**NAME: USORO INEMESIT AMY.**

**SCHOOL: METHODIST GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL.**

**AGE: 12 YEARS**

**CLASS: BASIC 9 (JSS 3)**

**LET’S GO GREEN: ECO FRIENDLY WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR A CLEANER NIGERIA**

Nigeria, a nation brimming with potential, facing a very serious challenge: overflowing landfills, choked water-ways, mountains of refuse and clogged gutters due to poor waste management. This environmental crisis not only threatens our health but also hinders the rapid development of our country. Embracing eco-friendly strategies of waste management is crucial to a cleaner and better Nigeria.

A cornerstone of this approach is waste segregation at source. Imagine every household separating organic waste from recyclables and non-biodegradables. Organic waste, the largest component, can be turned into nutrient-rich fertilizer (compost), which can be used to nurture gardens and farms, reducing the need to buy chemical-based fertilizers. Recyclables, like plastics and metals can be transformed into new products, minimizing the need to mine for more raw materials, creating a circular economy.

However, segregation requires infrastructure and education. Investment in colour coded bins for each category of waste, waste collection trucks with separate compartments and accessible recycling facilities are essential. Public awareness campaigns, radio programmes, catchy jingles and even street performances can educate communities on how we can go green, and its benefits on us and our environment.

Technology can be a powerful ally. Mobile apps can connect citizens with waste pick-up trucks and their schedule. Additionally, bio-conversion technologies can turn organic waste into biogas, a clean, renewable energy source.

AI can play a significant role in ecofriendly waste management, it can help optimize waste collection routes, predict waste generation patterns, identify recycling opportunities and even automate the sorting process in recycling facilities. By analyzing large amounts of data, AI can provide insights that enable more efficient and sustainable waste management practices. I’m currently working on a machine named “Trash to Treasure” which can help to transform waste materials into valuable products. Effective waste management also requires collaboration between policy makers, businesses, communities and individuals to implement comprehensive strategies that provide environmental sustainability.

Informal waste collectors, often referred to as “waste pickers”, play a vital role in the system. Integrating them into the formal system through training and fair compensation, empowers them and improves waste collection efficiency.

Beyond waste collection, tackling the mountain of existing waste is vital. Composting facilities can be established near landfills to process organic waste, while recycling plants can be set up to transform mountains of plastic and metal waste into valuable resource.

The journey towards a cleaner Nigeria demands a collective effort. By embracing eco-friendly waste management solutions, empowering communities, adopting the use of advanced equipment and machines, and fostering innovation, Nigerians can transform our nation into a leader in sustainable waste management. With the help of my device, heaps of trash will then be a thing of the past! A clean and healthy Nigeria is not a dream; it is a necessity within our grasp. So together, LETS GO GREEN!!!