



**St Helena  
Government**

## A Waste Management Policy for St Helena

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



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By the following;

Initials	Name	Position
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DH	Derek Henry	Director of Infrastructure and Transport Directorate
ENRC		Environment and Natural Resources Committee
MD	Mike Durnford	Environmental Risk Manager
ExCo		Executive Council

## Introduction

Volumes of waste being landfilled on island are increasing and the available landfill space is rapidly reducing. This has significance for St Helena Government (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 acknowledges 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.

For the purpose of this policy the terms 'waste' and 'waste management' are defined as follows:

Waste is those waste substances, materials and objects arising from domestic and commercial properties including hazardous waste, but does not include wastewater and sewage.

Waste Management is the term given to the range or spectrum of activities associated with waste, namely: its generation, segregation, storage, handling and transportation from the point of source to its place of disposal.

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 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. Recycling aluminum beverage cans and exporting them back in to international markets would, for example, contribute towards landfill reduction whilst generating positive reputation towards eco-tourism.

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.

This policy applies to all persons generating waste substances or objects and to all waste holders intending to, or required to discard of such waste substances or objects.

This Policy supersedes the 2017 St Helena Waste Management Strategy.

## Policy Alignment with National Legislation and Key Policy Documents

The Policy objectives align with the objectives and principles of the Environmental Protection Ordinance (2016). The objectives of this Ordinance are to; *preserve and sustain the natural environment of St Helena*, including by; *preventing, minimizing or mitigating pollution, waste and littering*. The principles of this Ordinance includes; *'the polluter pays principle', by which the costs of preventing, controlling, reducing and eliminating environmental harm that may be caused or is caused by a particular activity should be borne by the persons who cause or knowingly permit it.*

The Policy aligns with the *Altogether Greener* Goal of St. Helena's 10 Year Plan. The *Altogether Greener* goal not only focuses on the preservation of our land wildlife, marine and built heritage, but also on 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.

The Policy aligns with the St Helena's Sustainable Economic Development Plan (2018-2028) Goal 6; *Sustain and improve our Natural Capital by maintaining and enhancing St Helena's exceptional environment, landscape, heritage and cultural qualities for this generation and the next.*

The Policy aligns with the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) which was launched in 2012 and provides the blueprint for environmental management on St Helena for the next 10 years. An objective within the NEMP being; *Improve and maintain environmental conditions through better management of solid 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.
- Promote domestic and industry waste management best practices.
- Reduce and mitigate the health and safety risks associated with the Island's waste management activities.
- Protect and preserve the environment for future generations, in line with the Environmental Protection Ordinance (2016) through ensuring full legislative compliance for waste management activities.

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 such as glass and aluminum drink cans and encourage and support the development of new initiatives including; inter-island waste initiatives and social marketing campaigns, particularly with Ascension Island.
- Develop and implement waste management regulations and codes of practice. This will be undertaken through developing and enforcing regulations and codes of practice under the EPO to manage the Island's waste.

- Develop the conversion of organic waste into compost. Recycling organic waste into compost would improve the generally poor soil quality on island as well as diverting a significant waste stream from landfill.
- Design and deliver environmentally benefitting waste management projects such as the 2018/19 DEFRA funded Marine Debris Recycling Project to sustainably manage plastic waste on St Helena to minimize marine debris.
- Deliver public education and awareness raising programs such as the visually impacting 2017 Cigarette Butt Waste Prevention Campaign, through use of oversized cigarette butts (made from recycled cardboard and paper), which stimulated great public interest.
- 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 that provides an appropriate level of funding for the waste management service to be continued and improved upon in future years.

## **Implementing the Policy and Policy Distribution**

The 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.

## **Monitoring, Review and Revision Arrangements**

The Environmental Management Division will monitor progress of objectives annually, and provide a publicly available progress report every two years. While certain objectives may be achievable relatively quickly, others may only be achieved in the longer term. The progress report will be included in SHG's State of the Environment report.

This policy will be reviewed every three years in order to monitor progress and accomplish the long term objectives set out in the Waste Management Policy for St Helena.

## 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).

### **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.

### **Waste**

In the context of this policy, waste describes the waste substances, materials and objects 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, batteries, solvents and pesticides.

### **Waste Management**

In the context of this policy waste management is the term given to the range or spectrum of activities associated with waste, namely: its generation, segregation, storage, handling and transportation from the point of source to its place of disposal.