

## SECTION 2: SOLID WASTE

### Overview

The solid waste segment of the products and services industry includes the following subsegments:

- Collection and transportation of waste and recyclables,
- Landfill operations,
- Materials recovery facilities and composting facilities,
- Waste-to-energy incinerators, and
- Medical waste handling and disposal.

### Demand Determinants and Growth Prospects

State and federal regulatory requirements are the outstanding force determining demand in the solid waste industry. New York State regulations are requiring decreases in amounts of municipal solid waste. Also, more stringent state permitting requirements are reducing the number of municipal landfills, thereby rapidly increasing tipping fees.

These regulatory trends are driving the solid waste industry, and determining the growth of various subsegments to be discussed below: landfilling, materials recovery and composting facilities, waste-to-energy incinerators, and medical waste handling and disposal, and waste management in the private sector.

### Landfilling

Because of the increased stringency of environmental regulations, the development costs for a landfill in New York State (from the start of site collection to the actual beginning of landfilling) have risen considerably. In upstate New York, the costs of consulting, testing, services, engineering, and construction services for a mixed municipal landfill of 10-12 acres are in the \$4-9 million range.

Where state authorities have found that solid waste landfills have been improperly operated, they have frequently closed landfills in recent years. Violations include contamination of water supplies, migration of toxic gases, fires, diseases, and vectors. The closing of a landfill also provides extensive business opportunities for engineering, construction capping, and (in some cases) remediation. The closure cost of a 10 acre landfill is about \$1.3 million in upstate New York if there is no need for groundwater control.

Because of cases of fire in tire piles, and because of the special circumstance posed by construction and demolition debris, new regulations are being implemented for landfills accepting waste tires and construction and demolition debris. Of 131 known waste tire