



## **Waste stream management: The new strategic supply chain**

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Customers are increasingly concerned with the environmental impact of products and services, leading companies to develop strategies that seek to reduce costs through minimizing all types of waste, and in combination with increased national and international regulation and legislation.

Waste is any activity which consumes resources or creates costs without producing any offsetting value stream, such as wasted resources: energy, water, materials, or wasted relationships: wasted customer time or defecting customer.

Clean design is an approach to product development which recognizes that the majority of life cycle costs are committed at the design stage.

The 4 R's of REdesign are: reduce, recover, recycle and remanufacture. Clean design takes into account life cycle costing and life cycle assessments prior to product development recommendations.

Municipal solid waste streams contain significant amounts of biological materials such as: paper, food wastes, scrap wood, yard wastes, etc. These waste streams are potential feedstocks for creating new products utilizing clean design.

Waste diverted from municipal waste streams become valuable materials from which redesigned products with productive life cycle costs and assessments are created.

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