Problems and impact of organic waste

Any waste has a harmful reaction to environment if it is not treated the way it should. On one hand, the mismanaged waste can effect living beings in the form of diseases, on the other hand, it can severely hamper the environment causing degradation, pollution and climate change as well as huge economic impact as shown below

Cost of Organic waste: (Source: National Waste Action Plan)

Below listed are environmental problems that can occur if organic wastes are not properly managed:

- **Air Pollution:**
  When huge amount of waste is accumulated in a single landfill, it will lead to slower decomposition and negligible presence of oxygen. Emission of peculiar odours and harmful gases from the unmanaged waste can trigger production of harmful insects and diseases.

- **Water Pollution:**

  Due to the absence of any water-resistant layer protecting the soil, the liquids coming out from the waste can impede through soil and reach the water labels to contaminate them.
- **Soil Degradation:**

  Unmanaged organic waste, which is carelessly piled up into a landfill, destroys the soil. It can change both physical and chemical properties of the soil making it less fertile. If the organic wastes are thrown in some unauthorized areas, they can also result in accidental fire.
- **Hampers Ecosystem:**

  The uncontrolled dumping of organic waste limits the carrying and regeneration capacity of our ecosystem. It will also result in massive destruction of habitats and their constituent species. A very common example, which is also a hot topic these days, is the residues that are distributed through specified ocean currents, most of which gathers on the seabed, is affecting aquatic life and its ecosystem.
- **High Energy Costs:**

  If the organic wastes are not recycled properly for future use, there will be more energy consumption for re-production. For example, the organic waste which can be used as fertilizers is carelessly dumped, the industries will then need to produce extra chemical/organic fertilizers for which higher energy is required.
- **Climate Change:**

  The direct impact of organic waste mismanagement goes to the climate because of air/water pollution, imbalance in ecosystem which further results in global warming and frequent occurrence of natural disasters.