What is waste screening? Waste screening is reducing or eliminating toxic, hazardous, or otherwise prohibited wastes from a landfill. SWANA feels that you should have a waste screening program in place. The goal is to reduce the amount of these wastes that are transferred or disposed of.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) had a few goals in mind. One of the goals we will be focusing on is to protect human health and the environment from hazardous threats posed by waste disposal.

Knowing who your generators are will help you with your waste screening plan. You will see many different types of waste during your screening process, such as bloodborne pathogens, radioactive waste, asbestos, batteries, liquids, ash, compressed gases, septage, and electronic waste. All these different types of waste have different safety protective measures. Whether your landfill accepts these materials or not, you still need to have the proper safety procedures in place to protect employees because you never know what may enter your landfill. If you need help developing your procedures you can contact other landfills or visit the SWANA website.

Below are some other topics to think about:

Provide a safe, temporary storage for unacceptable waste, like secondary containment, security, ventilation, fire-resistant construction.

Unacceptable waste spill procedures.

Decontamination of exposed personnel.

We did not go into too much detail and the reason being is that every landfill operates differently and you need to set your plans up the way it works for you. Hopefully, this will help you improve your landfill operations.