



# Article Dynamic Modeling for Life Cycle Cost Analysis of BIM-Based Construction Waste Management

Milad Zoghi<sup>1</sup> and Sungjin Kim<sup>2,\*</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, K.N. Toosi University of Technology, Tehran 1417466191, Iran; miladzoghi@aut.ac.ir
- <sup>2</sup> Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, University of Alabama, 401 7th Ave. 264 Hardaway Hall, Box 807025, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, USA
- \* Correspondence: sungjin.kim@eng.ua.edu; Tel.: +1-205-348-0369

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**Abstract:** Recent studies in construction waste and management (CWM) have mainly investigated the waste management chain from a static perspective and failed to take into account the dynamic nature of parameters and their correlation. In addition, the current studies of building information modeling (BIM)-based CWM failed to analyze the cost–benefits due to the lack of numerical economic benchmarks. To address the gap, this study developed a system dynamic (SD) model to analyze the economic aspects of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from using BIM. Causal loop and stock-flow diagrams are modeled based on the determined variables and their interrelationships. Standard sensitivity tests were then performed to establish the validity of the model under real system conditions. Different scenarios were applied to simulate and compare the model results in response to various policies. A case study was conducted to quantify the costs and the profits. Based on the comparison with the conventional approach and BIM-based method, BIM can reduce CWM cost by up to 57%. The findings also indicated that higher landfill charges will not be able to motivate managers to use sustainable CWM; conversely, increasing the modularity of design and earlier realization of net benefits will incentivize project managers to employ BIM-based CWM.

**Keywords:** building information modeling; system dynamic; life cycle cost; construction waste management; sustainable waste management

# 1. Introduction

The construction industry is one of the major sources of environmental pollution and energy use in the world. One of the most destructive factors contributing to the adverse repercussions of construction activities is construction and demolition (C&D) waste produced in different stages of a construction project [1]. Overwhelming amounts of greenhouse gases produced, energy consumed, land occupied, soil and water contaminated, and raw minerals used result in massive waste generation, imposing economic, social, and environmental problems in developed and underdeveloped countries [2,3]. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), approximately 569 million tons of C&D debris were generated in 2017, the majority from concrete waste and asphalt (69.7% and 15%, respectively) [4]. Generally, building-related construction debris includes steel, drywall, plaster, clay tile and brick, wood products, asphalt shingles, and concrete, all of which are excluded from municipal solid waste.

Such a large percentage of waste disposal indicates that waste that could have been recycled or reused is being dumped without proper treatment. This imposes a huge pressure on stakeholders and project managers to progress toward the mission of sustainability [5]. Effective construction waste management (CWM) would offer numerous benefits, including reducing landfill cost, decreasing

greenhouse gas emissions, lowering the amount of virgin materials extracted, and conserving land and water [6]. The benefits of proper CWM are not limited to environmental issues. They are also useful in economic and social terms. Pillars of sustainability have been assessed through various sustainable tools and frameworks in past research. For example, the management of C&D waste in the United States in 2017 not only contributed approximately \$14 billion to government coffers, but also provided more than 13,000 job opportunities [4]. In this regard, analyzing the cost–benefit of C&D waste management can motivate project managers to follow sustainable approaches. Additionally, a grievous problem in developed and developing countries alike, construction waste has attracted a great deal of attention among researchers [7].

In the last decade, building information modeling (BIM) has been used to optimize various features of C&D activities [8]. BIM equips owners with visual tools and detailed information about selected activities and materials. Thus, analyzing project life cycle costs of projects on the BIM platform increases the accuracy and consistency of the results. Yuan and Shen quantified the cost-benefit of using BIM in CWM, where all material prices, recycling and deconstructing costs, and profits from selling salvage materials could be examined [9]. In this study, the implementation of state-of-the-art measurements and practices depended heavily on quantified measurements and estimations that could be referenced as benchmarks for decision-making in the construction industry [9]. The current state of knowledge has made substantial contributions to exploring theoretical aspects of using BIM in construction waste minimization. However, CWM is considered as a complicated system that includes various and dynamic activities, such as recycling, reusing, sorting, and transporting, and these processes require dynamic considerations of all effective variables and their interrelationships [10]. For instance, the potential for recyclability and reusability at the end of a building's life is significantly influenced by the sustainable materials selected during the design stage and the amount of maintenance at the operation stage [11,12].

Although much research has been conducted in the BIM-enabled CWM areas, there are still some major issues awaiting further examination. The first is lack of consideration of the dynamic nature in using BIM for CWM, which leads to overlooking the existing potentials at different stages of a building's life; the second is the lack of decent tools for making decisions on the different dynamic dimensions of BIM applications; and finally, the third point is a need for a quantitative assessment of BIM's capabilities in reducing CWM costs, which helps stakeholders and managers to estimate and measure the true size of the CWM costs and benefits. Given these research gaps, the primary aim of this study is to propose a system dynamic (SD) model to evaluate the cost-benefits of BIM-based CWM, because the SD approach originated by Forrester can assess dynamic problems characterized by interdependence, information feedback, circular causality, and mutual interaction [13]. By using the SD method, the main contributions of this study are the development of an SD model depicting the dynamic nature of BIM-integrated CWM and the interrelations between the causes and effects in the system environment and analyzing the cost-benefit of BIM-based CWM under the various scenarios. To validate the model, the case study was conducted, and the results were compared with the traditional CWM (non-BIM-integrated). This presented study can contribute to documenting a numerical benchmark for the stakeholders to use the BIM in the CWM in more sustainable manner.

## 2. Literature Review

In light of the increasing rate of waste generation (RWG) and its impact, numerous studies have been conducted on waste reduction potentials at different stages of a building's life cycle, including design, construction, maintenance, and demolition. Vivian et al. [14] listed the main reasons for material waste in the construction processes. Damage occurring during transportation, such as cracked stone or settled concrete, storage of excessive amount of materials, lack of precision in measuring elements like rebar, use of non-recyclable items, inconsistency in design drawings, and a lack of cooperation between contractors and managers have all been highlighted as primary reasons for generating waste. For instance, approximately 1.5% of the total mixed concrete materials settled due to long transportation times [14]. Researchers have argued that non-standard designs [15], inappropriate handling of materials [16], and unexpected change of order requests could raise the quantity of C&D waste by as much as 33% [17]. The low potential for successful disassembly and recyclability in the final phase of a building's life does not motivate project managers and stakeholders to invest in sustainable CWM procedures. Many strategies and copious technology have been proposed to alleviate these problems, as addressed below.

## 2.1. BIM in CWM

BIM is a tool of data communication and spatial analysis for integrating data acquisition, exchange, and visualization during the construction project life cycle [18]. The BIM platform assists managers and engineers by enhancing the quality of design and construction activities. The main features include synching all information in a unique model and simplifying data capture and visualization of the model [19]. Researchers have shown that BIM-based design validation reduces errors and the need for rework by allowing for design review and clash detection, reducing waste generation by up to 15% [20]. Rajendran and Gomez found that zero waste goals could be achieved through BIM implementation in the construction project [21]. Analyzing the main causes of waste generation, Ahankoob et al. investigated the potential functionality of BIM in reexamining design performance in order to reduce errors, rework, and awkward clashes [22].

During the building maintenance and operation phase, BIM capabilities support residents and stakeholders by allowing them to share required technical information on facilities and equipment, making time-based maintenance more effective [23]. Ngwepe and Aigbavboa claimed that a significant volume of spare parts was wasted by repairing or servicing constructed facilities (e.g., fixtures, lighting, and heating and cooling systems) [24]. Products were also being consumed through refurbishment processes like cleaning and decorating. All of these factors could be avoided through preventive maintenance [25]. Despite the fact that most waste is generated at the end of a building's lifespan, setting a benchmark that encompasses the whole building's life cycle is necessary [26]. Guy and Ciarimboli highlighted the concept of design for deconstruction (DfD) in BIM studies [27]. DfD refers to the rules to be followed at the design stage in order to facilitate the separability of the elements at the end of the building's life cycle. Key DfD principals are mentioned in Table 1.

Principle	Reference
Avoiding toxic materials	Macozoma [28]
Using high-durability materials	Tingley and Davison [29]
Using the minimum number of connections	Fishbein [30]
Retaining building information	Macozoma [28]
Using reusable and recyclable materials	Macozoma [28]
Using bolts in joints instead of welding	Chini and Balachandran [31]
Using prefabricated materials	Jaillon et al. [15]
Avoiding nails and adhesives	Jaillon et al. [15]

Table 1. Design for deconstruction (DfD) principles relevant to waste generation rate.

Despite its importance, only a few studies have provided quantitative assessments of BIM use in CWM. In a case-study, Wong et al. used BIM to measure the amount of waste produced without detecting clashes [6]. This study proved that clash detection could reduce construction waste from 4.3% to 15.2%. Jalaei et al. developed an add-on to the BIM that quantifies the amount of waste prevented by different BIM potentials and the resulting environmental impacts [8] in that the proposed framework showed that BIM could reduce the energy consumed and  $CO_2$  emitted by about 66.1 MJ and 62.2%, respectively. However, the abovementioned strategies have not been adopted in practice as widely as was anticipated. The main explanation for this is a lack of economic incentives that inhibit project managers from becoming involved in sustainable CWM activities. The profitability of CWM depends on landfill and sorting cost, as well as the selling price of reusable and recyclable materials, which is based on their quality and the level of maintenance [32]. Uncertainty of the benefits from CWM is a byproduct of the dynamic nature inevitable in long-term construction projects [10].

#### 2.2. SD Approach in CWM

Current research evaluating the role of BIM in CWM has solely focused on optimizing and enhancing the quality of various construction activities without considering the dynamic aspects of certain variables on an industrial scale. SD has been used to investigate the behavior of complex systems and their underlying structures over time. This approach has been widely used in various areas of the construction industry to help predicting the impacts and making confident policy and strategy choices. For example, Kim et al. developed an SD model to predict how the skilled labor shortage has an impact on construction project management [33].

Many studies have applied an SD approach to investigate the CWM. Yuan et al. assessed the cost–benefits of conventional CWM using SD [10]. Landfill charges, public dissatisfaction, and illegal dumping were employed as the main variables in order to assess the social performance of generated waste [1]. Wang et al. outlined the benefits of using an SD approach in the selection of sustainable materials during the design stage [11]. Kollikkathara et al. proposed a dynamic model of the cost–benefits of municipal waste management based on remaining landfill capacity [34]. Although a wide variety of research has been conducted by using the SD model to estimate multifaceted aspects of generated waste, no studies have encompassed the dynamic impacts of waste minimization and management within a building's life cycle through sustainable design. In addition, no research has dealt with the dynamic aspect of using BIM on an industrial scale; rather, all studies have focused on qualitative assessments of individual buildings.

The simulation-based method is very popular and suitable for describing the dynamic nature of microeconomic phenomena and is able to represent the mechanism of interrelationships between variables and the effects as an objective method [35,36]. On this CWM-related topic, an SD approach was utilized in multifarious research within the broad discipline of CWM, such as in estimating the amount of municipal solid waste [37], tracking and controlling hospital waste [38], and analyzing cost–benefits of CWM [10]. Therefore, in this study, an SD model was proposed to comprehensively assess BIM proficiencies and consider fluctuations in all variables as well as their interrelationships over time. Based on the developed SD model, this present research analyzed in numerical terms the possible decreases in waste management cost that are achievable through BIM-based CWM. To develop the SD model, Vensim software was used in this study because it is user-friendly and very powerful with regards to the mathematical programming equations that govern relationships [11].

#### 3. System Dynamic Model Development

This paper developed an SD model to simulate the CWM procedure and investigate its complexity by running the simulation model. In this model, CWM can be simulated via the following four iterative steps: (1) model description (identification of variables); (2) development of a casual loop diagram; (3) development of a stock-flow diagram; and (4) model test and validation [39]. To identify the variables, a comprehensive literature review was conducted. After identifying all effective variables (see Table 2), a causal loop diagram was developed as a conceptual model to simplify the complexity of the system and explicate the interrelationships among different variables interacting in various feedback loops. Usually it is better to derive a stock-flow diagram from a causal loop diagram; otherwise, the complexity of the system can cause deviation in the research procedure. A stock-flow must be simulated to dynamically calculate the mathematical equations. A pilot test should be conducted to ensure the reliability and rationality of the model [39]. Finally, the complete model can be operated with a base scenario and three subordinate scenarios to show the dynamic behavior of the system under different policies. These steps should follow a cyclic process, and in some variables, formulas, or even initial values, may be revised to make the model more accurate. Eventually, this present study

could analyze the life cycle cost-benefits of a BIM-based construction waste chain and CWM process during a project life cycle.

Variable	Abbreviation	Reference
3D Building information modeling (BIM) visualization	3BVS	Elmaraghy et al. [40]
services		
Average number of clashes	ANoC	Won et al. [20]
Average number of detected clashes	ANoDC	Won et al. [20]
Cost-benefits of using BIM in construction waste management (CWM)	CBoBIM	
Cost-benefits of conventional CWM	CBoC	Yuan et al. [10]
Change order requests	COR	Jalaei et al. [12]
Data capturing potential	DCP	Elmaraghy et al. [40]
Demolition cost per unit	DmCu	
Deconstruction cost per unit	DuCu	
Economic incentive to implement BIM	EItIB	Yuan et al. [10]
Incentive to deconstruct elements	ItDE	Jalaei et al. [12]
Incentive to dump illegally	ItDI	Yuan [1]
Incentive to sort waste	ItSW	Yuan et al. [10]
Level of detail	LOD	Cheng and Ma [41]
Landfill charge per unit	Lu	
Maintenance cost	MC	Jalaei et al. [12]
Maintenance cost per unit	MCu	Junior et un [12]
Maintenance level	ML	Arditi and Nawakorawit [42]
Maintenance quality	MQ	Arditi and Nawakorawit [42]
Need to strengthen regulations	NSR	Yuan [1]
Percent of illegal dumping	pID	
Purchase order accuracy	POA	Elmaraghy et al. [40]
Possibility of detecting clashes	PoDC	Elinaragity et al. [40]
Possibility of introducing unnecessary changes	PoIUC	Jalaei et al. [12]
Percent of modular buildings elements	PoMBE	
Potential to reduce overall materials use through design	TOWIDE	
optimization	PoROM	Jalaei et al. [12]
Percent of materials to recycle	pRecycle	
Percent of materials to reuse	pReuse	
Price for selling reused materials per unit	PSRu	
Price for selling recycled materials per unit	PSRyu	
Reuse cost	RC	Yuan et al. [10]
	RCu	
Recycling cost per unit Rate of volume reduction by building design optimization	RVRbBDO	
	RWGFCSA	
Rate of waste generation from construction site activities	RWGrC5A	
Rate of waste generation to rate of clashing elements		
Rate of Waste generation to change order requests	RWGtCOR RWGtLOO	
Rate of waste generation through loss and over-ordering		Verse stal [10]
Recycling cost	RyC	Yuan et al. [10]
Sorting cost per unit	SCu	
Knowledge needs for design of deconstruction	SNiDfD	Jalaei et al. [12]
Time needed for stakeholders to accept the risk of investment	TNSARI	Miles and Wilson [43]
Weight of design optimization	wDO	
Waste generation from construction process	WGC	Jalaei et al. [12]
Waste generation from deconstruction at the end of	WGDc	Jalaei et al. [12]
building life Waste generation dumped to landfill at the end of building life	WGDm	Yuan et al. [10]
Waste generation from maintenance process	WGM	Jalaei et al. [12]
Waste reduction potential in construction	WRPiC	Jalaei et al. [12]

 Table 2. System dynamic (SD) model variables and abbreviations.

The BIM can be employed to improve the quality, accuracy, and efficiency of construction processes by optimizing the design, choosing the appropriate materials, increasing collaboration between stakeholders, providing well services, and facilitating chronological deconstruction, ultimately reducing the RWG [8]. Each of these enhancements to current construction activities can act as a chain of prerequisites for the others to occur. For example, increasing the potential of reusability necessitates good maintenance throughout the occupation period. To facilitate an understanding of the complexity and instability of these interrelationships, imperative variables influencing construction waste reduction through using BIM were identified based on the extensive literature review (see Table 2). Economic incentive to implement BIM (EItIB) indicated the willingness of the stakeholders to employ BIM to manage CWM more effectively and sustainably [40]. The economic incentives of stakeholders could be raised with the profits occurred by selling reusable materials and reducing costs [10]. Incentives to dump illegally (ItDI) is the behavior of dumping waste in appropriate places to flout the environmental law [1]. Incentive to deconstruct elements (ItDE) is considered as the desire of stakeholders to adapt the deconstruction policy [11]. This can be affected by the potential of existing building materials' recyclability. Rate of waste generation (RWG-) encompasses various causes of waste generation during buildings' life cycles, such as clashing elements, changing orders, non-optimized design, and cast-in-place construction. This rate can be decreased by achieving improved quality of design, construction, and maintenance by implementing BIM [12]. Cost-benefits of using BIM (CBoBIM) refer to the sum of all costs and profits, such as waste collection cost, sorting cost, surface preparation cost, and finally, profits of selling salvages and materials [10]. Additionally, cost-benefits of using conventional methods (CBoC) refers to the sum of all costs associated with a dumping waste during buildings' life cycles [10].

## 3.2. Causal Loop Diagram

The conceptual model was developed based on the effective variables identified (see Figure 1). Although this causal loop diagram is comprised of several feedback loops with different branches, the dynamic behavior of the entire system can be summarized by three main loops.

The positive feedback loop R1 refers to economic incentives that urge stakeholders to sort C&D waste. Prioritization of sorting waste affords practitioners the opportunity to recycle and prepare waste materials for reuse in different construction areas. The surface preparation, repairing, and recycling costs can be relatively recoverable from the profits obtained by selling materials, encouraging project managers to invest BIM-based CWM to facilitate expected workflow. Thus, in this feedback loop, as greater economic profits are achieved, project managers will become more inclined to sort C&D waste.

The feedback loop R2 is the main loop comprised of several subordinate circuits with different routes that can be summarized as one unique loop. Implementing BIM can reduce the RWG that can be affected by synchronizing data between models, optimizing building design, affording 3D visualization services, and facilitating data capture at the design stage. Subsequently, synchronizing the different databases and applying all alterations will enhance collaboration between different groups of contractors and labors [44]. A lack of collaboration among multiple handlers is coupled with arbitrary changes, leading to early demolition of construction elements [45]. Thus, synchronized databases will help practitioners avoid the unpredictable change of orders. Another feature of BIM with immense influence on construction and maintenance processes is greater accessibility to comprehensive visual and numerical information [46]. This capability helps practitioners avoid the over-ordering of materials and irregular storage, both of which are causes of waste generation. Convenient access to building information allows residents and contractors to perform preventive time-based maintenance before failure occurs. Repairing and adjusting ventilation systems, pipes, doors, and windows not only increases the potential of reuse and recycling at the end of a building's life, but also avoids waste generation in the operation and maintenance. The DfD approach is recognized as the foundation of BIM-based CWM [47]. DfD is applied to enhance the flexibility of all elements, allowing them

to be salvaged instead of crushed and discarded. The use of prefabricated elements, bolted joints, and non-toxic materials can be prioritized in the design stage in order to make deconstruction more amenable [27]. All branches in feedback loop R2 ultimately concentrate on a reduction of construction waste and connecting feedback loop R2 to R1. Construction waste reduction will spur stakeholders to invest in the BIM-based CWM method.

In negative feedback loop R3, landfill charges serve as an exterior factor, motivating project managers to illegally dump C&D waste [10]. Illegal dumping exacerbates environmental impacts and provokes public dissatisfaction [10]. By increasing concern and environmental awareness, substantial pressure is imposed on local authorities to reinforce regulations and encourage project managers to control their construction waste generation and avoid illegal activities.

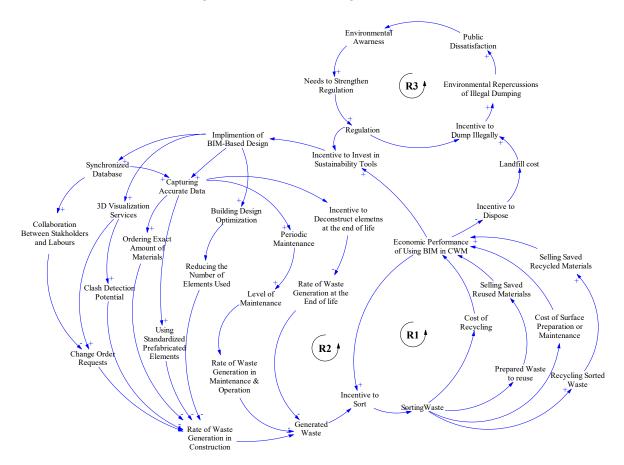


Figure 1. Causal loop diagram of life cycle cost of CWM in BIM.

## 3.3. Stock-Flow Diagram

An intelligible model of the causal loop diagram should be converted to a mathematic model. A stock-flow diagram represents a quantitative simulation of the model. Accordingly, all variables, initial values, and interrelationships must be formulated. As shown in Figure 2, a stock-flow diagram was developed in Vensim in this study.

Running the model necessitated determining logical equations between variables and adding essential details to the model, which were tabulated, as seen in Table A1 (Appendix A). It is worth mentioning that some algebraic equations and initial values were collected from the existing literature and reports published by environmental agencies, as well as predictable logical behavior [10]. Some data, such as the percentage of reuse or recycle and weight of waste generation potential waste generation were obtained from the case study project. However, initial values were intended to reflect the ratio of waste generation on an industrial scale over a long period of time.

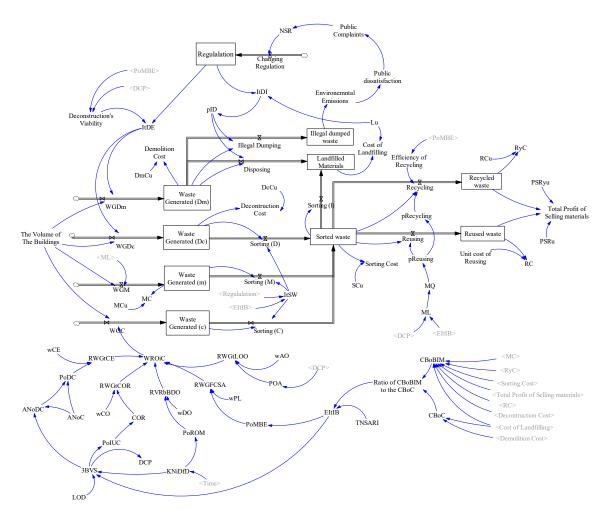
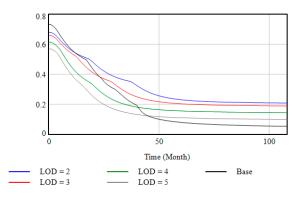


Figure 2. A stock-flow diagram of life cycle cost analysis of BIM-based CWM.

## 3.4. SD Model Pilot Test

A pilot test was conducted to test the accuracy and sensitivity of the model in this study. The sensitivity of the relationship between two primary values of the 3D model and the RWG was investigated. As illustrated in Figure 3, changing the effective variable of the 3D BIM visualization (which depends on LOD = 5, 4, 3, and 2) resulted in the corresponding value of the rate of waste reduction increasing significantly in the construction phase. Thus, the higher the power of the 3D model, the lower the likelihood of waste generation was. This finding is in complete accordance with previous research on the effects of using BIM-based CWM.



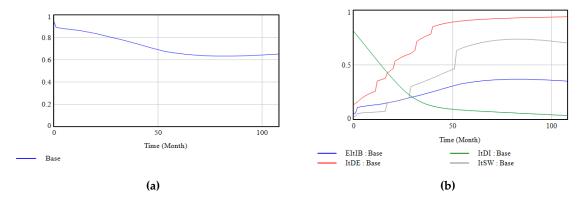
**Figure 3.** Model testing of RWG for LOD = 5, 4, 3, and 2.

## 4. Simulation Results

After all variables and the relationships among them are confirmed by testing the model, the model simulation can be processed. Due to the larger scale of the model in this study, a total of 10 years was selected for the run to show the dynamic effects of the system. In this study, the process of changing all parameters was assumed to be modified dynamically over time in a base model scenario as to illustrate the real-world fluctuations. To highlight the roles of certain parameters, three strategies were elected to serve as scenarios.

## 4.1. Running Baseline Scenario

The first LCC benefit analysis was conducted as a baseline scenario. In the model, all variables were smoothly altered in their normal state and specific policies kept out of the system. As time progresses, project managers may desire to invest in BIM-based CWM to boost the potential of the sorting process. The adoption of BIM will lead to more profitable CWM. As Figure 4a shows, employing BIM for construction projects significantly decreased waste management costs up to 70% over conventional methods after six simulated years. Analyzing the trend of alteration in variables (i.e., incentive to invest in BIM, incentive to deconstruct, incentive to sort, and incentive to engage in illegal dumping) ranged from 0 to 1 and played an essential role in this study. Because they were considered stimuli for starting the feedback loops, these parameters obtained long-term changes from other variables. As shown in Figure 4b, the values of EItIB, ItDE, and ItSW all increased after six years of BIM implementation. The most obvious increase in managers' incentives up to 75% came from the desire to use prefabricated elements. A possible explanation for these results is that sorting demolished materials in poor conditions does not motivate a project manager's investment.



**Figure 4.** Simulation results of the base scenario: (a) Ratio of BIM-based CWM cost–benefits; (b) comparison of manager incentives.

Within 10 years, the adoption of BIM led to the reduction to a near-zero level of contractors' motivations to act illegally. This reduction was largely due to regulation reinforcement and consistent monitoring, as well as the increase in potential for deconstruction to serve as an alternative sustainable strategy for waste management. As demonstrated above, it was essential that this system assess the rate of change in motivation. Thus, the three scenarios encompassed the following parameters: (1) time required for stakeholders to be persuaded to accept the investment risk, (2) amount of landfill charge cost, and (3) percentage of prefabricated materials utilized in the design phase.

#### 4.2. Scenario A: Time Taken for Accepting the Risk of Investment

As can be seen from the stock-flow diagram, the parameter EItIB depended on the two values of the ratio of the profit gained by BIM compared to that of non-BIM and the time needed for stakeholders to accept the risk of investment (TNSARI). Scenario A was simulated to show how variations in the latter influenced entire system

In the base scenario simulation, the initial TNSARI value was set to 1 month, which was then increased to 1, 2, 3, and 4 years to show inclusively the dynamic effects of critical factors. As the simulation results shown in Figure 6 indicate, increasing the time for stakeholders to make decisions imposes a significant delay on the whole system. Putting off further investment in BIM by approximately four years represented a 15% diminution in profit obtained over the baseline scenario. An increase in TNSARI value decreased the overall construction waste reduction to such an extent that after six simulated years, the percentage of waste generation was reduced by only about 40%, which was achieved in the first months of the baseline scenario (see Figure 5). Despite the fact that incurring risk is intrinsic to investment decisions, to a large extent this scenario explains the importance of research in this field in order to convince stakeholders to invest in BIM-based CWM at early design stages.

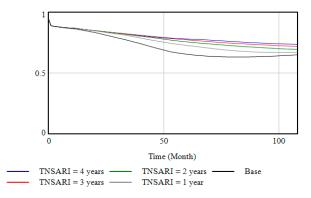
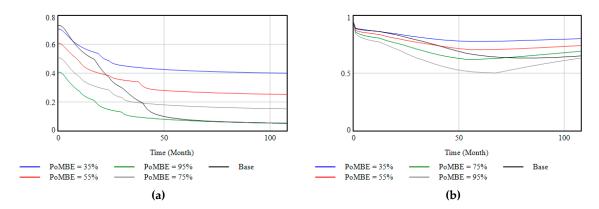


Figure 5. Simulation results of Scenario A: Ratio of CBOoBIM to CBoC under different TNSARI values.

#### 4.3. Scenario B: Percentage of Modular Building Elements

The high capital cost of adopting prefabricated elements serves as a barrier, causing it to frequently be ruled out by stakeholders. Thus, in the baseline scenario, the percentage of prefabricated elements utilized increased over time as the economic incentive was enhanced. In Scenario B, the percentage of modular elements used in construction was scaled from 0 to 100 in order to demonstrate the impact of this variable on reducing waste management cost. This value was increased to 35, 55, 75, and 95 to examine the dynamic variation of the intended parameters. As can be seen in Figure 6a, with an increase in the percentage of modular components used, waste generation dropped sharply by about 35%. The waste generation rate in the baseline scenario declined smoothly from 75% to less than 10%, showing the dynamic behavior of all variables over time. Moreover, increasing the value of PoMBE to 90% diminished the amount of CWM cost by 27% more than what was seen in the baseline at the maximum possible amount seen in the sixth year (see Figure 6b).



**Figure 6.** Simulation result for Scenario B: (a) RWG under different PoMBE; (b) ratio of CBoBIM to CBoC.

In Scenario C, increasing the landfill charge reduced in a gentle slope the incentive to legally use a landfill. Figure 7a shows that under the four charging schemes (ranging from \$120 to \$180), a reluctance to legally dispose of waste emerged as project managers preferred to take the risk and flout the law. Although the incentive to dump illegally did not decrease as sharply as the baseline scenario, it was reduced. The reason for the total amount of decline was that only a fraction of the waste was entered in this phase, and there were some project managers who preferred to choose sustainable deconstruction over landfilling or illegal dumping. As can be seen in Figure 7a, the schemes' lines were very close in the first months of the project duration because of the delay in discharging environmental emissions from illegally dumped waste; subsequently, dissatisfaction emerged. In addition, the ratio of the CWM cost of BIM approach to that of a non-BIM approach did not sufficiently decline. It can be concluded that fewer project managers decided that illegally dumping waste would be preferable (see Figure 7b).

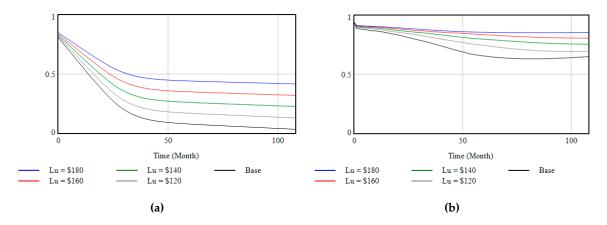


Figure 7. Simulation results for Scenario C: (a) ItDI under different landfill charge; (b) ratio of CBoBIM to CBoC.

#### 5. Case Study Validation

Since the variables inputted as initial values in the SD model were assumed to reflect an industrial scale, it was judicious to evaluate the system with a case project. A 12-story commercial building project in the city of Montreal, Canada, with an area of 11,850 m<sup>2</sup> (127,552.215 ft<sup>2</sup>) was examined as a case project in the present research. This building project employed the conventional CWM method. Based on the BIM-based CWM, designers tried to employ DfD approaches to redesigning the structure by replacing some unrecyclable components with modular elements. The LCC of BIM-based CWM and non-BIM methods were analyzed and compared. Table 3 lists the deconstruction, surface preparation, and recycling process costs, as well as the profits obtained from selling reused materials as determined by applying a BIM-based approach at the last phase of the building life cycle. Demolition and landfill costs were considered conventional methods of CWM. Transportation and collection cost were disregarded in this research due to the variety of distances and trucks. The unit cost of each process was obtained from the RS means.

As described in Table 3, the deconstruction cost was far higher than the demolition cost, because deconstruction processes are time-consuming and require craftsmen to separate each element. However, the additional cost of deconstruction can be mitigated by the resale of the material saved. According to the results, the total cost–benefit of demolition waste management at the end of a building's life span was 16.2% of the conventional CWM. The CWM costs in the maintenance and construction phase are described in Table 4. CWM cost in the construction phase encompasses the cost of collecting useless materials onsite and landfill costs. In some areas (e.g., clashing elements), materials may not be matched with new designs and must be changed. These elements can also be separated from their platforms to be sold at lower prices.

Material	BIM-Based CWM in Building Close			<b>Conventional CWM in Building Close</b>					
(unit)	Recycling Cost (A)	Deconstruction Cost (B)	Landfill Cost (C)	Profit from Selling (D)	Profit E (D –( A + B + C))	Demolition Cost (B)	Landfill Charge (C)	Profit from Selling (D)	Profit E (D – (B + C))
Concrete (m <sup>3</sup> )	133,320.86	90,901.66	57,951.88	19,490.96	-262,683.00	58,924.14	260,783.50		-319,708.00
Rebar (ton)		568.87	90.98	2924.50	2264.64		2843.26	4061.80	1218.54
Structure metal (ton)		144,357.19	4042.00	424,410.15	276,011.00	92,499.65	5285.69	184,999.30	87,213.96
Gypsum (ton)	18,058.09	159,706.39	2223.12	231,522.17	51,534.56	1261.94	41,846.98		-43,108.90
Door wood (Ea./m <sup>2</sup> )	14,231.16	16,946.00	8679.55	110,216.61	70,359.88	7694.40		1822.33	-5872.06
Door aluminum (m <sup>2</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> )	2476.60	2405.00	272.50	11,700.00	6545.88	1092.00	2725.06		-3817.07
Window (m <sup>2</sup> )	83.76	333.00	9.67	364.5	-61.94	188.75	96.76		-285.52
window (Ea.)	4504.18	16,650.00	2979.70	16,200.00	-7933.89				
Clay ceramic (m <sup>2</sup> )	52.29	43,156.68			-43,209.00	43,156.68	34,941.80		-78,098.50
Pipes (m)		5321.08			-5321.09				
Plumbing (Ea.)	10,018.50	30,000.00	4.48	57,375.00	17,352.01	63,750.00	44.89		-63,794.90
Cabinet (Ea./m <sup>2</sup> )	15,627.89	3834.00	1036.61	9720.00	-10,778.50	3834.00	10,366.18		-14,200.20
Lighting fixture		79,317.09	6.79	7866.00	-71,457.90		67.94		-67.94
Railing (m)	718.50	866.14		4063.50	2478.85	866.14		135.00	-731.14
Ducts (ton)		94,783.61		62,040.18	-32,743.40	94,783.61	10,943.65		-105,727.00
Blue stone (m <sup>2</sup> )	4036.80	7297.86	24,234.67	70,991.14	35,421.80	7297.86	242,346.70		-249,645.00
Brick (m <sup>2</sup> )	23,625.72	294,207.10	4940.84	113,974.86	-208,799.00	226,398.43	49,408.48		-275,807.00
Total	226,754.39	990,651.72	106,472.90	1,142,859.60	-181,019.00	631,544.67	676,563.40	191,018.44	-1,117,089.70

Table 3. Life cycle cost analysis: Comparison of BIM-based CWM and conventional CWM in building life close (Unit \$).

	Construction Phase				Maintenance and Operation Phase			
Material (Unit)		Non-BIM		BIM	Non	BIM	BI	M
	CWM Cost	Clash Detection	Change Order	Construction Waste Cost	Maintenance Cost	Average Life Time	Maintenance Cost	Average Life Time
Concrete (m <sup>3</sup> )	-28,975.93		-3.18					
Rebar (ton)	-121.85							
Structure metal (ton)	-5663.24							
Gypsum (ton)	-418.46		-4163.65	-222.31	-27,224.45	75	-23,673.43	25
Door wood (Ea./m <sup>2</sup> )							-35,577.92	30
Door aluminum (m <sup>2</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> )							-6191.51	30
Window (m <sup>2</sup> )							-209.41	30
window (Ea.)						33	-559.72	30
Clay ceramic (m <sup>2</sup> )	-655.15						-118,291.07	50
Pipes (m)		-493.26						
Plumbing (Ea.)					-15,155.28	25	-29,144.76	13
Cabinet (Ea./m <sup>2</sup> )							-10,797.38	38
Lighting fixture	-0.67						-39,761.25	38
Railing (m)								
Ducts (ton)	-109.43	-19,455.4						
Blue stone (m <sup>2</sup> )					-45,018.75	30	-105,133	10
Brick (m <sup>2</sup> )	-12,117.33		-721.27					
Concrete (m <sup>3</sup> )	2470.42		-8847.76					
Total	-45,591.69	-19,948.7	-13,735.9	-222.31	-87,398.48		-369,339.48	

Table 4. Life cycle cost analysis: Comparison of BIM-based CWM and conventional CWM in maintenance and construction phases (Unit: \$).

The cost of CWM in the maintenance phase also includes the periodic services and inspections that keep facilities in good condition during the operations life cycle. Buildings in good condition serve as motivation for managers to invest in repair or recycling processes instead of sending remaining materials to a landfill. According to Table 4, the maintenance cost from the BIM-based CWM approach was much higher than for the non-BIM method owing to several time-based services. Table 5 illustrates a comparison of every project's CWM expenses and profits obtained from these two different methods. The total recycling and preparation costs refer to the costs of proper surface preparation required to clean and process materials after deconstruction. The case study did not consider about the reuse of salvaged materials; thus, the cost for recycling and preparation was not considered. Generally, the materials can be damaged or broken during demolition, and only small portion of salvaged materials can be reusable [40]. BIM-based CWM needs approximately 137% demolition cost compared with the conventional CWM cost due to additional labor and machinery costs [48]. More labors and equipment are often being employed to prevent material contamination and minimize the damage to the elements dismantled [48]. Additionally, total maintenance costs in the BIM-enabled method was computed about 4.7 times higher than the reported cost for traditional CWM in the operation and maintenance phase. The case project did not report about the cost of waste during the construction step; on the other hand, the SD model reported \$222.31 in the same phase. According to this case study, some materials, which could not be recycled had to be dumped in a landfill. BIM-based CWM could significantly reduce landfill costs by about 85% compared with the non-BIM method based on the SD model simulation. Therefore, a total life cycle cost for this building based on the BIM-implemented CWM was higher than the conventional one by about 1.15 times. Although the final life cycle cost in the case of BIM-based CWM is higher than the cost of the non-BIM method, the total cost-benefits after selling can be reduced by up to 57% if the BIM-based CWM method is implemented. This is if the expenses can be mostly offset by the sale of salvaged materials at the end of the building's life cycle. The profits from selling were recorded at \$1,142,860.00 for the BIM-based method and \$191,018.40 for traditional CWM.

Cost Descriptions (Units: \$)	<b>BIM-Based CWM</b>	<b>Conventional CWM</b>
Total recycling and preparation Cost (A)	-226,754.40	
Total deconstruction cost (B)	-990,651.70	-631,544.70
Total landfill cost (C)	-106,472.90	-676,563.40
Total waste cost during construction (D)	-222.31	
Total maintenance cost (E)	-369.339.48	-79,276.29
Total life cycle cost ( $F = A + B + C + D + E$ )	-1,693,440.79	-1,474,782.87
Profit from selling (G)	1,142,860.00	191,018.40
Total cost after selling $(H = G + F)$	-550,580.79	-1,283,764.47
Total cost per Square Foot (\$/S.F.)	-4.32	-10.06
Percent of cost savings	0.57	(57%)

Table 5. Total	cost-benefit analys	sis of CWM	using BIM a	and non-BIM	methods.

#### 6. Discussion

Based on the developed SD model and the results of the case study in this study, it can be concluded that using BIM can help to significantly reduce the CWM cost on a building's life cycle. The SD model provided the insight about the impacts of different effective variables and their interrelationships. The findings of this study have noteworthy implications to the body of literature and practice as follows:

First, dynamic modeling of BIM-integrated CWM indicated the needs of a BIM-based sustainable CWM method for the stakeholders during the building's life cycle, including design, construction, operation, and maintenance, and by the end of the building life. The results of simulation showed the willingness of stakeholders to accept more sustainable approaches to reduce CWM costs by up to 40% (Figure 4a). The result of this study encourages them to implement the BIM into the CWM approach. Second, the BIM-based CWM approach can lead to better decision-making in material

sorting and deconstruction procedures based on the SD model simulation in this study. By adapting the method (increased rate of using sustainable tools in the SD model), managers tend to behave more legally in dumping during the deconstruction process (decreasing the rate of incentives for illegal dumping in the model). Additionally, based on the scenario analysis, the results showed that increased landfill charges without having the relevant regulations and effective infrastructures established was not effective to reduce waste generation and the likelihood of illegal activities in waste dumping during the project life cycle. This indicates properly that BIM integration is considerable to the current CWM, but it still requires the support of government to establish more proper regulations and infrastructures. Eventually it can ultimately help to reduce waste generations and illegal activities during deconstruction. Third, it showed that reducing the time for consideration to accept the risks would help to accelerate the rate of waste reduction in the model. In addition, this model also predicted that the increased rate of prefabrication use can lead to a reduced rate of waste generation by about 70% (see Figure 6a). Additionally, the BIM-integrated approach can significantly help to reduce the landfill and increase the possibility of reusing waste based on the simulation (Table 5). Therefore, it implies that this SD model can also serve as a guideline to predict the applicability and feasibility of BIM-enabled CWM. Additionally, the proposed model can support the multifaceted decision-making with both short- and long-term perspectives to the use of BIM in the CWM.

In the case study validation, it was revealed that the cost for deconstruction and total maintenance was significantly higher than that of the conventional method. However, the BIM can manage the numerous information about detailed conditions of building systems, construction processes, and material. As a result, the BIM-based method could provide significant savings from the landfill charges and from selling the salvaged materials (Table 5). With significant cost savings from the use of BIM in the case study, the results made a substantial contribution to better understanding of the potential of BIM-based CWM for the body of knowledge and practice. For further study, it is recommended that the needs of social impacts and performance of the BIM-based CWM can be assessed by extending the current SD model developed in this study.

## 7. Conclusions

In this research, the economic efficiency and usefulness of using BIM-based CWM were investigated and quantified through the SD approach. Despite the fact that previous studies have proposed various CWM methods, they are not being used as often as expected due to the lack of quantitative economic benchmarks. Moreover, the studies were carried out from a static point of view, leading researchers to overlook the dynamic nature of essential variables and embedded relationships. In this regard, the novelty of the present study is twofold: quantifying cost–benefits of using BIM for CWM throughout a building's life span and employing an SD approach to consider all variations and dynamically simulate the waste chain from an industrial scale.

To better understand the complexity of the type of system, causal loop and stock-flow diagrams were developed. A sensitivity test was conducted to verify the accuracy of the model. These simulation results elucidated the increasing economic motivation for investors to employ BIM as a sustainable method of CWM during the project life cycle. Increasing the BIM uses will enhance the collaboration among stakeholders, optimize data capture, and boost the potential for visualization. In turn, this will enhance the quality and accuracy of design and construction, help managers alleviate different causes of waste generation, such as clashing structural and mechanical elements, prevent over-ordering of raw materials, minimize damage occurring during delivery, and reduce the need to order non-standard sizes of modules. Equipped with information about electrical and mechanical systems that is required during the operation, stakeholders can provide periodic maintenance services that decrease depreciation expenses. This study tested different scenarios to demonstrate the effects of each variable. Increasing landfill charges also increases the tendency to engage in illegal dumping, showing that increasing landfill costs will not encourage project managers to invest in more sustainable methods. Conversely, the more prefabricated elements are used, the greater the potential for reuse and recycling of materials.

Consequently, applying prefabricated materials in the design and construction phases and complying with BIM-based design rules will increase the potential benefits and reduce related costs.

A 12-story commercial building was employed as a case study in this study. A cost-benefit analysis of BIM-based CWM was compared to the conventional CWM. The results show that cost can be reduced by up to 57%. The results also indicate that selling recyclable and reusable materials at the end of a building life span will approximately mitigate deconstruction cost, which are much higher than the price of conventional demolition. In this case, BIM-based CWM expenses at the end of a building life cycle are 16% of the demolition costs incurred when using conventional CWM methods. This study analyzed the cost-benefits of using BIM-based CWM by using an SD approach. This study contributes to better understanding of construction waste prevention by using the BIM and predicting the economic benefits of BIM implementation in the CWM procedure. Based on the identified variables and the proposed SD model, further studies can assess the social performance of using BIM in CWM procedures and analyze the efficiency of human resource management in the BIM-based CWM.

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# Appendix A

Parameters	Equations
EItIB	SMOOTH(1-Ratio of CBoBIM to the CBoC, TNSARI)
Ratio of CBoBIM to the CBoC	1 – CBoBIM/CBoC
PoMBE	DELAY1( IF THEN ELSE(EItIB <= 0.2, IF THEN ELSE(EItIB <= 0.15, IF THEN ELSE( EItIB <= 0.1, 30, 50), 75), 95), 10)
RWGFCSA	$(1 - PoMBE/100) \times wPL$
ANoDC	IF THEN ELSE("3BVS" <= 80, IF THEN ELSE( "3BVS" <= 65, IF THEN ELSE("3BVS" <= 50, 0.5 ×ANoC, 0.65 × ANoC), 0.8 × ANoC), ANoC)
CBoBIM	(+Sorting Cost + RC + RyC + Deconstruction Cost + 0.05 × Cost of Landfilling + MC – Total Profit of Selling materials)
CBoC	$(0.95 \times \text{Cost of Landfilling} + \text{Demolition Cost})$
Changing regulation	SMOOTH( IF THEN ELSE(NSR <= 80, IF THEN ELSE(NSR <= 60, IF THEN ELSE(NSR <= 40, IF THEN ELSE(NSR <= 20, 1, 5), 20), 20), 25), 6)
Cost of landfilling	$Lu \times Landfilled$ Materials
Deconstruction viability	$(DCP + PoMBE)/2 \times 0.01$
Deconstruction cost	DcCu × "Waste Generated (Dc)"
Demolition cost	DmCu × "Waste Generated (Dm)"
Disposing	(pID) $\times$ "Waste Generated (Dm)" $\times$ 0.005
DmCu	4
Efficiency of recycling	$PoMBE \times 0.01$
EItIB	SMOOTH(1 – Ratio of CBoBIM to the CBoC, TNSARI)
Environmental emissions	DELAY1( Illegal dumped waste, 24)

Table A1. Mathematical equations of identified parameters.

	Table	e A1.	Cont.
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Parameters	Equations
FINAL TIME	108
Illegal dumped waste	Initial value: 1000
Illegal dumping	MAX( pID × "Waste Generated (Dm)" × 0.005, 50)
ItDE	IF THEN ELSE(Regulation <= 80, IF THEN ELSE(Regulation <= 60, I THEN ELSE(Regulation <= 40, 0.6 × Deconstruction Viability, 0.8 × Deconstruction Viability), 0.9 × Deconstruction Viability), Deconstruction Viability)
ItDI	IF THEN ELSE(Lu <= 180, IF THEN ELSE(Lu <= 160, IF THEN ELSE(L <= 140, IF THEN ELSE(Lu <= 120, IF THEN ELSE(Lu <= 100, (90 - 0.9 $\times$ Regulation) × 0.01, (90 - 0.8 × Regulation) × 0.01), (90 - 0.7 × Regulation × 0.01), (90 - 0.6 × Regulation) × 0.01), (90 - 0.5 × Regulation) × 0.01) (90 - 0.4 × Regulation) × 0.01)
ItSW	IF THEN ELSE(Regulation <= 90, IF THEN ELSE(Regulation <= 75, I THEN ELSE(Regulation <= 50, 0.5 × EItIB, 1 × EItIB), 1.5 × EItIB), 2 × EItIB)
KNiDfD	$100 - (80/(0.1 \times \text{Time} + 1))$
Landfilled materials	Disposing + "Sorting (l)"
Lu	180
МС	MCu × "Waste Generated (m)"
MCu	125
ML	DELAY3( (0.01*DCP + EItIB)/2, 10)
MQ	IF THEN ELSE(ML <= 0.5, IF THEN ELSE(ML <= 0.4, IF THEN ELSE(ML <= 0.3, IF THEN ELSE(ML <= 0.15, 0.05, 0.15), 0.25), 0.35), 0.
NSR	SMOOTH3I(Public Complaints, 10, 90)
pID	ItDI $\times$ 100
POA	$DCP \times 0.01$
PoDC	ANoDC/ANoC
PoIUC	SMOOTH( 100 – "3BVS", 2)
PoMBE	DELAY1( IF THEN ELSE(EItIB <= 0.2, IF THEN ELSE(EItIB <= 0.15, I THEN ELSE( EItIB <= 0.1, 30, 50), 75), 95), 10)
PoROM	KNiDfD/100
pRecycling	0.96 – pReusing
pReusing	IF THEN ELSE(MQ <= 5, IF THEN ELSE(MQ <= 4, IF THEN ELSE(M <= 3, IF THEN ELSE(MQ <= 2, 0.05, 0.15), 0.25), 0.35), 0.4)
PSRu	150
PSRyu	100
Public complaints	IF THEN ELSE(Public dissatisfaction <= 0.6, IF THEN ELSE(Public dissatisfaction <= 0.45, IF THEN ELSE(Public dissatisfaction <= 0.3, I THEN ELSE(Public dissatisfaction <= 0.2, IF THEN ELSE(Public dissatisfaction <= 0.1, 10,20),35),50),65),80)
Public dissatisfaction	SMOOTH3( TREND(Environmental Emissions, 1, 1),4)
Ratio of CBoBIM to the CBoC	1 – CBoBIM/CBoC
RC	Unit cost of Reusing $\times$ Reused waste
RCu	90
Recycled waste	Recycling
Recycling	Sorted waste × Efficiency of Recycling × pRecycling
Regulation	SMOOTH( Changing Regulation $\times$ 0.1, 6)

Parameters	Equations
Reusing	Sorted waste × pReusing
RVRbBDO	wDO $\times$ (1 – PoROM)
RWGFCSA	$(1 - \text{PoMBE}/100) \times \text{wPL}$
RWGtCE	$(1 - PoDC) \times wCE$
RWGtCOR	wCO × COR
RWGtLOO	$wAO \times (1 - POA)$
RyC	Recycled waste × RCu
SCu	30
Sorted waste	"Sorting (C)" + "Sorting (D)" + "Sorting (M)" – Recycling – Reusing – "Sorting (l)"
"Sorting (C)"	ItSW × "Waste Generated (c)" $\times 0.01$
"Sorting (D)"	ItSW $\times$ "Waste Generated (Dc)" $\times$ 0.01
"Sorting (l)"	Sorted waste $\times 0.04$
"Sorting (M)"	"Waste Generated (m)" $\times$ ItSW $\times$ 0.01
Sorting Cost	Sorted waste × SCu
The volume of the buildings	10,000
Total profit of selling materials	Recycled waste × PSRyu + PSRu × Reused waste
wAO	10
Unit cost of reusing	70
"Waste generated (c)"	WGC – "Sorting (C)"
"Waste generated (Dc)"	WGDc – "Sorting (D)"
"Waste generated (Dm)"	WGDm – Disposing-Illegal Dumping
"Waste generated (m)"	WGM – "Sorting (M)"
wCE	10
wCO	10
wDO	20
WGC	The Volume of The Buildings $\times$ 0.1 $\times$ WROiC
WGDc	The Volume of The Buildings × ItDE
WGDm	The Volume of The Buildings $\times$ (1 – ItDE)
WGM	$(1 - ML) \times$ The Volume of The Buildings $\times 0.01$
wPL	50
WROiC	SMOOTH( (RWGFCSA + RWGtCOR + RVRbBDO + RWGtCE + RWGtLOO) × 0.01, 2)
"3BVS"	IF THEN ELSE(EItIB <= 0.25, IF THEN ELSE(EItIB <= 0.15, IF THEN ELSE(EItIB <= 0.05, 20, 0.7 × KNiDfD), 0.85 × KNiDfD), KNiDfD) IF THEN ELSE(LOD <= 5, IF THEN ELSE(LOD <= 4, IF THEN ELSE(LOD <= 3, IF THEN ELSE(LOD <= 2, 40, 50),65), 80), 95)

Table A1. Cont.

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