



St Helena
Government

Draft - A Waste Management Policy for St Helena

Working in partnership with customers for a cleaner and greener St Helena



October 2019

Environmental Management Division,
Saint Helena Government,
Environmental Management Division,
Environment and Natural Resources Directorate,
Scotland,
Island of Saint Helena,
South Atlantic Ocean,
STHL 1ZZ
Tel: (+290) 24724
www.sainthelena.gov.sh

© Saint Helena Government 2019
This document may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the
express written permission of Saint Helena Government.

Introduction

Volumes of waste being landfilled on island are increasing and the available landfill space is rapidly reducing. This has significance for SHG as the need to replace and restore Horse Point Landfill Site (HPLS) will need to take place within a reduced timeframe.

There is an opportunity to delay the replacement of this asset through introducing a recycling programme to the island, reducing volumes of waste being produced and landfilled and consequently increasing the life of the landfill site closer to its design life. This would bring the following benefits:

- Reduce short to medium term capital expenditure by increasing the life of HPLS;
- Provide cost efficiencies to SHG and private sector through export of recyclable wastes and substitution for imported new raw materials; and
- Enables Waste Management Services to be more financially self-supporting.

SHG acknowledge the need to create a Waste Management Policy with a view to planning for short, medium and long term environmental changes that are likely to impact on the quality of island life if left unmanaged.

If not properly managed waste is a problem because it:

- Takes up valuable and limited landfill space;
- Can cause pollution and other negative social impacts;
- Uses up natural resources that could be used again;
- Creates reputational impacts on eco-tourism;
- Creates greenhouse gases and contributes towards Climate Change;
- Creates a lasting problem for future generations.

Waste management is essential and integral to the functioning of the island and the health and well-being of its people. St Helena's continued import dependence adds a significant carbon footprint to a number of sectors in St Helena whilst also draining much needed financial resources from the island. Overreliance on the importation of packaged food and beverages, electrical goods and construction materials are areas in particular that impact both on the island's climate footprint and contribute to significant volumes of waste.

The Policy identifies waste management as an opportunity to develop the ecology, infrastructure and economy of St Helena, and also an opportunity to strengthen the branding of the sustainable island.

This Policy is the planning instrument that defines a long-term vision while guiding planning frameworks through a path that sets priorities for action.

SHG's commitment to adopting a Waste Management Policy also recognises that any policy adopted both now and into the future has to be affordable and reflect value for money.

Policy Alignment with National Goals

The Policy supports the *Altogether Greener* Goal of St. Helena's 10 Year Plan.

Altogether Greener not only focuses on the preservation of our land wildlife, marine and built heritage, but also how we can advance in terms of renewable power and utilising technology to deliver better green social economic outcomes including better management of our waste.

Aim and Objectives of the Policy

The overall aim of the Waste Management Policy for St Helena is to make provisions for the development of medium to long term goals to deal with the waste that is produced on the Island, in a manner that is efficient and sustainable, in order to maintain a good quality of life for residents and visitors, promote economic development and bring benefit to the environment of St Helena, now and in the future.

The Policy objectives are to:

- Achieve sustainable management of all wastes arising on St Helena.
- Develop effective co-operation and joint working between SHG, stakeholders, businesses and residents to maximize the benefits of waste reduction and increased recycling opportunities.
- Protect and preserve the environment for future generations, in line with the Environmental Protection Ordinance (2016).

To achieve the aim and objectives of the Policy, the following strategic waste management actions will be implemented;

- Embed the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle in all aspects of decision making throughout the Island;
- Promote existing reduce, reuse and recycle activities and encourage and support the development of new initiatives;
- Conversion of organic waste into compost;
- Design and deliver environmentally benefitting waste management projects;
- Ensure that unavoidable landfilling of wastes that cannot be reduced, reused, recycled or treated, or is hazardous, is managed in a manner which does not significantly impact on public health or the natural environment;
- Develop and evaluate a range of potential charging models to identify a charging structure which provides an equitable and appropriate level of funding for the waste management service in future years.

The above actions will be delivered through a 5 Year Implementation Plan (2019 to 2024).

Implementing the Policy and Policy Distribution

This Policy will be owned by the highest levels of St Helena Government.

This Policy will be issued to all SHG Directorates and made available along with annexes and supporting documents online on the SHG website. Copies are available upon request from EMD.

This Policy supersedes any previous waste management policies or strategies including (but not limited to) the *2017 Waste Management Strategy*.

Policy Definitions

Climate Change

Climate Change refers to a statistically significant variation in either the mean state of the climate or in its variability, persisting for an extended period (typically decades or longer). Climate Change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcing's, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.

Pollution

Pollution is the introduction of substances or energy into the environment, resulting in deleterious effects of such a nature as to endanger human health, harm living resources and ecosystems, and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment.

Recycling

Processing of waste items or products into a different item or product (e.g. a glass bottle recycled into aggregate).

Reuse

Repeated use of an item or product before recycling or disposing of it (e.g. plastic shopping bags).

Waste

In the context of this policy, waste describes the waste materials arising from domestic and commercial properties including hazardous waste, but does not include wastewater and sewage.

Waste is generally considered hazardous if it (or the material or substances it contains) are harmful to humans or the environment. Examples of hazardous waste include: asbestos, chemicals such as motor oil, brake fluid or print toner, batteries, solvents and pesticides.

Stakeholder

Any individual or group with an interest in the outcome of an activity, process or service. This can include government departments, non-government organisations, businesses and members of the public.

Sustainable

Describes activities carried out in a manner which does not adversely impact on future generations. In waste management terms this can mean conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources.