will find the work enlightening.

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