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## Roles of Trash in the Economy

### 1. How Strong Economies Create More Trash

As economies grow, consumption rises, leading to more packaged goods and harder-to-process waste like plastics and mixed materials. Waste volume and complexity increase together, putting pressure on infrastructure and recycling systems.



### 2. Trash as a Cost and Trash as a Commodity

Trash is both a disposal problem and a valuable resource, with recycling facilities turning waste into reusable materials. Poor inputs and inconsistent output push more material toward disposal. Cleaner streams and tighter processing push more toward recovery and revenue.

### 3. What Happens When Trash Is Not Controlled

Uncontrolled trash lowers property values, harms public health, and impacts tourism while increasing operational costs for recycling facilities. When waste is poorly managed before it reaches your facility, your operating costs reflect it.



### 4. The Recycling Facility's Role in Stabilizing the Waste Economy

Recycling facilities reduce landfill use, recover valuable materials, and improve community conditions by managing waste efficiently. Their operations help control odors, pests, and overflow while supporting economic pathways for reuse.

### 5. Why Waste Volume Changes Should Affect Your Planning

Rising waste volume and complexity impact storage, processing, and revenue, requiring system-level planning. Tracking volume pressure, material complexity, and market sensitivity helps guide better operational decisions.



### 6. Turning Trash Growth Into Better Outcomes

Investing in efficient processing and aligning output with market demand increases recovery and stabilizes revenue. Coordinated systems and enforcement also reduce strain on facilities and improve outcomes.

### 7. Keep Material in Circulation and Out of Landfill

Efficient, quality-driven recycling operations keep materials in circulation and reduce long-term economic costs. When you run an efficient, quality-driven operation, you help keep material value in circulation and reduce the downstream costs.



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