



# MAGEY SAAFU RAAJJE NATIONAL WASTE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY



Ministry of Climate Change,  
Environment and Energy





# PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

The Magey Saafu Raajje National Waste and Resource Management Policy and Strategy 2024-2028 outlines a comprehensive framework for implementing a sustainable solid waste management system in the Maldives. It aims to consolidate existing waste management projects under a unified framework, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness while integrating with other national policies related to protecting human health and environment.

Central to the policy is the promotion of a circular economy, encouraging the reuse and recycling of materials to minimize waste generation. The policy introduces Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms that will establish responsibilities at all levels of the production and consumption chain, including producers, importers, traders, and consumers. To foster consumer behavioural change and community engagement, the policy emphasizes increasing sustainable waste management practices through education and awareness campaigns, engaging citizens, communities, schools, NGOs, and other stakeholders in waste management efforts. It revises and updates previous waste management documents to reflect current challenges and successes, establishing regulations, guidelines, and monitoring mechanisms.

Furthermore, by utilizing waste as a resource, the policy seeks to drive socio-economic growth and development, creating green jobs and promoting sustainable economic activities. Investments in waste management infrastructure and adoption of advanced technologies are prioritized to support the circular economy and EPR initiatives. Public-private partnerships are encouraged to enhance collaborative efforts between the government, private sector, and civil society. Overall, the policy aims to create a sustainable, efficient, and accountable waste management system that contributes to the nation's environmental and socio-economic well-being.

Dr. Mohamed Muizzu  
President  
4th June 2024

# MINISTER'S FOREWORD

Waste management plays a vital role in preventive environmental protection, health care and quality of life. Waste has evolved as a global environmental problem, posing a pollution risk to the unique terrestrial and marine environment of Maldives. Waste generated in our communities, leaks into the marine environment and endangers marine habitat life, and especially the precious coral reefs. At the same time, it represents a huge loss of precious resources affecting the wider economy.

How a country manages its waste is a fundamental indicator of the extent to which that society is functional and being managed in a sustainable manner. Understanding the complexity of the problem, the respective Ministries responsible for environmental protection have published in 2008 the first National Policy, followed by a revision in 2015. The Policies were accompanied by a number of laws and regulations.

Since then, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology has worked intensively to modernise the legal framework on waste by proposing a new Waste Management Bill that has been published in the Governmental Gazette in the end of 2022. The country has also started in 2022 to phase out Single-Use-Plastics, which are replaced with more eco-friendly alternatives, made of natural compounds.

The Ministry has also engaged several projects, supported financially by international donors, to develop waste management infrastructure in islands and in cities through the planning and implementation of Waste and Resource Management Centers as well as Waste-to-Energy plants at the regional level.

However, and despite the huge efforts, it is recognized that progress has been slow with results not as planned and with waste management not as sustainable as desired. The need to update and develop a more appropriate national policy on holistic waste management has become much felt in the country with the rapidly aggravating problems related to waste and considering climate change issues.

As a part of government ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible governance, president announced the launch of the "Magey Saafu Raajje" program. This program represents a significant step forward government's efforts to streamline and enhance waste management projects across the nation.

This initiative aims to consolidate and coordinate all the government waste management projects under a single, unified framework. By bringing together various initiatives, programs, and resources under one umbrella to ensure greater efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in efforts to address waste management challenges.

The new Magey Saafu Raajje National Waste and Resources Management Policy and Strategy, is the national policy instrument for sustainable solid waste management, revising and updating the respective 2008 and 2015 documents, by building on the successes and lessons learnt from

their implementation and by addressing the challenges and gaps identified. In particular, the new policy focuses on accelerating the shift from a “throw-away” society to a circular model. It intends to transform the production, import and consumption patterns in an ecological way that will effectively consider and utilize waste as resource with the aim of improving the lives of all Maldivians through shared socio-economic growth and development.

Most importantly, the new policy and strategy has the concept of “circular economy” at its core. The circular economy, built on innovation, is an approach to reduce the environmental impacts of the economic activities by reusing and recycling processed materials to minimize the need to extract raw materials from the environment and at the same time the need to dispose of waste. The policy also highlights the importance of the application of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) as a mechanism to ensure responsible waste management at all levels including producer/ importer/trader and customer. Collaboration and accountability are critical to secure the highest degree of sustainable waste management.

The success of this new policy and strategy depends on the extent to which it finds a foothold among the Maldivian Citizens and the economic actors. Increasing recycling rates to promote the circular economy depends on consumer behavior change, such as separating waste at source – something which all Maldivians should be practicing. The revised document seeks to build on existing initiatives in schools and draw on community-based organizations and NGOs to help in cleaning up our communities and reducing the carbon footprint of our economy by correct disposal and recycling of waste. Engagement of all responsible actors, including citizens, communities, NGOs, and economic actors is most needed to participate and contribute to the sound implementation of the new policy and strategy.

I am confident that all stakeholders are fully engaged for the successful implementation of the new Magey Saafu Raajje National Waste and Resources Management Policy and Strategy as it was seen during the development process of these documents for which several consultations were held involving not only Government but also communities, NGOs, and private economic actors.

Finally, I would like to appreciate and thank all Ministries, Institutions, Departments, Donors, Agencies, Communities, local Councils, and Individuals who have been involved in the preparation of this valuable document. I also would like to thank all development partners for their valuable contributions and comments during the preparation of the strategic documents and above all for their endorsement as a common guiding reference for our operations in the coming five years.

Thoriq Ibrahim  
Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy  
4th June 2024

# 1. SCOPE

The Magey Saafu Raajje National Waste and Resources Management Policy and Strategy 2024-2028 outlines a comprehensive framework for implementing a sustainable solid waste management system in the Maldives. It aims to consolidate existing waste management projects under a unified framework, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness while integrating with other national policies related to protecting human health and environment.

Central to the policy is the promotion of a circular economy, encouraging the reuse and recycling of materials to minimize waste generation. The policy introduces Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms that will establish responsibilities at all levels of the production and consumption chain, including producers, importers, traders, and consumers. To foster consumer behavioral change and community engagement, the policy emphasizes increasing sustainable waste management practices through education and awareness campaigns, engaging citizens, communities, schools, NGOs, and other stakeholders in waste management efforts. It revises and updates previous waste management documents to reflect current challenges and successes, establishing regulations, guidelines, and monitoring mechanisms.

Furthermore, by utilizing waste as a resource, the policy seeks to drive socio-economic growth and development, creating green jobs and promoting sustainable economic activities. Investment in waste management infrastructure and adoption of advanced technologies are prioritized to support the circular economy and EPR initiatives. Public-private partnerships are encouraged to enhance collaborative efforts between the government, private sector, and civil society. Overall, the policy aims to create a sustainable, efficient, and accountable waste management system that contributes to the nation's environmental and socio-economic well-being.

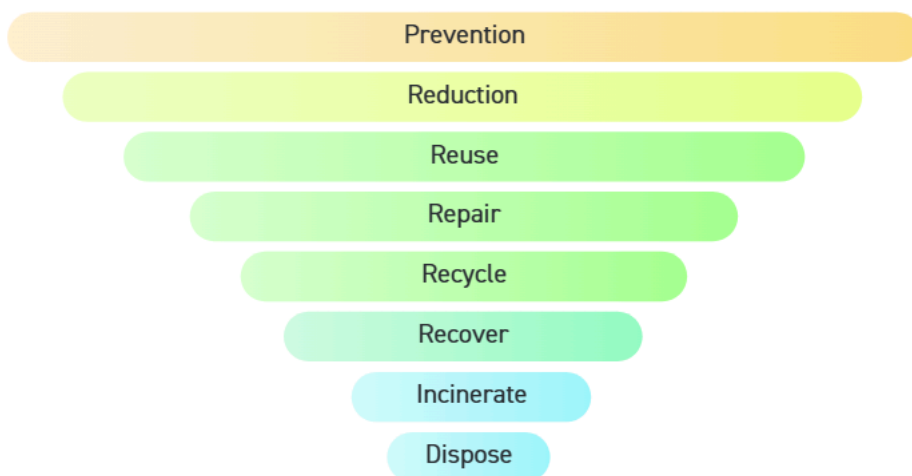


Figure 1: Waste hierarchy graph

## 2. VISION

To move towards green development and a circular economy by developing, implementing and continuously improving an integrated solid waste management system in the country, while minimizing negative impact of waste on the environment, climate and public health to achieve sustainable development.

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## 3. MISSION

Creating an efficient, cost effective waste management, safe disposal, recycling system and prevent negative impacts of waste on public health, natural environment and climate change to achieve a sustainable future.

# 4. OVERARCHING WASTE AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Six overarching policies (principles) embedded in the Magey Saafu Raajje National Waste and Resources Management Policy and Strategy:

1. **Waste hierarchy principle:** a priority order shall be applied in waste prevention, reduction, reuse and repair followed by recycling, energy recovery and least preferred options of incineration and landfill disposal.
2. **Polluter's Pay Principle:** the costs of waste management must be borne by the waste producer or by the legal entity managing waste on behalf of others.
3. **Extended producer responsibility:** the producer or importer of a product bears the responsibility to manage their product at the end of life
4. **Full Cost Recovery:** tariffs for a given service shall aim to recover the operating and maintenance cost, including environmental and resource costs, as well as the capital cost as much as possible. The tariff structure shall take affordability of the service and any other subsidies into account.
5. **Proximity and Decentralization:** waste management shall be undertaken as close to the source of generation as possible, taking into account geographical circumstances.
6. **Empowering Communities:** a comprehensive focus on public awareness and education by recognizing the crucial role of informed citizens in waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable living. The essence of effective waste management lies in active participation and cooperation of every individual.

# 5. WASTE AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Magey Saafu Raajje National Waste and Resources Management Policy and Strategy encompasses the following strategies:

- **Strategy 1:** Strengthen legislative framework for waste management to minimize environmental pollution and negative health effects
- **Strategy 2:** Establish decentralized and sustainable waste management system throughout the country
- **Strategy 3:** Strengthen waste collection and transfer to enable waste treatment at different levels
- **Strategy 4:** Rehabilitate and close dumpsites
- **Strategy 5:** Review and implement Single Use plastics Phase-out Plan and further reduce plastic waste
- **Strategy 6:** Establish National Waste and Resource Management Database and Monitoring System
- **Strategy 7:** Design and implement an effective model for Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) and Take-Back schemes
- **Strategy 8:** Engage private sector in sustainable waste management activities and establish procedures for more efficient involvement
- **Strategy 9:** Increase public awareness on waste management
- **Strategy 10:** Enhance human resources through training and capacity building
- **Strategy 11:** Handle hazardous waste in a safe manner
- **Strategy 12:** Promote waste minimisation and transitioning to a Circular Economy

This chapter includes the strategy to be implemented to achieve the targets of Magey Saafu Raajje Waste and Resource Management Policy and Strategy 2024-2028.



## **STRATEGY 1**

Strengthen legislative framework for waste management to minimize environmental pollution and negative health effects

**Strategy 1: Strengthen legislative framework for waste management to minimize environmental pollution and negative health effects**

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
1.1	Develop and enact new regulations as set in the Waste Management Act	MoCCEE	-	Number of new regulations enacted	2024
1.2	Develop and implement new standards and guidelines for effective waste management	URA, MoCCEE	-	Number of new standards & guidelines implemented	2024 - 2025
1.3	Develop Island, Atoll and Regional Waste and Resource Management Plans	Councils, EPA	MoCCEE, MoCLGPW	Number of Plans prepared and approved	2024 - 2026
1.4	Review and update the Marine Litter Action Plan	MoCCEE	-	Action Plan developed and approved	2024



## STRATEGY 2

Establish decentralized and sustainable waste and resource management system throughout the country

**Strategy 2: Establish decentralized and sustainable waste and resource management system throughout the country**

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
2.1	Establish island level Waste and Resource Management Systems, including construction and upgrading island centers to fully equipped infrastructures and an intra-island waste and resource collection mechanism in all inhabited islands	Councils	MoCCEE	Number of islands with established systems Number of centers supplied with equipment	2024 -2028
2.2	Develop and operationalize Regional Waste and Resource Management Facilities, including developing and upgrading infrastructure and facilities in selected locations	Service Providers	MoCCEE	Number of regional systems established	2024 -2027
2.3	Conduct a Feasibility Study for ship (MARPOL) waste management at a national level	MoCCEE, MoTCA	-	Study developed and approved	2025 -2026
2.4	Conduct a Feasibility Study for construction and demolition waste at a national level	MoCCEE	MoCI	Study developed and approved	2025-2026



## **STRATEGY 3**

Strengthen waste and resource collection and transfer to enable treatment at different levels

### Strategy 3: Strengthen waste and resource collection and transfer to enable treatment at different levels

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
3.1	Enhance and strengthen source segregation in accordance with regulations	Service Providers, Councils	MoCCEE, EPA	Number of households/ establishments reached  % segregated waste collected	2024 -2026
3.2	Conduct technical studies on optimization of collection service at island, atoll and regional levels of different waste streams	Service Providers	MoCCEE, URA, Councils	Number of technical studies prepared	2025 -2026
3.3	Establish waste and resource transfer mechanism between islands and regional facilities, introducing separate collection, safe handling and transport of different waste streams	Service Providers	Councils, MoCCEE	Number of agreements signed with councils and service providers	2024 -2028



## **STRATEGY 4**

### Rehabilitate and Close dumpsites

#### Strategy 4: Rehabilitate and Close dumpsites

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
4.1	Cease open burning of waste in inhabited islands	Councils, EPA, URA	MoCCEE	Number of islands not practicing open burning	2024 -2028
4.2	Reclaim, rehabilitate and close dumpsites in all inhabited islands	Councils	MoCCEE	% of dumpsites closed	2025 -2028



## **STRATEGY 5**

Review and implement Single Use plastics Phase-out Plan and further reduce plastic waste

## Strategy 5: Review and implement Single Use plastics Phase-out Plan and further reduce plastic waste

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
5.1	Review the progress of the Single Use Plastic Phase Out Plan 2020-2023 and conduct a study on new items for incorporation	MoCCEE	-	Number of policies in the Action Plan implemented  New Action Plan developed and approved	2024-2025
5.2	Establishing regional cooperation on joint efforts to tackle plastic waste	MoCCEE	-	Regional Cooperation established	2024-2028
5.3	Introduce certification program for businesses to encourage them to voluntarily reduce single use plastic items and plastic packaging	MoCCEE	-	Number of Business Certified	2024-2028
5.4	Ensure the quality of supplied water and promote its use for drinking to reduce dependence on bottled water and to change public perception towards supplied water	MoCCEE, URA	-	% of household using supplied water	2024-2028
5.5	Increase participation in international actions and forums related to plastic waste	MoCCEE, EPA	-	Number of Forums participated in	2024-2028
5.6	Replace single use plastics used in establishments of the tourism sector with sustainable alternatives	Private sector	-	Number of establishments with single use plastics replaced	2024-2028



## STRATEGY 6

Establish National Waste and Resource Management Database and Monitoring System

## Strategy 6: Establish National Waste and Resource Management Database and Monitoring System

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
6.1	Develop technical specifications for the National Database and Monitoring System	MoCCEE	-	Technical specifications delivered	2024 - 2025
6.2	Implement and operate the National Database and Monitoring System	MoCCEE, EPA, URA	Service Providers, Councils	National Database and Monitoring System operational	2025 -2026
6.3	Conduct comprehensive training programs on data collection and waste audit	MoCCEE	Service Providers, Councils	Number of Service Providers and Councils trained for data collection	2025 -2026
6.4	Conduct a National Waste Audit and review every five years	MoCCEE	Service Providers, Councils	Number of audits conducted	2024 -2028



## STRATEGY 7

Design and implement an effective model for Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) and Take-Back schemes

## Strategy 7: Design and implement an effective model for Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) and Take-Back schemes

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
7.1	Prepare the horizontal EPR framework for all products subject to EPR	MoCCEE	-	EPR Framework approved	2024
7.2	Assess and expand EPR schemes for certain types of waste. Conduct environmental awareness on the EPR scheme	Private Sector	MoCCEE	Number of schemes established	2025 -2026
7.3	Develop a product stewardship to ensure minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's lifecycle, including end of life management.	MoCCEE	-	Product stewardships developed	2025 -2028



## **STRATEGY 8**

Engage private sector in sustainable waste and resource management activities and establish procedures for more efficient involvement

**Strategy 8: Engage private sector in sustainable waste and resource management activities and establish procedures for more efficient involvement**

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
8.1	Implementation of Full-Cost-Accounting Systems, and implementation of FCA at island, atoll and regional level, and setting a fair and sustainable tariff structure for service users	URA, Service Providers, Councils	MoCCEE	Number of Island and Regional Systems with FCA prepared and implemented  Tariff structure established and implemented	2024 -2026
8.2	Create Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for the operation and maintenance of Regional Waste and Resource Management Facilities	MoCCEE	-	Number of PPP cases established	2024 -2028
8.3	Engage Private sector in the collection, transportation and handling of municipal as well as special waste	Councils, Service Providers	URA, MoCCEE	Number of licensed service providers	2024 -2028
8.4	Introduce and establish a National Green Certification program for resorts	MoCCEE	-	Number of resorts certified	2024 -2028



## **STRATEGY 9**

Increase public awareness  
on sustainable waste and  
resource management

## Strategy 9: Increase public awareness on sustainable waste and resource management

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
9.1	Continue national awareness and public education programs on proper waste and resource management practices at all levels of the community and ensure successful implementation and monitoring of the programs	MoCCEE	Councils, MoEdu, NGOs	Number of programs and % target audience reached	2024 -2028
9.2	Conduct consumer behavior change programs towards waste reduction including food waste	NGOs, Private sector	MoCCEE	% reduction in waste generated Food losses index assessed	2024 - 2026
9.3	Launch and implement a public awareness "Anti-littering" campaign, in co-operation with NGOs	MoCCEE, NGOs	Councils	Campaign launched and implemented	2024 - 2028
9.4	Implement beaches and Public Areas clean-up actions, with public participation	Councils, NGOs, Public	-	Number of clean-up actions Length of coast-line cleaned	2024 -2028



## **STRATEGY 10**

Enhance human resources  
through training and  
capacity building

## Strategy 10: Enhance human resources through training and capacity building

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
10.1	Identify national training needs in the sector and incorporate the needs into the National Training Needs List	MoCCEE	MNSDA, MoHE	National Training Needs List updated	2024 -2026
10.2	Develop certificate level training programs for Waste Management practitioners	MoHE, MoCCEE	-	Number of certificate level training programs developed	2025 -2026
10.3	Train and provide specific education to suitable candidates to develop waste and resource management professionals with technical, specialized and certified knowledge	Maldives National Skill Development Authority (MNSDA)	MoHE	Number of certified / graduated professional staff	2025 -2028
10.4	Provide specialized higher education and training opportunities for interested individuals on the waste and resource management sector through different scholarships and higher education grants and loan schemes	MoHE	-	Number of certified / graduated personnel in the sector	2025 -2028



## **STRATEGY 11**

Handle hazardous waste in a safe manner

## Strategy 11: Handle hazardous waste in a safe manner

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
11.1	Construct, equip and operate hazardous waste storage facilities in Regional Waste and Resource Management Facilities	Service Providers	MoCCEE	Number of facilities constructed	2024 - 2027
11.2	Develop Standard Operating Procedures on hazardous waste management activities	Service Providers	URA	Number of adopted Standard Operating Procedures	2024 -2028
11.3	Develop a reporting system and prepare annual reports on collected, transported and stored hazardous waste by type	URA	MoCCEE	Annual reports developed	2025 -2026
11.4	Strengthen the implementation of the National Healthcare Waste Management Guideline	HPA, MoH	MoCCEE	Number of Health Care Units implementing the Guideline	2024 -2028
11.5	Implement pilot projects for separate collection of e-waste and batteries in selected islands	Private Sector	-	Number of pilot projects implemented	2025 - 2028



## **STRATEGY 12**

Promote waste minimisation  
and transitioning to a  
Circular Economy

## Strategy 12: Promote waste minimisation and transitioning to a Circular Economy

No.	Actions	Lead	Support	Indicator	Timeline
12.1	Develop a National Waste Reduction Plan and Circular Economy Roadmap	MoCCEE	-	Plan and Roadmap prepared and approved	2025 - 2026
12.2	Develop National Recycling Strategy, explore markets for recycling and potential synergies	MoCCEE	Private sector	National Strategy approved	2025 - 2026
12.3	Implement the National Recycling Strategy and develop necessary infrastructure	MoCCEE	-	National Strategy implemented	2026 - 2028
12.4	Establish material recovery facilities in selected locations and create a second/third hand market for useful products and materials recovered	MoCCEE	MoCCEE	Number of facilities Weight of recovered waste and % sold to buyers	2026 - 2028
12.5	Promote collection and recycling of construction and demolition waste, and encourage reuse in the construction industry	MoCCEE, MoCI	Service Providers, Private Sector	Weight of waste separately collected % of recycled waste	2026 - 2028
12.6	Set-up composting mechanism in inhabited islands and provide training	Service Providers, Councils	MoCCEE	Number of trainings provided Number of plants established	2024 - 2028
12.7	Create a market for products generated through composting of organic waste	MoCCEE	MoAAW, MoT	Number of initiatives Adoption of compost quality specifications	2024 - 2028

# 6. THE QUANTITATIVE TARGETS SET IN THE POLICY

Policy sets quantitative targets for separate collection and recycling which are realistic and achievable and will be reviewed towards the end of the planning period. This policy establishes quantitative targets for separate collection and recycling, that are both realistic and achievable which will be evaluated and reviewed towards the end of the policy implementation period. Organics and material recycling, accompanied by incineration in the Regional facilities, will effectively promote waste reduction and minimise the need for landfill space.

The Quantitative targets set in the Policy, to be achieved by the end of 2028, are as below:

- Achieve separate collection and composting of 35% by weight of organic waste generated
- Achieve separate collection and recycling of 30% by weight of plastic waste generated
- Achieve separate collection and recycling of 25% by weight of other recyclables materials (metals, paper, glass, etc.) generated
- In regard to the treatment of residual waste:
  - 100% of residual waste from the 7 Zones shall be transferred to the respective Regional facilities for incineration by the end of 2028
- In regard to the other special streams of importance:
  - Achieve separate collection of 50% by weight of electronic waste generated by the end of 2028
  - Achieve separate collection of 90% by weight of waste tyres by the end of 2028
  - Achieve separate collection of 80% by weight of End of Life Vehicles by the end of 2028
  - Achieve separate collection of 80% by weight of waste lubricant oils by the end of 2028
  - Achieve separate collection of 80% by weight of construction and demolition waste by the end of 2028
- 100% of residual waste from the 7 Zones to be transferred to the respective regional facilities by the end of 2028





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