

**Quantitative Analysis of Solid Waste Management
with the Waste Accounting System**

by

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Thesis

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Methodology

There are three areas of importance to the practice of solid waste management explored in the material which follows. I will discuss the advantages of integrated solid waste management; the role of quantitative financial analysis in the formulation of public policy; and the development, content, and usage of the computer model that I have written to evaluate the above concerns in a comprehensive, formal manner. As author, I view each of the three discussions to be of some importance. Perhaps the former two subject matters are of a greater personal importance, as they give me the opportunity to analyze two fundamentally important issues in a critical manner. In addition, the perspective which I have gained from this analysis has colored my effort in the structure and development of the computer model.

As the computerized Waste Accounting System is perhaps the only significantly original piece of work in this document, others may find it to be the most important aspect of my thesis. I truly hope that others can make valuable use of the WAS model. The computer model is objective; my views are not entirely so neutral. In deference to the Waste Accounting System's potential value through its use by others attempting to develop an integrated approach to solid waste management, I will constructively focus the writings of this document to reveal the potential uses of the WAS model and to make this usage possible for others. The Waste Accounting System, which was originally developed to advocate the implementation of materials recycling into the Rhode Island solid waste management system, has broader management, education, and policy potential applications. I hope that the reader will develop a similar sense of this potential from the discussions which follow, as I, the author have developed from the creation, application, and presentation of the Waste Accounting System.