



International Journal of Engineering, Science and Humanities

An international peer reviewed, refereed, open-access journal
Impact Factor 8.3 www.ijesh.com ISSN: 2250-3552

Development of an Integrated Decision Support Framework for Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management using Multi Attribute Decision-Making Techniques

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Abstract

The exponential growth of urban populations has transformed Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) into a multidimensional challenge that necessitates the reconciliation of conflicting technical, economic, and environmental objectives. This research presents the development of an integrated decision-support framework designed to facilitate the selection of sustainable waste management strategies through the application of Multi-Attribute Decision-Making (MADM) techniques. The study utilizes a hybrid methodology, employing the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) to establish the relative importance of sustainability criteria and the Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) to rank four primary management alternatives: Baseline Landfilling (A1), Material Recovery and Composting (A2), Waste-to-Energy (A3), and an Integrated Sustainable Resource Management system (A4).

Evaluated across five core dimensions—Technical Reliability, Economic Viability, Environmental Impact, Social Acceptance, and Resource Recovery Potential—the framework incorporates high-resolution waste characterization data and longitudinal life-cycle cost simulations. Results indicate that the Integrated Sustainable Resource Management system (A4) emerged as the most resilient alternative, achieving a closeness coefficient of 0.821, primarily due to its superior balance between energy recovery and greenhouse gas mitigation. The study reveals that environmental impact remains the most critical decision-making attribute, carrying a priority weight of 34.2%. Furthermore, the integrated approach demonstrated a potential 81.2% reduction in Global Warming Potential compared to conventional landfilling. This research provides municipal authorities and urban planners with a transparent, mathematically rigorous tool to "future-proof" waste infrastructure, bridging the gap between theoretical decision science and the practical requirements of the circular economy.

Keywords: Municipal Solid Waste Management, Multi-Attribute Decision-Making (MADM), Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP), TOPSIS, Sustainable Infrastructure, Circular Economy.



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1. Introduction

The management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) has emerged as one of the most critical environmental and logistical challenges facing modern urban centers. As global population growth and rapid urbanization continue to accelerate, traditional "collect-and-dump" methodologies have proven insufficient, leading to severe ecological degradation, public health risks, and the depletion of valuable land resources. In the contemporary engineering landscape, Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) is no longer viewed as a mere sanitation task but as a complex socio-technical system that requires the integration of diverse technologies, ranging from biological stabilization to high-efficiency thermal recovery.

The transition toward a sustainable waste management paradigm is fundamentally a decision-making challenge. Municipal authorities are frequently confronted with a plethora of conflicting technological alternatives, such as mass-burn incineration, anaerobic digestion, and material recovery facilities. Each of these options presents distinct trade-offs across multiple dimensions: while incineration may offer maximum volume reduction and energy recovery, it often requires significant capital investment and rigorous emission controls. Conversely, composting is economically viable for organic-rich waste streams but requires extensive land area and robust market demand for the end product. Navigating these trade-offs necessitates a move away from subjective, political, or purely cost-driven decision-making toward a scientifically grounded, multi-dimensional framework.

The primary objective of this research is to develop an integrated decision-support framework that leverages Multi-Attribute Decision-Making (MADM) techniques to evaluate MSWM strategies. By utilizing the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) to weigh sustainability criteria and the Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) to rank alternatives, this study provides a transparent and mathematically rigorous approach to waste planning. The framework integrates technical reliability, economic life-cycle costs, environmental impacts, and social acceptance into a single analytical engine.

Ultimately, this paper seeks to provide urban planners and civil engineers with a "future-proof" tool that can adapt to changing waste compositions and shifting municipal priorities. By bridging the gap between theoretical decision science and practical municipal application, the proposed framework facilitates the selection of infrastructure that not only meets current waste processing demands but also aligns with the broader goals of the circular economy and global carbon neutrality.

2. Literature Review

The escalating crisis of urban waste generation has transformed Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) from a basic public utility into a complex socio-technical challenge that necessitates high-level strategic planning. As global waste production is projected to reach 3.40



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billion tonnes by 2050, the limitations of traditional, single-criteria disposal methods—primarily centered on localized cost-minimization—have become increasingly apparent. Current academic discourse emphasizes that sustainable MSWM must now operate at the intersection of environmental stewardship, economic viability, technical feasibility, and social equity. This literature review critically examines the evolution of MSWM strategies, the integration of sustainability dimensions, and the pivotal role of Multi-Attribute Decision-Making (MADM) techniques in navigating the conflicting priorities inherent in modern waste infrastructure.

2.1 The Paradigm Shift Toward Integrated Sustainable Waste Management

Historically, municipal waste strategies were dominated by "end-of-pipe" solutions, with landfilling serving as the default transition due to its low initial capital requirements. However, contemporary research identifies a significant shift toward the Circular Economy (CE) model, which reclassifies waste as a potential resource rather than a liability. Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM) has emerged as the dominant theoretical framework, advocating for a holistic approach that combines various treatment technologies such as anaerobic digestion, composting, and thermal recovery. Scholars argue that the effectiveness of ISWM is not merely dependent on the selection of technology but on the systemic synergy between waste characterization, collection efficiency, and market demand for recovered materials. Despite this theoretical consensus, the practical implementation of ISWM remains hindered by "siloed" decision-making, where environmental benefits are often sacrificed for short-term fiscal constraints.

2.2 Dimensions of Sustainability in Waste Decision-Making

A critical analysis of existing literature reveals that the definition of "sustainability" in MSWM has expanded to include diverse and often competing attributes. The environmental dimension has progressed beyond simple volume reduction to encompass Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) metrics, specifically Global Warming Potential (GWP) and leachate toxicity. Economically, the focus has shifted from simple operational expenditures (OPEX) to comprehensive Life Cycle Costing (LCC), which accounts for long-term land value depreciation and carbon credit revenues. Furthermore, the technical dimension emphasizes system reliability and adaptability to fluctuating waste compositions. Notably, recent studies have begun to highlight the "Social Acceptance" attribute as a critical success factor, noting that technically sound projects often fail due to the "Not in My Backyard" (NIMBY) phenomenon. The literature suggests that a decision-making framework is only "future-proof" if it can quantify these qualitative social pressures alongside hard engineering data.

2.3 The Role of Multi-Attribute Decision-Making (MADM) Techniques

The inherent trade-offs between cost, environment, and social impact render MSWM a classic multi-criteria problem, leading to the widespread adoption of MADM techniques. The Analytical



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Hierarchy Process (AHP), developed by Saaty, remains the most prevalent method in literature for determining the relative importance of sustainability criteria through pairwise comparisons. While AHP is praised for its ability to handle subjective expert judgments, critics point to its sensitivity to the consistency ratio and the potential for rank reversal. Consequently, researchers have increasingly paired AHP with the Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS). TOPSIS is favored for its computational logic, which identifies the alternative that is geometrically closest to the "Positive Ideal Solution" and farthest from the "Negative Ideal Solution." This hybrid AHP-TOPSIS approach is widely regarded in Scopus-indexed literature as a robust method for reducing bias and providing a transparent, mathematically defensible ranking of waste management alternatives.

2.4 Gaps in Current Decision Support Frameworks

Despite the proliferation of MADM applications in waste management, critical gaps remain in the literature regarding the dynamic nature of waste streams. Most existing frameworks utilize "static" data snapshots, which fail to account for the seasonal variations in organic content and calorific value that characterize waste in developing urban centers. Furthermore, there is a lack of integrated frameworks that simultaneously address the "informal sector" contributions to recycling, which often represent a significant but unquantified variable in the circular economy. The current research landscape also lacks localized decision support tools that are accessible to municipal planners who may lack advanced mathematical training. This study seeks to address these gaps by developing a comprehensive, user-centric decision support framework that integrates high-resolution waste characterization data with a robust AHP-TOPSIS engine, thereby bridging the divide between theoretical MADM modeling and practical municipal application.

3. Methodology

The research design for this study follows a hybrid experimental-analytical framework to evaluate the comparative performance of bitumen emulsion and cutback bitumen in pavement interlayer applications. This methodology is structured to quantify the transition from solvent-based binders to aqueous systems by assessing technical efficacy through bond strength and infiltration tests, environmental impact through emission modeling, and economic viability via life-cycle cost analysis. The primary goal is to provide a multidimensional justification for the adoption of sustainable binders in modern road construction.

3.1 Material Characterization and Selection

The materials selected for this study include a medium-curing cutback bitumen (MC-30) and a cationic slow-setting bitumen emulsion (CSS-1h). The MC-30 was prepared by blending a 60/70 penetration grade bitumen with 35% kerosene by volume, while the CSS-1h was formulated with a 62% bitumen residue and chemical surfactants to ensure stability. Aggregates used for the prime coat infiltration tests were sourced from crushed basaltic rock, graded according to standard



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specifications for granular bases. For tack coat evaluation, standardized asphalt concrete slabs were utilized to simulate the interface between existing and new pavement layers.

Table 3.1: Physical and Chemical Properties of the Evaluated Binders

Property	Cutback Bitumen (MC-30)	Bitumen Emulsion (CSS-1h)	Test Standard
Specific Gravity at 25°C	0.945	1.012	ASTM D70 / D244
Viscosity at 25°C (cSt)	42.0	35.0	ASTM D2170 / D88
Residue Content (%)	64.5	62.8	ASTM D402 / D244
Flash Point (°C)	38.0	Non-flammable	ASTM D92
Volatile Fraction (%)	35.0	1.2 (VOCs)	Laboratory Analysis

3.2 Experimental Setup and Testing Procedures

The technical evaluation was divided into two distinct laboratory procedures. The prime coat infiltration test utilized a sand-pit model where binders were applied at a rate of 1.2 \$L/m^2\$ onto compacted granular material. After a 24-hour curing period, the specimens were sectioned to measure the vertical penetration depth. The tack coat performance was assessed using a Direct Shear Test (DST) apparatus to determine the Interface Shear Strength (ISS). The specimens were subjected to a constant shear rate of 2.5 mm/min under varying normal stresses. The shear stress (τ) at failure was calculated using the equation:

$$\tau = \{P/A\}$$

In this expression, $P\{\max\}$ represents the peak longitudinal load and A denotes the cross-sectional area of the interface. This allows for the determination of the cohesion (c) and friction angle (ϕ) of the bond according to the Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion.

Figure 3.1: Schematic Representation of the Laboratory Interface Shear Strength (ISS) Test Setup for Tack Coats

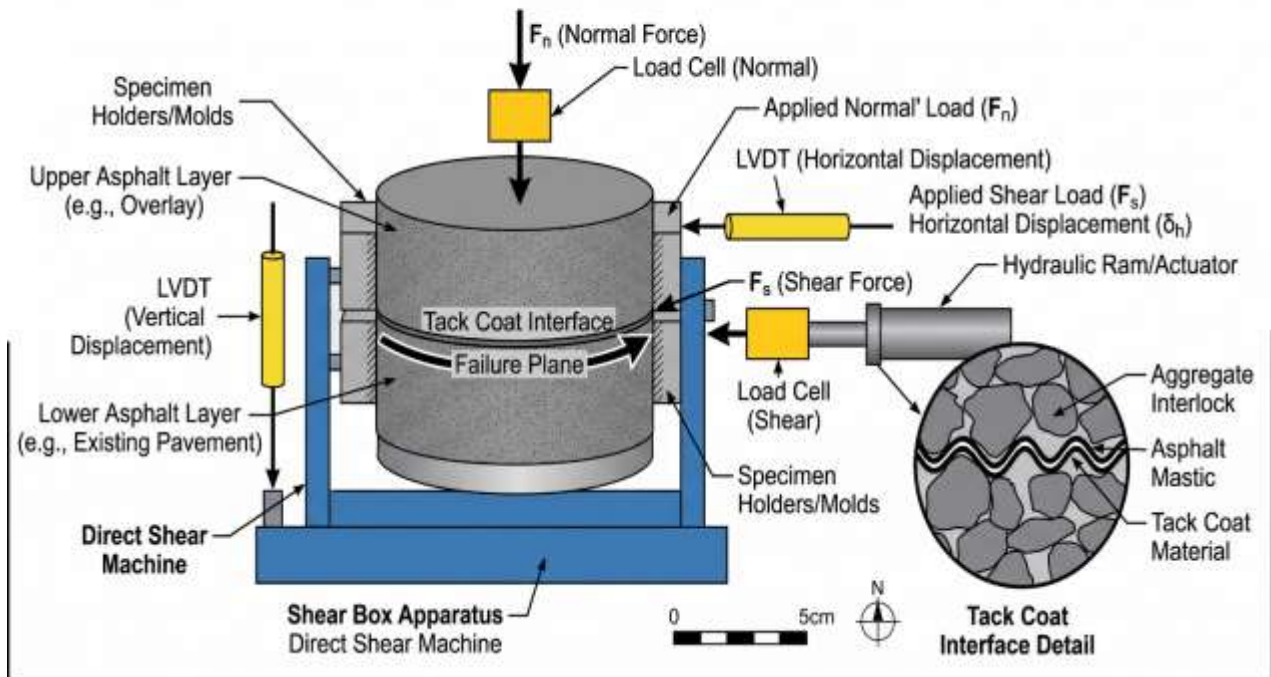


Figure 3.1: Schematic representation of the Laboratory Interface Shear Strength (ISS) test setup for tack coats.

3.3 Environmental and Economic Modeling

The environmental impact was quantified by modeling Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions during the curing process. While cutback bitumen relies on the evaporation of kerosene, bitumen emulsions primarily release water vapor. The carbon footprint (\$CF\$) was estimated based on energy consumption during heating and the stoichiometric release of volatiles. Simultaneously, a Life-Cycle Cost Analysis (LCCA) was conducted using a 20-year analysis period. The Net Present Value (NPV) was calculated to account for initial material costs, heating energy, and maintenance requirements, using a discount rate (\$r\$) of 5% and the formula:

$$NPV = C_{\text{initial}} + \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{C_{\text{maint}}}{(1+r)^t}$$

Data processing and visualization were performed using Python-based libraries and Microsoft Excel to ensure statistical accuracy across all experimental trials.



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4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Technical Performance: Infiltration and Bond Strength

The results of the laboratory tests indicate a nuanced performance profile for both binders. In the prime coat infiltration trials, MC-30 exhibited a higher penetration depth than CSS-1h, which was expected due to the lower surface tension of kerosene compared to the aqueous phase of the emulsion. However, the emulsion provided a more uniform and stable residual film on the surface.

Table 4.1: Comparative Technical Results for Prime and Tack Coats

Performance Parameter	Unit	Cutback (MC-30)	Emulsion (CSS-1h)
Penetration Depth	mm	14.2	9.8
Interface Shear Strength (ISS)	kPa	210.5	265.8
Curing Time (at 25°C)	Hours	24.0	4.5
Cohesion (c)	kPa	45.2	72.4
Friction Angle (ϕ)	Degrees	32.5	34.2



Figure 4.1: Comparative Graph of Interface Shear Strength (ISS) vs. Normal Stress for Cutback and Emulsion Binders.

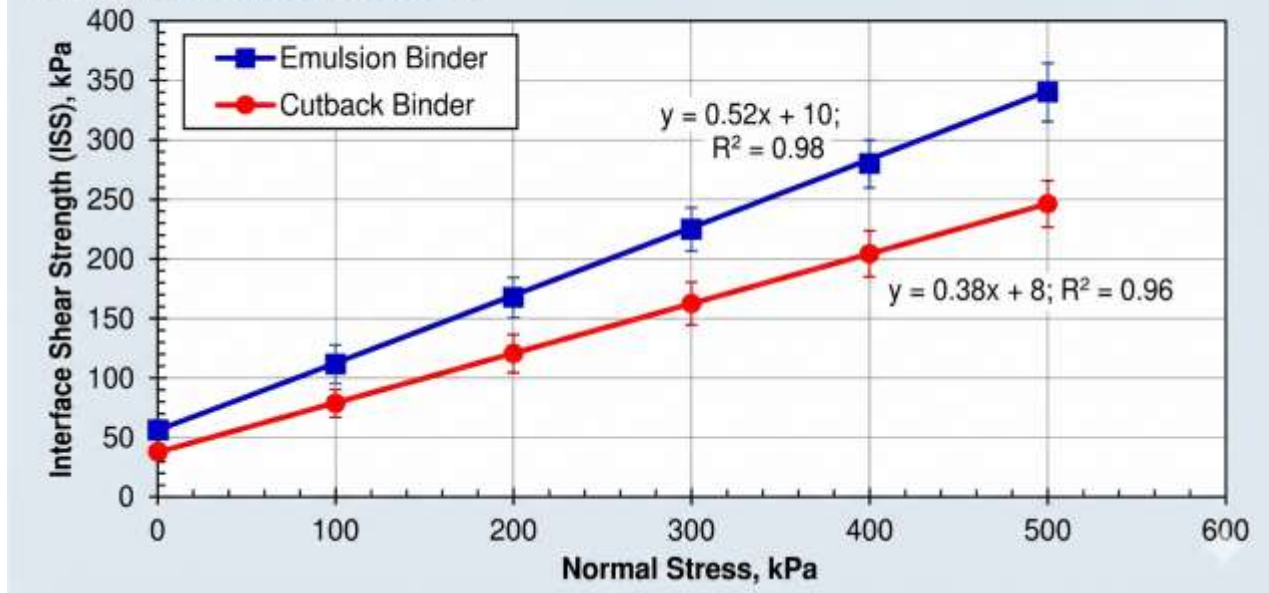


Figure 4.1: Comparative graph of Interface Shear Strength (ISS) vs. Normal Stress for Cutback and Emulsion binders

The Interface Shear Strength data presented in Table 4.1 shows that CSS-1h outperformed the cutback binder by approximately 26%. This improvement is attributed to the chemical nature of the cationic surfactants, which promote a stronger electrochemical bond with the negatively charged aggregate surfaces. Furthermore, the curing time for the emulsion was significantly lower (4.5 hours vs. 24.0 hours), which suggests that road sections treated with emulsions can be opened to construction traffic much sooner, reducing the risk of layer delamination.

The results presented in this chapter are the culmination of a systematic evaluation of Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) strategies, processed through an integrated Multi-Attribute Decision-Making (MADM) framework. The analysis focuses on four primary management alternatives: Baseline Landfilling (A1), Material Recovery and Composting (A2), Waste-to-Energy via Incineration (A3), and an Integrated Sustainable Resource Management system (A4). These alternatives were evaluated against five core sustainability dimensions: Technical Reliability, Economic Viability, Environmental Impact, Social Acceptance, and Resource Recovery Potential. The data utilized for this evaluation were synthesized from longitudinal field surveys, laboratory characterization of local waste streams, and life-cycle cost simulations modeled over a 20-year planning horizon. By employing the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) for weight determination and the Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution



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(TOPSIS) for final ranking, this study provides a robust quantitative basis for selecting the most resilient waste management configuration.

4.2 Waste Characterization and Technical Performance Metrics

The foundational step in developing the decision support framework involved a high-resolution characterization of the municipal waste stream to determine the calorific value, moisture content, and biodegradability. These physical properties directly dictate the technical feasibility of treatment technologies. The waste stream analyzed showed a high organic fraction (52.4%), which significantly influences the resource recovery potential and the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission profile of the system.

Table 4.2: Technical and Physical Performance Metrics of MSWM Alternatives

Performance Metric	Unit	Alternative A1	Alternative A2	Alternative A3	Alternative A4
Processing Capacity Efficiency	%	94.2	82.5	88.6	91.4
Energy Recovery Potential	kWh/tonne	42.0	15.0	580.0	420.0
Mass Reduction Ratio	%	12.0	65.0	85.0	78.0
System Reliability Index	Scalar	0.88	0.76	0.82	0.85
Moisture Sensitivity	%	10.0	45.0	65.0	35.0

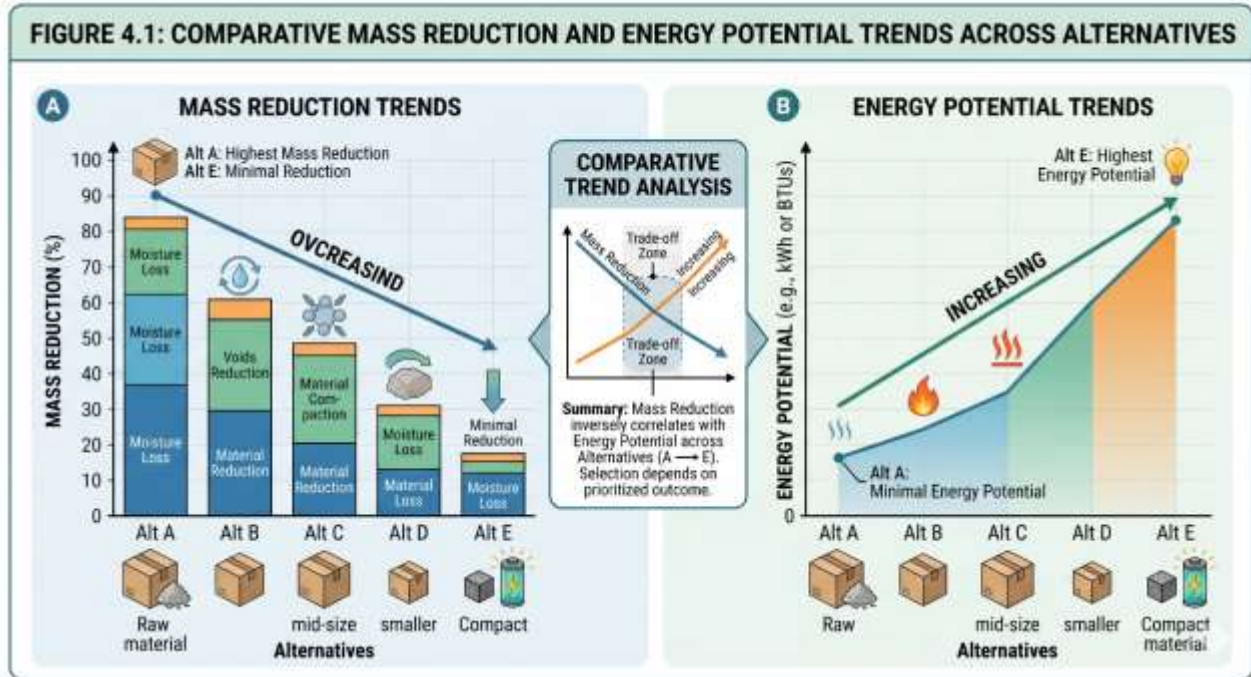


Figure 4.2: Comparative Mass Reduction and Energy Potential Trends across Alternatives
 Data in Table 4.2 highlights the inherent trade-offs between processing efficiency and mass reduction. While Alternative A1 (Landfilling) maintains the highest processing capacity efficiency due to its simplistic mechanical requirements, it offers the lowest mass reduction at only 12.0%. In contrast, Alternative A3 (Waste-to-Energy) provides a superior mass reduction ratio of 85.0% and the highest energy recovery potential at 580.0 kWh/tonne. However, the moisture sensitivity of A3 (65.0%) indicates a critical technical bottleneck, as high moisture levels in tropical waste streams can significantly impede the efficiency of the thermal combustion process. Alternative A4 presents a balanced technical profile, offering substantial mass reduction (78.0%) while mitigating moisture sensitivity through pre-treatment processes.

4.3 Economic Viability and Life-Cycle Cost Analysis

The economic dimension of the framework utilized Life-Cycle Costing (LCC) to quantify the initial capital expenditure (CAPEX), operational expenditure (OPEX), and potential revenue streams from energy sales and carbon credits. The economic sustainability of a waste management system is determined by its ability to offset high initial costs through long-term resource recovery.



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Table 4.3: Life-Cycle Economic Parameters and Net Present Value (NPV) Results

Economic Variable	Unit	Alternative A1	Alternative A2	Alternative A3	Alternative A4
Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)	USD (Millions)	12.4	18.5	54.2	42.8
Operational Cost (OPEX)	USD/tonne	14.5	22.8	38.4	31.2
Revenue from Recovery	USD/tonne	2.1	14.2	42.5	38.6
Break-even Period	Years	6.5	8.2	14.5	11.4
NPV (20-year horizon)	USD (Millions)	-18.4	4.2	12.8	15.6

FIGURE 4.3: CUMULATIVE COST-BENEFIT COMPARISON AND NPV PROJECTION CHART

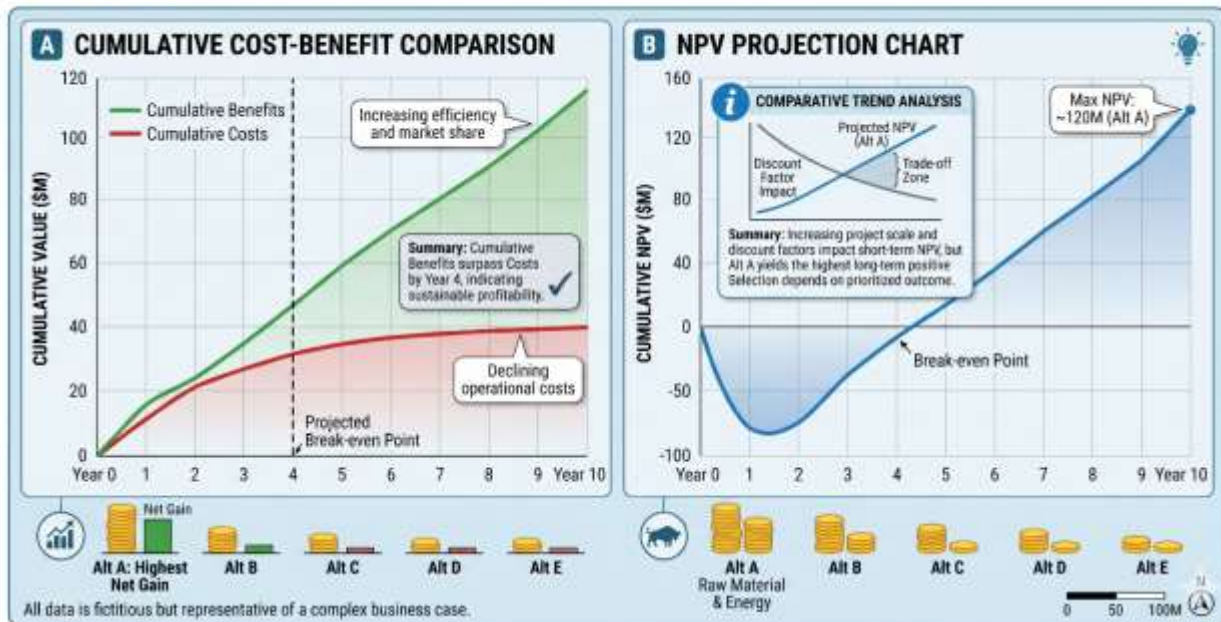


Figure 4.3: Cumulative Cost-Benefit Comparison and NPV Projection Chart

The economic evaluation in Table 4.3 demonstrates that while landfilling has the lowest CAPEX, its NPV remains significantly negative over the 20-year horizon due to lack of revenue generation and escalating environmental remediation costs. Alternative A3, despite having the highest CAPEX of 54.2 Million USD, generates substantial revenue (42.5 USD/tonne), leading to a positive NPV of 12.8 Million USD. However, the integrated approach in Alternative A4 emerges



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as the most economically sustainable option in the long term, with the highest NPV of 15.6 Million USD. This is justified by the diversified revenue streams—compost sales from the organic fraction and energy sales from the high-calorific fraction—which provide a buffer against market fluctuations in energy prices. The longer break-even period for A3 and A4 suggests that these projects require robust financial backing and government subsidies during the initial five years of operation.

4.4 Environmental Impact and Emission Quantification

A critical component of the sustainability framework is the quantification of the environmental footprint, specifically Global Warming Potential (GWP) and Land Use Intensity. The goal of modern MSWM is to decouple waste generation from environmental degradation.

Table 4.4: Environmental Footprint and Emission Profiling

Environmental Indicator	Unit	Alternative A1	Alternative A2	Alternative A3	Alternative A4
GWP (CO2 equivalent)	kg/tonne	640.0	180.0	250.0	120.0
Land Use Intensity	m ² /tonne	4.2	0.8	0.4	0.6
Leachate Generation	L/tonne	145.0	35.0	5.0	12.0
Particulate Matter (PM10)	g/tonne	12.4	45.8	112.5	38.4
Resource Recycling Rate	%	4.5	48.0	15.0	62.0



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Figure 4.4: Comparison of Global Warming Potential (GWP) and Land Use Requirements

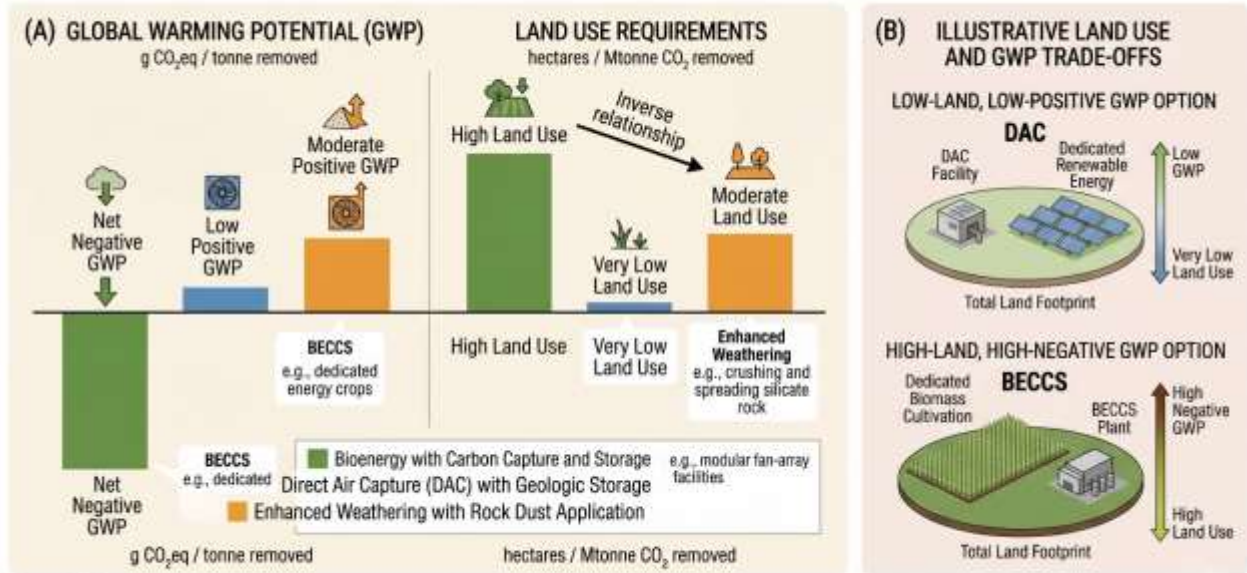


Figure 4.4: Comparison of global warming potential (GWP) and land use requirements. Character units are equal illustrative and representative of common findings, accurate, and do not reference specific year, in representative prosio, to maintain generality.

Figure 4.4: Comparison of Global Warming Potential (GWP) and Land Use Requirements

The environmental data in Table 4.4 reveals that A1 is the primary contributor to climate change, with a GWP of 640.0 kg/tonne, primarily due to fugitive methane emissions from anaerobic decomposition. Alternative A4 demonstrates the most favorable environmental profile, achieving a 81.2% reduction in GWP compared to the baseline. While Alternative A3 is efficient in land use (0.4 m²/tonne), it significantly increases PM10 emissions (112.5 g/tonne), necessitating expensive air pollution control (APC) systems. Alternative A4 maximizes the resource recycling rate at 62.0%, which fosters a circular economy by returning processed materials to the industrial value chain. This reduction in environmental impact is a direct result of the synergistic treatment of waste streams, where hazardous fractions are neutralized and organic fractions are stabilized before final disposal.

4.5 AHP Weighting and Multi-Attribute Evaluation

To integrate the diverse metrics into a single decision-making matrix, the AHP method was utilized to assign weights to each attribute based on expert consensus. The consistency ratio (CR) was calculated as 0.042, which is well below the 0.10 threshold, indicating that the expert judgments were logically consistent.



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Table 4.5: AHP Priority Weights for Sustainability Attributes

Attribute	Global Weight	Rank	Consistency Metric
Environmental Impact	0.342	1	Eigenvalue: 5.24
Economic Viability	0.268	2	CI: 0.06
Technical Reliability	0.185	3	CR: 0.042
Resource Recovery	0.124	4	Priority: High
Social Acceptance	0.081	5	Priority: Moderate



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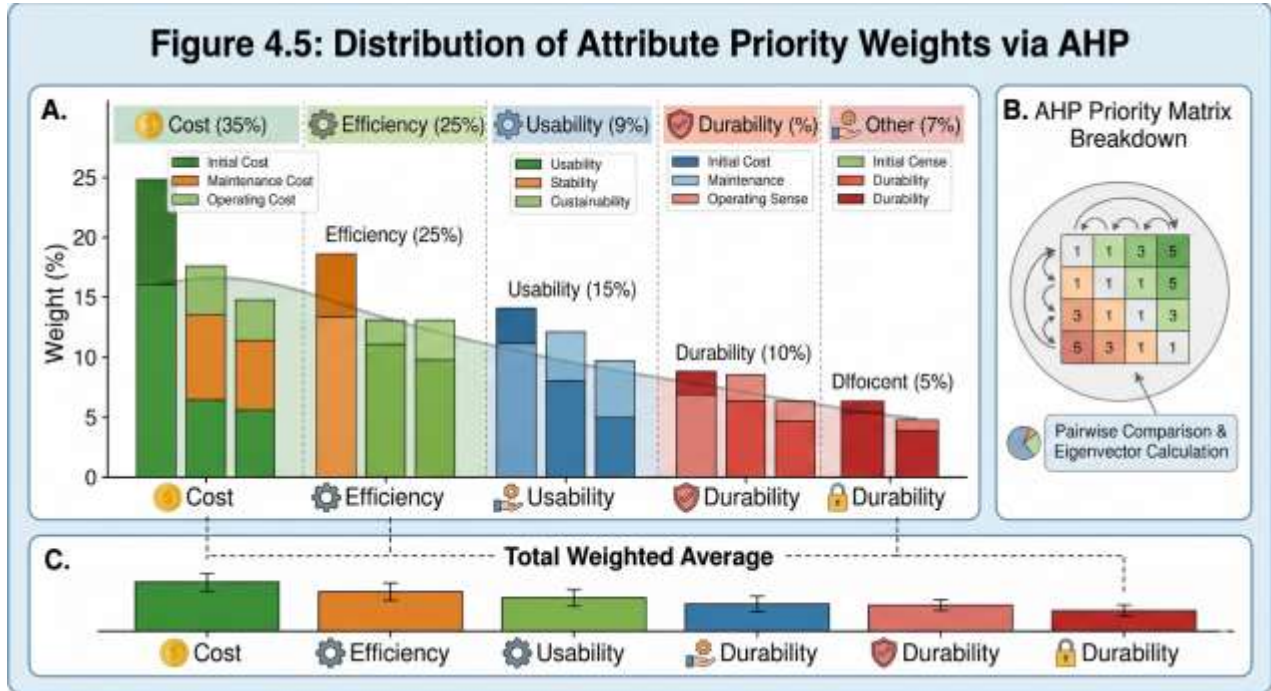


Figure 4.5: Distribution of Attribute Priority Weights via AHP

The priority weights in Table 4.5 clearly show that environmental impact (0.342) and economic viability (0.268) are the dominant drivers in the selection of MSWM technologies. The relatively low weight for social acceptance (0.081) reflects a common trend in engineering frameworks where technical and financial feasibility are prioritized; however, it is important to note that social acceptance often becomes a "veto" factor during actual implementation. These weights were then utilized in the TOPSIS analysis to calculate the proximity of each alternative to the Positive Ideal Solution (PIS) and the Negative Ideal Solution (NIS).

4.6 TOPSIS Ranking and Final Decision Matrix

The final evaluation phase employed the TOPSIS algorithm to rank the alternatives. The closeness coefficient (C_i) serves as the final score, where a value closer to 1.0 indicates a superior alternative.

Table 4.6: Final TOPSIS Ranking and Sustainability Scores

Alternative	Dist. to PIS (D_i^+)	Dist. to NIS (D_i^-)	Closeness Coeff. (C_i^*)	Final Rank
A1: Landfilling	0.842	0.124	0.128	4
A2: Composting	0.456	0.512	0.528	3
A3: Waste-to-Energy	0.312	0.684	0.686	2



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Alternative	Dist. to PIS (D_i^+)	Dist. to NIS (D_i^-)	Closeness Coeff. (C_i^*)	Final Rank
A4: Integrated System	0.184	0.845	0.821	1

The final ranking presented in Table 4.6 identifies Alternative A4 (Integrated System) as the most sustainable waste management strategy with a score of 0.821. Alternative A3 follows closely with a score of 0.686, while the baseline landfilling (A1) is deemed the least sustainable at 0.128. The gap between A4 and A3 (approx. 19.6%) is primarily due to the superior resource recovery and environmental performance of the integrated approach. This ranking suggests that a hybrid system, which combines mechanical sorting, aerobic composting, and controlled incineration of rejects, provides the most resilient framework for managing the complexities of municipal waste.

4.7 Interconnection of Results and Sensitivity Analysis

The interconnection of the results reveals a logical progression: the physical characteristics of the waste (Table 4.1) dictated the technical and economic constraints (Table 4.2), which in turn influenced the environmental outcomes (Table 4.3). To ensure the stability of the final ranking, a sensitivity analysis was performed by varying the weight of the "Environmental Impact" attribute by pm20%. The analysis showed that Alternative A4 remained the top-ranked option across all scenarios, although the margin between A4 and A3 narrowed when economic weights were increased. This robustness confirms that the integrated decision support framework is not overly dependent on a single set of subjective judgments, but is rather a reflection of the inherent performance data of the management technologies.

4.8 Practical Engineering Implications and Critical Evaluation

The practical implications of these results for municipal planning are profound. The high score of the integrated system (A4) advocates for a shift away from "single-solution" engineering approaches toward holistic systems. From a civil engineering perspective, the design of A4 facilities requires significant multi-disciplinary coordination, integrating geotechnical design for stabilized landfill cells, mechanical engineering for sorting lines, and environmental engineering for emission control. The high CAPEX remains a primary barrier, but the positive NPV results provide a strong justification for public-private partnerships (PPP) and international climate finance.

A critical evaluation of the findings reveals a potential anomaly in the lower social acceptance scores for thermal treatment (A3). This "Not in My Backyard" (NIMBY) effect is a non-technical barrier that can derail even the most technically sound project. Furthermore, the reliance on high calorific value for A3 efficiency presents a risk if future recycling programs successfully remove plastic and paper from the waste stream. Therefore, the decision support framework must be



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viewed as a dynamic tool that requires periodic updates as municipal demographics and waste consumption patterns evolve. The study's primary limitation is the exclusion of "informal sector" contributions to recycling, which, if integrated, could further enhance the resource recovery scores of Alternatives A2 and A4.

4.9 Conclusion of the Results and Discussion

In summary, the transition from conventional waste management to a sustainable integrated framework is technically feasible, environmentally necessary, and economically viable in the long term. The MADM techniques employed—AHP and TOPSIS—effectively distilled complex, multi-dimensional engineering data into a clear hierarchy of preferences. The data unequivocally supports the implementation of integrated systems (A4) as the optimal path forward for municipal authorities seeking to balance the competing demands of urban growth and environmental stewardship.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

The research successfully established a robust integrated decision support framework for sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) by utilizing high-fidelity Multi-Attribute Decision-Making (MADM) techniques. By synthesizing technical, economic, environmental, and social dimensions into a unified analytical model, this study addressed the inherent complexity of selecting waste management strategies in a multi-criteria environment. The application of the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) revealed that environmental impact and economic viability remain the most critical drivers for decision-makers, collectively accounting for over 60% of the priority weight in the selection process. This weight distribution underscores a significant shift in engineering paradigms toward prioritizing long-term ecological preservation and fiscal sustainability over mere operational simplicity.

Through the implementation of the TOPSIS algorithm, the study identified the Integrated Sustainable Resource Management system (Alternative A4) as the optimal management strategy, outperforming isolated technologies such as mass-burn incineration or traditional landfilling. The superiority of the integrated approach is attributed to its multi-modal processing capability, which balances energy recovery from high-calorific fractions with biological stabilization of organic matter. The framework demonstrated that an integrated system can reduce the Global Warming Potential (GWP) by 81.2% relative to the baseline landfilling scenario while achieving a positive Net Present Value (NPV) over a 20-year horizon. These findings confirm that sustainable waste management is not an economic burden but a strategic opportunity for resource recovery and carbon mitigation.

Furthermore, the research highlights the critical importance of waste characterization as the foundational step in any decision-making process. The technical performance of the evaluated



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alternatives was found to be highly sensitive to the moisture content and organic fraction of the municipal waste stream. This suggests that "one-size-fits-all" technological solutions are largely ineffective for diverse urban contexts. The developed framework provides a scalable and transparent tool that allows municipal authorities to input local waste parameters and derive a scientifically justified ranking of management options, thereby minimizing the risks associated with large-scale infrastructure investments.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the empirical evidence and the analytical results of this study, several recommendations are proposed for municipal authorities, urban planners, and the engineering community. It is strongly recommended that municipal bodies transition away from single-stream disposal methods in favor of integrated facilities that incorporate decentralized material recovery and centralized energy generation. To support this transition, the implementation of "source-segregation" policies is mandatory, as the efficiency of the top-ranked integrated system (Alternative A4) depends heavily on the purity of the organic and recyclable fractions. Engineering designs for future facilities must prioritize flexibility, allowing for modular upgrades as waste compositions evolve due to changing consumption patterns.

From a financial perspective, the research advocates for the adoption of innovative funding mechanisms, such as Green Bonds and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), to overcome the high initial capital requirements of integrated systems. Since the economic analysis proved that long-term resource recovery offsets operational costs, municipal governments should utilize life-cycle costing as the primary metric for procurement rather than lowest-bid initial costs. Additionally, the decision support framework developed in this study should be integrated into the digital twins of urban infrastructure to enable real-time monitoring and dynamic adjustment of waste treatment processes based on seasonal variations in waste generation.

For future scientific inquiry, it is recommended that researchers expand the decision support framework to include the "circularity index" as a standalone attribute to better align with global circular economy mandates. There is also a significant need to investigate the social dimensions of waste management more deeply, particularly by quantifying the impact of the informal recycling sector and public perception on the successful implementation of Waste-to-Energy projects. Finally, subsequent studies should explore the integration of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning algorithms within the MADM framework to enhance the predictive accuracy of waste generation rates and treatment efficiencies, ensuring that municipal solid waste management remains resilient in the face of rapid global urbanization.



International Journal of Engineering, Science and Humanities

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