## **Introduction to Waste Management Issues**

## Waste management: (Definition)

• the disposal, processing, controlling, recycling and reusing of waste to maintain a habitable environment;

#### Two main paths for managing waste:

- 1. waste diversion
- 2. waste disposal

#### 1. Waste Diversion:

- managing solid waste in a way that reduces the amount of waste that needs to be stored
  or incinerated (burned);
- includes 3 R's (reducing, re-using, re-cycling), composting/biodegradation.

#### 2. Waste Disposal:

Two main options:

- **burning** (incineration, advanced thermal treatment ATT)
- burying (underground in a landfill)

#### Issues:

- ♦ Many environmental drawbacks
- ♦ Expensive (In Canada in 2000, 11 million tonnes disposed at cost of 6 billion dollars)

### Three Basic Types of Waste:

- **♦ Solid Waste**
- ♦ Wastewater (sewage, sludge/biosolids)
- ♦ Nuclear Waste



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