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REGULATORY CHALLENGES IN RURAL WASTE MANAGEMENT: BETWEEN POLICY AND COMMUNITY COMPLIANCE (Case Study in Wanasaba Lor Village)

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Abstract.

Background. The waste management issue in Wanasaba Lor Village reflects the low level of community compliance with environmental policies set by the village government.

Method. The provision of waste transportation facilities has not received optimal support from residents, who prefer to burn their waste, resulting in air pollution and contradicting applicable environmental regulations. This study employs a normative juridical method with a statutory and conceptual approach to analyze the effectiveness of waste management regulations and the implementation of good governance principles in village-level environmental policies.

Result. The study results indicate that several factors, including waste fee burdens, lack of environmental awareness, and minimal supervision and law enforcement cause low community compliance. To address this issue, more effective legal strategies are needed, such as the formulation of Village Regulations (Perdes) prohibiting waste burning, strengthening legal culture-based education and outreach, and implementing incentive and disincentive systems to encourage community compliance.

Implementation. The implementation of these strategies has been proven successful in other regions, such as Sidokerto Village, Raksasari Village, and Yogyakarta City, which have enforced strict regulations, environmental education, and incentive schemes in waste management. By adopting these measures, it is hoped that Wanasaba Lor Village can enhance waste management effectiveness and encourage greater community responsibility for environmental sustainability. The good governance principles, which emphasize participation, transparency, and accountability in public policy, are the key to establishing a sustainable waste management system.

Key Words: Waste Management, Good Governance, Community Compliance, Environmental Law, Village Regulations.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental issues resulting from suboptimal waste management remain a challenge in various regions, including Wanasaba Lor Village. The village government has made efforts to provide waste transportation facilities as a solution to better manage domestic waste. However, these efforts have not received full support from the community. Many residents refuse to use these services, citing objections to paying waste collection fees. Consequently, the majority of the community opts for a more practical method—burning their waste in the vicinity of their homes.¹

The practice of waste burning in Wanasaba Lor Village has a negative environmental impact, particularly in terms of air pollution. The smoke produced from burning waste contains hazardous substances such as carbon monoxide, dioxins, and furans, which can harm human health and degrade air quality (Siti

¹ Interview with Dali, Village Planner, February 12, 2025

Hernina et al., 2024). This practice contradicts environmental law principles, which prioritize pollution prevention as a means of protecting ecosystems and public health (Asdar, 2016).

From a legal perspective, indiscriminate waste burning constitutes a violation of Law Number 18 of 2008 on Waste Management (Efni & Susi, 2021), which explicitly prohibits the burning of waste that does not comply with technical waste management requirements. Additionally, Article 98 of Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management stipulates sanctions for individuals responsible for environmental pollution or degradation. However, weak law enforcement and low public awareness have resulted in the continued occurrence of these violations.

The community's non-compliance with waste management policies also highlights issues in the implementation of environmental policies at the village level. The lack of public awareness campaigns regarding the dangers of waste burning and the absence of strict sanctions imposed by village authorities have contributed to the persistence of this practice (Hasibuan, 2021). Additionally, economic factors play a role in the low participation rate of residents in the fee-based waste management program, as not all households possess the financial capacity to contribute.

In the context of law and public policy, a more effective approach is needed to encourage public compliance with waste management regulations. Legal instruments should not only be repressive through the imposition of sanctions but also preventive, by increasing legal education and providing incentives for community participation (Yusmiati et al., 2023). Furthermore, strengthening the role of village authorities in enforcing regulations and fostering legal awareness among the public is a key factor in addressing this issue.

A study on legal challenges in waste management in Wanasaba Lor Village is crucial to understanding the root causes of low compliance with existing policies. By analyzing the relevant legal aspects, this research aims to identify barriers to the implementation of environmental regulations and propose legal solutions that can be applied to establish a more effective and sustainable waste management system.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs the normative juridical method (Fahmi, 2011), a legal research method that focuses on examining statutory regulations, legal doctrines, and legal principles related to waste management and environmental pollution. This method aims to identify and analyze the legal framework governing waste management in Indonesia and assess the implementation of these regulations in addressing environmental issues in Wanasaba Lor Village.

The approaches used in this study include the statutory approach and the conceptual approach. The statutory approach involves analyzing various regulations related to waste management and environmental pollution, such as Law Number 18 of 2008 on Waste Management and Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management. Meanwhile, the conceptual approach is utilized to examine various environmental law concepts and waste management policies as proposed by legal scholars (Elly et al., 2022).

RESEARCH RESULTS

Wanasaba Lor Village is located in Talun Subdistrict, Cirebon Regency, West Java. Based on demographic data, the total population of the village is as follows:

Table 1.
Population of Wanasaba Lor Village by Gender (2025)

No	Population by Gender	Total Population (Persons)
1	Male	2.312
2	Female	2.146
	Total	4.458

Source: Wanasaba Lor Village Population Data, 2025

As an autonomous government entity, Wanasaba Lor Village has the responsibility to implement social institutions, public health programs, and environmental sanitation. Accordingly, the village government has provided waste management infrastructure and facilities, as detailed below:²

² Interview with Dali, Village Planner, February 13, 2025

Table 2.
Waste Management Facilities in Wanasaba Lor Village (2025)

No	Type of Waste Management Facility	Quantity (Units)
1	Waste transport vehicle (Viar)	1
2	Waste transport cart	1
3	Temporary waste storage (TPS)	1

Waste management in Indonesia is regulated by various statutory provisions, primarily Law Number 18 of 2008 on Waste Management and Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management. Law Number 18 of 2008 stipulates that waste management must be conducted based on shared responsibility, integration, and sustainability. Local governments are obligated to provide waste management facilities and services (Tamrin & Saliro, 2020), while the public is responsible for proper waste disposal and payment of waste service fees (Surahma & Sulistyawati, 2014).

Meanwhile, Law Number 32 of 2009 explicitly prohibits environmental pollution, including waste burning, which releases hazardous emissions that pose risks to public health and the environment (Niken, 2022). Article 69(1) (e) of this law expressly bans waste dumping and burning that does not comply with technical environmental management standards (Richard, 2015). However, despite the clarity of these regulations, challenges persist at the village level, particularly concerning community compliance and law enforcement effectiveness.

Based on observations and interviews with village officials and residents, it was found that the village government has provided waste transport services as part of its domestic waste management efforts. However, community participation in utilizing these services remains significantly low. Many residents prefer burning their waste instead of using the available waste transportation facilities.

Several key factors contribute to low community compliance with waste management policies in Wanasaba Lor Village, including:

1. Financial Burden of Waste Service Fees

Many residents refuse to pay waste collection fees, perceiving them as an additional economic burden. They find it cheaper and more convenient to burn their waste rather than pay for waste transport services.

2. Lack of Environmental Awareness

Many residents lack awareness of the detrimental health and environmental effects of waste burning. They are unaware that burning waste releases toxic pollutants such as dioxins and furans, which pose serious health hazards.

3. Weak Supervision and Law Enforcement

The absence of strict sanctions for individuals who burn waste has allowed the practice to persist unchecked. Village authorities tend to prioritize persuasive approaches rather than strict legal enforcement.

To address these issues, several legal and policy solutions can be implemented:

1. Stronger Law Enforcement

The village government can enact a Village Regulation (Perdes) that explicitly prohibits waste burning and mandates community compliance with waste service fees. Under the Paternalistic Legal Theory, strict legal enforcement is necessary to prevent harmful community behavior that damages the environment.

2. Legal Culture-Based Education and Public Awareness Campaigns

In line with the Legal Socialization Theory (Shahril et al., 2023), improving public legal awareness will lead to higher compliance with environmental regulations. Therefore, the village government must actively promote education on the negative effects of waste burning and the importance of public participation in waste management systems.

Implementation of Incentives and Disincentives

3. According to Law and Economics Theory (Pramudya, 2013), economic incentives and penalties can improve legal compliance. The village government could:

- Offer fee reductions for residents who consistently comply with waste management policies.
- Impose fines on those who continue to burn waste.

Several villages in Indonesia have successfully implemented these strategies. Sidokerto Village, Karangjati Subdistrict, Ngawi Regency, enacted a

Village Regulation (Perdes) to prohibit illegal waste disposal, aiming to prevent flooding and disease outbreaks. Raksasari Village, Taraju Subdistrict, Tasikmalaya Regency, has adopted strict environmental regulations and public education programs to foster greater community responsibility for waste management (Admin, 2024).

Additionally, the Yogyakarta City Government introduced incentive-based waste management programs, regulated under Regional Regulation Number 1 of 2022, providing financial incentives for self-managed waste processing initiatives while imposing sanctions on non-compliant individuals (Eka, 2022).

By adopting these legal and policy measures, Wanasaba Lor Village is expected to increase community participation in waste management, reduce environmental damage caused by waste burning, and promote environmental responsibility and compliance with waste management regulations. The integration of legal frameworks with effective governance strategies will be crucial in ensuring the sustainability of waste management practices in the village.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that the waste management issues in Wanasaba Lor Village stem from the low community participation in utilizing the waste management facilities provided by the village government. The primary factors contributing to this lack of compliance include the financial burden of waste service fees, low environmental awareness, and weak supervision and law enforcement. The continued practice of waste burning by residents has led to negative environmental impacts, particularly air pollution, which poses health risks to the community.

From a legal perspective, such practices violate Law Number 18 of 2008 on Waste Management and Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, which explicitly prohibit illegal waste disposal and burning. However, weak legal enforcement and oversight at the village level have hindered the effective implementation of these regulations.

To address these challenges, more effective legal strategies are required, including stricter law enforcement through the formulation of a Village Regulation

(Perdes) prohibiting waste burning, legal culture-based education and public awareness campaigns to enhance community knowledge, and the implementation of incentive and disincentive systems to encourage public participation in waste management programs. These strategies have been successfully implemented in various regions in Indonesia, such as Sidokerto Village, Rakasari Village, and Yogyakarta City, which have adopted strict waste management regulations, continuous environmental education, and incentive schemes to enhance community participation.

By adopting these measures, Wanasaba Lor Village is expected to enhance waste management efficiency and encourage greater community responsibility for environmental sustainability. Furthermore, collaboration between the village government, the community, and relevant stakeholders is a key factor in establishing a sustainable waste management system that aligns with the principles of good governance.

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