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ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE AND WASTE GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH TANGERANG: A POLITICAL ECOLOGY ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the relationship between the state, society, and the private sector in waste management in South Tangerang City through the perspective of Political Ecology and public policy. This research is motivated by the urban waste crisis which is characterized by waste production of more than 1,000 tons per day, while the capacity of the Cipeucang Final Disposal Site (TPA) is only able to accommodate around 300–400 tons per day. In contrast to previous research that emphasized the technical aspects of waste management, this study focuses on power relations, ecological impact distribution, and dynamics of environmental policy implementation. The research uses a qualitative approach with a case study design through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation studies. The results of the study show that the waste crisis in South Tangerang is a structural problem influenced by urbanization, weak institutional capacity, and inequality in environmental governance. Residents around the Cipeucang Landfill reported strong odors, environmental pollution, and decreased quality of life due to the excess capacity of the landfill. The research also found that there is a differentiation of waste management services between areas with high purchasing power and areas that are more marginalized. These conditions create spatial injustices, where certain groups obtain better environmental services, while communities around landfills bear a greater ecological burden. In addition, the policy of sanctions against waste management violations shows a tendency to individualize risks through the transfer of responsibility to the community when waste sorting facilities and 3R TPS are not adequately available. In Foucault's perspective, such policies serve as a mechanism of social discipline and control. This research confirms that urban waste management is a matter of ecological justice, environmental risk distribution, and democratic development governance.

Key words: *Political Ecology, Public Policy, Waste Management, Regional Development, Environmental Governance*

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INTRODUCTION

The issue of urban waste management has developed into one of the most serious challenges in environmental governance in various developing countries, especially in the Global South region. Rapid urbanization, urban population growth, expansion of residential areas, changes in people's consumption patterns, and increasing economic activity have caused the volume of waste to increase significantly from year to year. A World Bank report shows that global waste production is projected to increase by 70% by 2050 if not balanced with sustainable management systems (Syarkawi et al., 2026). The waste problem is not only understood as an issue of urban sanitation and cleanliness, but has developed into an ecological, economic, social, political, and development problem related to the governance of urban development. Explain that waste management problems in developing countries are closely related to weak institutional capacity, low investment in environmental infrastructure, and inequities in urban governance. In this context, waste management is an important part of the global sustainable development and environmental justice agenda (Ulum & Ngindana, 2017).

In the perspective of Political Ecology, environmental damage does not occur naturally, but rather is the result of power relations, political economic systems, and development policies that determine how environmental resources are managed and how ecological risks are distributed to communities. Explains that modern environmental problems are a consequence of development systems that produce ecological inequalities between the groups that benefit economically and the groups that bear the environmental impacts (Damanik et al., 2026). The political ecology approach views that the environment is an arena of interest battles between states, communities, and markets in the development process (Bailey & Bryant, 2005). A similar perspective was put forward by Arturo Escobar who stated that modern development often results in the ecological marginalization of certain groups of society through the dominance of development discourse and economic growth (Escobar, 2011). Thus, the problem of urban waste cannot be understood only through a technocratic approach, but must be analyzed as part of the power relations in urban development.

Indonesia as one of the developing countries faces an increasingly complex waste management problem along with increasing urbanization and the growth of metropolitan areas. Data from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry through the National Waste Management Information System shows that Indonesia produces millions of tons of waste every year with the dominance of household waste and plastic waste (Putri et al., n.d.). Most of the national waste still ends up in landfills without optimal sorting and processing processes.

This phenomenon can be observed in South Tangerang City as one of Jakarta's metropolitan satellite cities that is experiencing very rapid urbanization growth. The development of residential areas, business centers, commercial areas, and urban infrastructure has increased the pressure on environmental management systems, especially waste management. Based on data from the South Tangerang City Environmental Agency, daily waste production has reached more than 1,000 tons per day, while the capacity of the Cipeucang Final Disposal Site (TPA) only ranges from 300–400 tons per day (DLH South Tangerang City, 2025). The huge disparity between waste generation and management capacity shows that the problems faced are not just technical limitations, but reflect more basic environmental governance issues.

Waste management problems in Indonesia are often related to weak institutional capacity and low integration of environmental policies in regional development (Yanti, 2026). This view is in line with the theory of policy implementation, who explains that public policy failures often stem from weak bureaucratic coordination, overlapping authority between actors, and dominance of economic-political interests in the implementation process (Situmorang et al., 2025). In the context of South Tangerang, this condition is reflected in the lack of optimal coordination between the Environment Agency as a waste management institution and residential area developers and the private sector which contributes to the increase in the volume of urban waste. As a result, the growth of urban areas is faster than the development of infrastructure and waste management systems that are supposed to support environmental sustainability.

The waste management crisis reached a critical point when the South Tangerang City

Government established a waste emergency status for the period of December 23, 2025 to January 5, 2026. The determination of the emergency status shows that the waste problem in South Tangerang has developed into a structural crisis that can no longer be solved through the usual administrative approach. This condition shows the weak readiness of local governments in anticipating the ecological impact of urban growth that occurs very quickly. From a public policy perspective, the situation reflects the gap between policy formulation and policy implementation on the ground (Nurfaisal et al., 2026). George C. Edwards III explained that the success of policy implementation is influenced by communication, resources, bureaucratic structure, and the disposition of policy implementers (Khaidir, 2019). If one of these aspects does not run optimally, policy implementation tends to fail. Mazmanian and Sabatier (1983) added that the effectiveness of policy implementation is greatly influenced by the institutional capacity and consistency of the implementers in translating policy objectives into practice in the field. In the context of waste management in South Tangerang, weak institutional capacity and limited infrastructure show that the waste problem is not only a technical problem, but also an environmental governance problem (Utomo et al., 2025).

From the perspective of political ecology, the problem of waste is not only understood as a result of the behavior of individuals who litter. Waste is a product of urban development systems, consumption patterns of urban communities, economic expansion, and spatial planning policies that encourage massive urban growth without being balanced with the development of sustainable environmental management systems. Explains that modern cities develop through the logic of urban capitalism that encourages the continuous consumption and expansion of space. In these conditions, ecological problems are often seen as a side effect of economic development. Emphasized that the urban environmental crisis is a direct consequence of urban modernization that does not pay attention to ecological sustainability. Local governments continue to encourage the growth of residential areas and urban economic activities, but have not optimally built an adequate waste management system.

As a result, the increase in waste production is not proportional to the management capacity and capacity of the environment.

This condition further demonstrates the complex relationship between the state, society, and the private sector in urban environmental governance. Waste management in South Tangerang not only involves the local government as a regulator, but also involves waste transport companies, residential area developers, industrial sectors, environmental communities, and communities around landfills. Each actor has a different interest in environmental management. The government has a vested interest in maintaining the stability of urban planning and policy legitimacy, the private sector is oriented towards economic efficiency and business profits, while the community demands the right to a healthy and sustainable environment. Michel Foucault explained that power works through mechanisms of regulation, supervision, and social discipline in regulating people's behavior (Nur et al., 2023). In the context of waste management, environmental policy is not only an administrative instrument, but also a tool of social and political control over society. Modern environmental governance often involves environmentality practices, which are the way the state shapes people's behavior through environmental regulations and discourse.

In practice, the community around the Cipeucang Landfill is the group most affected by the waste management crisis. They face air pollution, bad odors, water pollution, and deteriorating environmental quality. Piers Blaikie's perspective explains that marginalized groups of people often bear the greatest ecological burden due to unjust development policies and economic systems (Anwar Sanusi, 2025). The concept of ecological injustice explains that environmental impacts tend to be distributed unevenly to groups of people who have weaker social and political positions. Pellow's research (2018) also shows that the urban poor tend to be the most vulnerable to the impact of environmental pollution due to poor waste management. In the context of South Tangerang, the community around the landfill receives the ecological impact of urban development whose economic benefits are more enjoyed by certain economic groups.

In addition, waste management policies

in South Tangerang also show a tendency to delegate responsibilities or transfer the state's structural responsibilities to the community. The South Tangerang City Government has begun to implement a policy of sanctions and fines for people who litter. Normatively, the policy aims to improve community discipline in waste management. However, the policy has also drawn criticism because, on the other hand, the government has not provided an adequate waste sorting system, 3R TPS facilities, and adequate transportation services. Ulrich Beck explained that modern society tends to experience individualization of risk, which is a condition when structural risk is transferred to individual responsibility (Saputri et al., 2023). In the context of waste management, the community has the potential to be the party to blame for problems that mostly stem from the weaknesses of the local government governance system. Modernity also gave birth to the practice of privatization of social responsibility, in which the state further reduces its structural responsibility for public problems.

From a public policy perspective, this issue shows that there is a gap between policy formulation and policy implementation in the field. William N. Dunn explained that public policy is not only judged by the existence of regulations, but also by the effectiveness of implementation, distribution of benefits, and the resulting social impact (Suaib et al., 2022). In the context of waste management in South Tangerang City, various policy implementation factors still show weaknesses, ranging from limited infrastructure, weak supervision, low coordination between actors, to suboptimal community participation in the waste management system. Ansell and Gash explain that collaborative governance is important in solving environmental problems because it is able to create multi-stakeholder participation in the policy decision-making process. This shows that the waste problem cannot be solved through legal approaches and administrative sanctions alone, but requires a more participatory and ecologically fair transformation of environmental governance (Syarkawi & Prayuda, 2026).

Previous research on waste management in Indonesia has generally focused on technical aspects, such as the effectiveness of waste transportation systems, the development of waste treatment

technology, community behavior in waste sorting, and technology-based waste management innovations. Although these studies make an important contribution to improving the operational efficiency of waste management, these approaches tend to view the waste crisis as purely technical and administrative issues. As a result, various fundamental issues related to power relations, the distribution of responsibilities between actors, conflicts of interest, and the inequality of ecological impact distribution often do not receive adequate attention.

In the context of South Tangerang, the technical approach has not been able to fully explain why the waste problem persists despite various management policies and programs that have been implemented. Analysis of the relationship between local governments, the private sector, and communities is important to understand how decision-making processes, institutional coordination, and resource distribution affect the effectiveness of waste management policies. Thus, the perspective of Political Ecology offers a contribution that has not been widely developed in previous studies because it is able to explain the dimensions of power relations that shape environmental governance while explaining how development benefits and ecological burdens are unevenly distributed in society (Anwar Sanusi, 2025).

Therefore, there is a significant research gap in the study of urban waste management in Indonesia, especially one that integrates the perspective of Political Ecology and public policy to analyze the relationship between the state, society, and the private sector in shaping urban environmental governance. This research seeks to fill this gap through a critical analysis of waste management in South Tangerang City as a representation of the dynamics of urban development in Indonesia's metropolitan area. In addition, this research is also expected to be able to provide policy recommendations that are more democratic, participatory, and ecologically just in urban waste management in the future.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative approach with a critical case study design to analyze the relationship between the state, society, and the private sector in waste management in South Tangerang. The qualitative approach was

chosen because this study aims to understand in depth the dynamics of power relations, policy practices, conflicts of interest, and socio-ecological constructions that arise in urban waste management. Qualitative research allows researchers to explore meanings, social experiences, and political processes that cannot be explained quantitatively. Meanwhile, the case study was chosen because this research focuses on specific phenomena that occur in certain social and political contexts, namely the waste management crisis in South Tangerang which has developed into a structural problem of the urban environment (Kusumajanti et al., 2025). Explains that relevant case studies are used when researchers want to understand contemporary phenomena in depth in real-life contexts.

The research was carried out during the period August 2025 to April 2026, with field data collection carried out in September–December 2025. The research location includes the Cipeucang Final Disposal Site (TPA) area and several residential areas in South Tangerang City that are directly affected by the urban waste problem. The selection of the research location was based on the consideration that South Tangerang is one of Jakarta's buffer metropolitan cities with a high rate of urbanization and waste production, but faces limited environmental management capacity. In addition, the determination of a waste emergency status by the South Tangerang City Government by the end of 2025 provides an important empirical context to understand the dynamics of environmental governance and the evolving power relations in urban waste management.

The research subjects consist of parties who are directly or indirectly involved in urban waste management, including officials of the South Tangerang City Environmental Office, Cipeucang landfill managers, waste transport companies, environmental groups, academics, community leaders, scavengers, and residents living around the landfill area. The determination of informants was carried out using the purposive sampling technique by considering the level of involvement, experience, and knowledge of informants on waste management issues in South Tangerang. This technique is used because qualitative research emphasizes more on the depth of information than the number of respondents (Moleong & Surjaman, 2014).

The research data was obtained through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation studies. The interviews were conducted in a semi-structured manner to explore information about waste management governance, inter-stakeholder relations, division of responsibilities, conflicts of interest, policy implementation, and social and ecological impacts felt by the community. The focus of interview questions can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Research Interview Protocol

Interview Theme	Focus of Questions
Waste Management Governance	How are waste management policies and mechanisms in South Tangerang City implemented by the local government?
Relations and Coordination Among Actors	What forms of coordination exist between the Environmental Agency, residential area developers, private sector actors, and the community in waste management?
Distribution of Responsibilities	How are roles, authorities, and responsibilities divided among actors within the urban waste management system?
Conflicts of Interest and Implementation Barriers	What obstacles, conflicts of interest, and coordination problems arise in the implementation of waste management policies?
Power Relations in Policy-Making	Which actors have the greatest influence in the decision-making process regarding waste management, and how is this influence exercised?
Social and Ecological Impacts	How does waste management affect environmental conditions, public health, and the socio-economic life of communities surrounding Cipeucang Landfill (TPA Cipeucang)?
Responses to Waste Emergency Conditions	How did the government, private sector, and community respond to the waste emergency situation that occurred in 2025?
Governance Improvement Efforts	What strategies and recommendations are considered effective for improving the sustainability of waste management in South Tangerang City?

Source: Processed Researcher, 2026

Observations were carried out in the Cipeucang landfill area, temporary waste shelters, and several residential areas to directly observe environmental conditions, waste management activities, and social interactions of the affected communities. The documentation study was carried out by examining various policy documents, such as South Tangerang City Regional Regulation Number 3 of 2013 concerning Waste Management, reports from the Environment Agency, data from the National Waste Management Information System (SIPSN),

media news archives, regional development planning documents, and academic publications relevant to waste management issues and political ecology.

To ensure the validity of the data, this study uses source triangulation, method triangulation, and document triangulation techniques. Source triangulation is done by comparing information obtained from the government, society, and the private sector. The triangulation method was carried out through a comparison between the results of interviews, observations, and documentation studies, while document triangulation was carried out by comparing field data with policy documents, government reports, and media archives. Triangulation is an important strategy in qualitative research to improve the credibility, consistency, and reliability of research data interpretation (Malik et al., 2025).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Urban Waste Management Capacity Crisis

The problem of waste management in South Tangerang City reflects a significant imbalance between the volume of waste generated and the available management capacity. According to data from the South Tangerang Environment Agency (2025), daily waste production exceeds 1,000 tons, while the capacity of the Cipeucang Final Disposal Site (TPA) is only around 300–400 tons per day. This condition results in the accumulation of around 600–700 tons of waste every day that cannot be managed effectively. These findings show that the current waste management system is no longer able to keep up with the rate of increase in waste production.

Table 2. Waste Generation and Capacity of TPA Cipeucang in 2025

No	Waste Description	Amount
1	Daily waste generation	>1.000 tons/day
2	Household waste contribution	Waste 77%
3	Capacity of TPA Cipeucang	300-400 tons/day
4	Management status	Overcapacity

Source: South Tangerang Environmental Agency, 2025

As presented in Table 2, household waste accounts for 77% of the total waste

generated. This figure shows that people's consumption patterns are the main contributor to the increase in the volume of waste. From the perspective of sustainable environmental management theory, the dominance of household waste suggests that waste management approaches that focus only on downstream activities, such as collection and disposal, are no longer adequate. Instead, interventions should be directed at upstream strategies, including reducing waste at the source, applying the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) principles, and strengthening community participation in waste management initiatives.

Further field observations support these findings. The condition of the overcapacity of the Cipeucang Landfill has caused the accumulation of waste exceeding the designed capacity. This situation poses not only technical management challenges, but also significant environmental and social consequences. The pungent odor reported by local residents indicates the intensive decomposition of organic waste, which produces gases such as methane and hydrogen sulfide. In addition to causing discomfort, these emissions can have a negative impact on public health and reduce the quality of the environment in surrounding residential areas. Another critical problem identified during the observation was the accumulation of leachate in several areas around the landfill. Leachate contains a variety of organic compounds, heavy metals, and microorganisms that pose a serious risk to soil and groundwater quality. If not managed properly, these conditions can lead to long-term ecological degradation and increase environmental vulnerability in surrounding communities. The existence of leachate also shows the limitations of the current waste processing infrastructure in dealing with the environmental impact of excessive waste accumulation.

These findings show that the waste crisis in South Tangerang should not be seen solely as a landfill capacity issue, but rather as a broader governance challenge. The inability to effectively integrate technical management, institutional capacity, and public participation has contributed to the continued waste related problems. Therefore, future waste management policies should focus on developing more sustainable and integrated systems through waste reduction programs,

expansion of alternative waste treatment facilities, promotion of circular economy principles, and greater community involvement in waste sorting and recycling practices. These measures are critical to ensuring long-term environmental sustainability and improving the overall effectiveness of urban waste management.

2. Ecological Impacts on Communities Living Around Final Landfills

The findings of this study show that people living around the Cipeucang Final Disposal Site (TPA) experience various ecological impacts due to inadequate waste management practices. The most commonly reported impacts include air pollution caused by unpleasant odors from accumulated garbage, water pollution due to leachate runoff into residential drainage systems, health problems, and decreased overall environmental comfort. These findings suggest that waste management issues go beyond technical issues related to collection and disposal, which directly affect the quality of life of the population living in the surrounding areas.

Based on interviews with locals, respondents reported that the unpleasant smell became very strong at night and during the rainy season. In addition, runoff from garbage piles often enters environmental drainage channels, raising concerns for environmental quality and public health. These findings suggest that the condition of landfills that exceed capacity has contributed significantly to the increased risk of environmental pollution. According to the concept of environmental carrying capacity, when the volume of waste produced exceeds the capacity of the existing management system, the negative impact on the ecosystem and human society becomes increasingly difficult to prevent.

The study also revealed that local residents have limited opportunities to participate in decision-making processes related to waste management policies. Most community members reported that they were only notified after the policy was established, with minimal involvement during the planning or evaluation stages. This situation reflects the dominant top-down approach in waste management and demonstrates the implementation of limited public participation, which is recognized as a

key principle of good environmental governance. Greater community engagement is critical to ensuring that waste management policies adequately respond to the needs, concerns, and experiences of those most directly impacted by environmental impacts.

In addition, these findings highlight the uneven distribution of environmental risks. Communities living near landfills bear the disproportionate burden of air pollution, water contamination, and environmental degradation compared to other urban populations. From the perspective of political ecology, this condition can be understood as a form of ecological injustice, as explained by (Schlosberg, 2007), in which certain social groups are exposed to greater environmental burdens due to development policies and unequal allocation of resources. Therefore, improving waste management should not only focus on increasing the technical capacity of landfill facilities. It should also involve strengthening community participation, improving environmental governance, and implementing environmental justice principles to ensure that affected communities are no longer disproportionately exposed to ecological risks.

3. Dominance of Conventional Waste Collection and Disposal Practices

The findings show that the waste management system in South Tangerang City is still dominated by the "collect-transport-dispose of" approach, which focuses on the collection, transportation, and disposal of waste at the final disposal site (TPA). These findings suggest that the orientation of waste management policy is still centered on addressing the impacts that arise after waste is generated, rather than emphasizing the prevention and reduction of waste at the source. A statement from an official from the Environment Agency (DLH), who identified waste transportation as a top priority, showed that the success of waste management is still largely measured by the government's ability to maintain the cleanliness of public spaces through regular waste collection and transportation. As a result, waste reduction strategies, separation at source, and resource recovery have not been a top priority in local waste management.

From the perspective of Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM)

proposed by (Wilson et al., 2006), sustainable waste management goes beyond the technical and operational aspects to include waste reduction at source, recycling, community participation, and institutional strengthening. The findings of this study reveal that many of these components have not been implemented effectively in South Tangerang. The high reliance on landfills (landfills) as the ultimate goal of waste management reflects the continued dominance of the linear economic paradigm, where production and consumption patterns ultimately lead to disposal, rather than recovery and reuse of resources.

Field observations further strengthen this condition by revealing the uneven distribution of 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) facilities and the low level of household waste sorting practices. Most residents still dispose of organic and inorganic waste at the same time, reducing the chances of waste treatment and recycling. According to the circular economy framework put forward by (Kirchherr et al., 2017), waste should be considered a valuable resource that can be reintegrated into the production cycle. However, disposal-oriented management practices hinder the full utilization and recovery of the economic value of waste. Therefore, the continued "collect-transport-discard" approach shows that the main challenge of waste management in South Tangerang lies not only in the limitation of infrastructure, but also in the absence of a fundamental policy paradigm shift. Waste governance remains focused on disposal rather than on waste reduction, resource recovery, and environmental sustainability. Without such a transformation, increasing the capacity of landfills will only provide a temporary solution and will not be enough to address the root of urban waste in a sustainable manner.

4. Government-Private Sector Relations in Waste Management and Community Response to Sanctions Policies

The findings of this study show that the private sector plays an increasingly significant role in urban waste management in South Tangerang City, especially in providing waste collection and transportation services in residential and commercial areas. The involvement of private actors essentially reflects the efforts of local governments to overcome limited waste management capacity through partnership schemes. From a

collaborative governance perspective, the participation of non-governmental actors is considered a strategy to improve the effectiveness of public service delivery because resources, technology, and management capacity are not entirely dependent on government agencies (Ansell & Gash, 2008). However, the findings suggest that the benefits of private sector involvement are not evenly distributed across urban areas. Residential areas with higher economic capacity tend to receive more regular and better quality waste collection services than densely populated areas. This condition shows that access to environmental services is determined not only by the needs of the community, but also by the economic capacity of the population to pay for the additional services provided by private companies. As a result, waste management mechanisms involving private actors can create differentiation of services based on socio-economic status. From an environmental justice perspective, this situation reflects an unequal distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, where communities with greater economic resources enjoy better environmental services than low-income groups (Schlosberg, 2007).

The study also found that local governments have begun implementing sanctions policies against individuals who dispose of waste improperly in an effort to increase environmental awareness and public discipline. Normatively, this policy is in line with the regulatory approach that aims to influence behavior through legal instruments and sanctions. However, many members of the public question the effectiveness of the sanctions because they are not accompanied by adequate waste management infrastructure, such as waste sorting facilities, 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) posts, and equitable waste collection services. This situation shows that behavior change cannot be achieved through coercive measures alone, but also requires the provision of facilities and systems that allow citizens to implement expected environmental practices.

From the point of view of Edwards (1980) policy implementation theory, these conditions indicate the existence of challenges related to resources and bureaucratic structures. Although regulations have been established, their implementation has not been adequately supported by adequate

infrastructure, funding, and institutional coordination. As a result, a gap emerges between policy objectives and their implementation in practice. These findings suggest that the success of waste management policies depends not only on the quality of regulations, but also on the institutional capacity to provide the necessary resources for effective implementation.

On the other hand, the South Tangerang City Government has begun to implement a policy of sanctions against people who litter. The policy is intended to improve community discipline in maintaining environmental cleanliness. However, a number of communities and environmental communities consider that the policy has not been fully effective because the provision of adequate waste management facilities has not been followed. One environmental community activist explained:

The community is asked to be disciplined, but the sorting facilities and 3R polling stations are still limited. So there is an impression that more responsibility is imposed on the community." (Interview with DF, February 2026).

The statement shows that there is public criticism of the policy approach that is considered to emphasize sanctions more than the development of a comprehensive environmental management system.

In addition, sanctions policies reflect a shift in responsibilities, where responsibility for environmental management is gradually shifted from the state to individual citizens. The government encourages citizens to be disciplined in disposing and sorting waste, but at the same time fails to provide an adequate waste management system. In these conditions, the community is at risk of being blamed for environmental problems which are also affected by weaknesses in governance and public infrastructure. Therefore, sustainable waste management requires a balanced sharing of responsibilities between citizens, government agencies, and private sector actors to create a more equitable, inclusive, and effective environmental service system.

The main contribution of this research lies in the effort to integrate political ecology and public policy perspectives in understanding urban waste management issues in Indonesia. Most previous research has

focused more on the technical aspects of waste management, while this study shows that the waste crisis is closely related to power relations, development orientation, and distribution of ecological injustices in urban communities. The findings of this study are relevant to various studies on urban environmental crises in developing countries that show that rapid urbanization without strengthening environmental governance will result in ecological inequality and social vulnerability among urban communities. Thus, the case of South Tangerang is not only relevant in Indonesia's local context, but also contributes to the global discourse on urban environmental governance, ecological justice, and the sustainability of metropolitan development in developing countries.

However, this study has limitations, especially in the scope of the research location which focuses on the Cipeucang landfill area and several residential areas in South Tangerang. In addition, this study prioritizes a qualitative approach so that it has not quantitatively measured the economic and health impact of the urban waste crisis. Therefore, further research can develop a mixed methods approach to produce a more comprehensive analysis of the socio-ecological impacts of urban waste management in Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the waste management crisis in South Tangerang City cannot be understood solely as a technical problem of waste transportation and disposal, but rather as a structural problem formed from the interaction between the state, society, and the private sector in urban environmental governance. The increase in waste production that is not proportional to the management capacity shows that urban development is taking place faster than strengthening environmental infrastructure and institutions. As a result, the people living around the Cipeucang Landfill are the groups that bear the most ecological impacts in the form of environmental pollution, declining quality of life, and limited space for participation in the policy-making process.

The findings of the study show that the waste management system in South Tangerang is still dominated by a "collect-transport-dispose of" approach and has not been able to

develop a waste reduction system based on a circular economy. Private sector involvement also results in differentiation of environmental services that are more beneficial to high-purchasing power areas than densely populated areas and communities around landfills. These conditions show the existence of spatial injustice and an uneven distribution of ecological burdens. In (Schlosberg, 2007) perspective, communities with weaker social and economic positions tend to accept greater environmental risks than the development benefits obtained.

This study also confirms the relevance of (Beck, 2009) theory of risk individualization. The policy of sanctions and fines against people who litter carelessly shows a tendency to transfer responsibility from the state to individuals. The community is required to be disciplined and responsible for waste management, while supporting facilities such as TPS 3R, waste sorting systems, and equitable management services are still limited. In Foucault (1977) perspective, the policy functions not only as an administrative instrument, but also as a mechanism of discipline and social control that regulates the behavior of citizens without the fulfillment of adequate structural capacity.

Theoretically, this study shows how the concept of urban capitalism proposed by (Harvey, 2019) and ecological injustice described by (Schlosberg, 2007) are interrelated in the context of South Tangerang. The growth of residential areas, business centers, and economic activities results in economic benefits that are concentrated in certain groups, while ecological impacts in the form of pollution and environmental degradation are borne more by the communities around the landfill. Thus, South Tangerang can be understood as a microcosm of urban challenges in the Global South region, where rapid urbanization is often not balanced by fair and sustainable environmental governance.

Based on the findings of the research, some of the policy recommendations that the South Tangerang City Government can consider are: (1) requiring every developer of residential and commercial areas to build and fund 3R TPS facilities and area-based waste management systems; (2) develop participatory waste audits involving affected communities, especially residents around the

Cipeucang Landfill, in the process of monitoring and evaluating policies; (3) expanding economic incentives for households, waste banks, and communities that successfully implement the 3R principles and circular economy; and (4) strengthening collaborative governance through multi-stakeholder forums involving the government, the private sector, academics, environmental communities, and affected communities in the formulation of waste management policies. Thus, the transformation of waste governance is not only oriented towards increasing technical capacity, but also on creating a more democratic, participatory, and ecologically equitable system.

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