Conclusion

The effect that waste has on our natural environment and ultimately on the quality of our life has been made public in worldwide debates. The problems related to waste have many dimensions. In economically challenged communities, the scope and magnitude of the problem may often exceed the capacity that local authorities have to effectively resolve issues of waste collection and disposal, in addition to other difficult city managerial tasks.

In the 1950's the influence of human activities on the natural environment became more evident to scholars. Urban ecology theory embodies the idea that human influence on the natural environment has evolved into an integrated field in which scientists look at solving problems in regard to nature in cities by using different tools.

Bearing in mind the complexity of nature and cities, the ecological conditions of urban areas are viewed as the necessary measures for environmental protection and recovery. Land, water, vegetation and other living organisms fill cities and interact with people. In consequence their protection and care reflect upon the quality of human life.

There are several factors related to improving ecological conditions in cities. Environmental benefits are noticeable through the reduction of pollutants, since consequences of air contamination are both local and global. Another parameter is to preserve the natural condition of land and its ability to sustain life. Also accessibility to clean water supports not only the existence of all living organisms but also contributes heavily to production processes, irrigation and transportation purposes.

To effectively protect nature in cities it is also necessary to consider factors beyond air, land and water. For instance, energy issues, characteristics of infrastructure, social and cultural patterns, as well as waste management are features that affect the balance of cities.

The results obtained from the analysis of the municipality of Jiutepec in Mexico show a growing and dynamic entity with issues of development, public service shortage and environmental hazards in particular in water and soil contamination. Although a specific environmental database is lacking, the deterioration of nature is visible in some areas and general concerns among locals are rising.

The characteristics of waste management in the municipality reflect the limited resources that local governments have to handle waste issues in contrast with the creativity shown by residents to meet their needs. This is particularly evident in the structure of private organizations and informal waste separation and processing activities.

The idea that waste management can be integrated as an element that promotes the welfare of life and improves the ecological conditions of urban settlements lies firstly in recognizing the endemic nature of the waste to be handled. Secondly, ensuring effective waste collection coverage leads to the reduction of air, noise and soil pollution. Thirdly, social approaches such as knowledge transfer have shown to be effective in encouraging sustainable household habits, which help improve recycling and the reduction of gas emission in landfills and waste dump sites. Lastly, creating enduring partnerships of collaboration between parties contributes to continuity in waste management practices and avoids palliative improvements. This leads to sustainability in the system humankind has established for living and the preservation of the environment in which it exists.