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# Waste Management in Haiti

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## The Problem

The town of Cange, Haiti currently lacks any form of centralized waste disposal. Trash is strewn about wherever one pleases, harming the environment, sanitation, and aesthetics.



## The Solution

Develop and implement a system of trash collection, proper processing, and behavior reform through education and community role models.

## Composting

Organic material such as food and agricultural waste will be primarily treated with scaled composting windrows and the finished compost will be sold within the community.



(An example of windrow composting)

*Windrow composting* is when the organic material is piled together in long rows and passively aerated to encourage decomposition into fertile soil. We chose this method of composting because it is a simpler way to compost, not requiring equipment or lots of monetary investment.

## Recycling

One of the main issues is the prevalence of plastic waste and the lack of facilities to process it.



Plastic material can be reused in different ways to avoid ending up in the environment. As seen from the pictures above and below, plastic is a widely used material for disposable bottles. Some ways to deal with it are to make compressed building blocks for small construction or to make crafts.

## Other Waste

Anything that cannot be composted or recycled, such as construction debris and medical waste, will be subject to a fitting treatment method. This may include incineration or transport to a location with proper facilities.

## Education

There is a group of teenagers called ODAM CEJD (pictured below) who currently have a weekly gathering with about 200 children and they teach and reinforce positive behavior including using waste baskets. Applying social influence to properly dispose of trash will be a key focus as well.

