



WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

DOCUMENT PROCESS

STATE IF NEW POLICY OR AN UPDATE OF EXISTING POLICY (TITLE OF POLICY)	Update of Waste Management Policy (3 year review)
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VERSION MANAGEMENT

LIST OF VERSIONS	POLICY MANAGER	REVIEW GROUP	DATE
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2	ERM – EMD – ENRP	ENRP	August 2023
3			
4			
5			

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This document sets out Policy on Waste Management.

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 commercial recycling programme to the island, reducing volumes of waste being produced and landfilled and consequently increasing the remaining useful life of the landfill site. This would bring the following benefits:

- Reduce short to medium term capital expenditure by increasing the remaining useful life of HPLS;
- Provide cost efficiencies to SHG and private sector through export of recyclable wastes and substitution for imported new raw materials by utilising materials at the Public Recycling Facility e.g. wood, metal; and
- Enables Waste Management Services to be more financially self-supporting.

SHG acknowledged 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 greenhouse gases and contributes towards Climate Change; and
- 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 of activities associated with waste, namely: its generation, segregation, storage, handling and transportation from the point of source to its place of disposal.

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.

1.2 Waste Management Reports for St Helena

Several reports have been written about waste management on St Helena and all supported the need for an effective Waste Management Policy.

- *Gibb. J. 2003. Integrated 30 Year Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan for St Helena. Jacobs Gibb, Reading, Berkshire, UK.*

- *Skajaa. S. 2011. Recycling Feasibility Study and Related Waste Management Issues. COWI, Kongen Lyngby, Denmark.*
- *Durnford, Sansom & Troman. 2015. Waste Management and Recycling Options Assessment. Environment and Natural Resources Directorate, St Helena Government.*

1.3 Identification of the Problem, Challenge or Opportunity

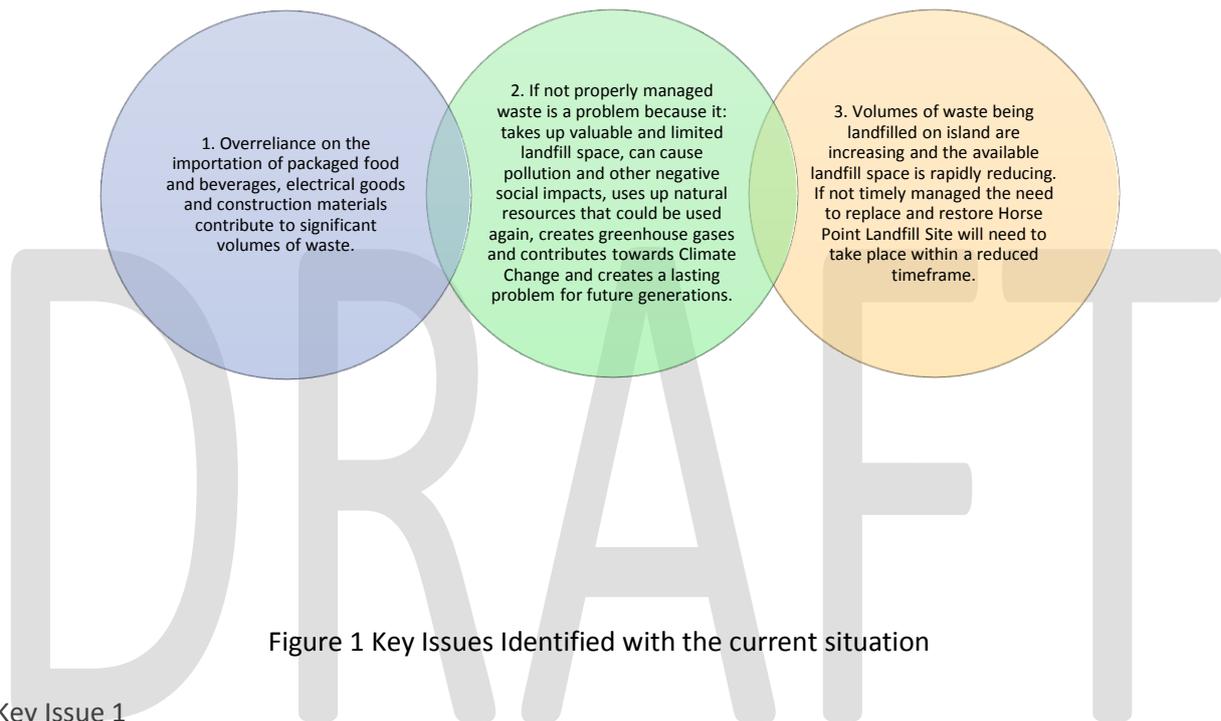


Figure 1 Key Issues Identified with the current situation

Key Issue 1

Overreliance on the importation of packaged food and beverages, electrical goods and construction materials contribute to significant volumes of waste on the island. Reducing, reusing and recycling waste helps save landfill space by keeping useful materials out. The amount of energy and natural resources needed to produce or collect the raw materials and manufacture the product are reduced. Reducing the amount of waste created helps prevent pollution and protect the environment. Whilst limiting the amount of waste going to landfill, it also preserves natural resources and saves money.

Key Issue 2

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 greenhouse gases and contributes towards Climate Change; and
- creates a lasting problem for future generations.

Key Issue 3

Volumes of waste being landfilled on island are increasing and the available landfill space is rapidly reducing. If not timely managed the need to replace and restore Horse Point Landfill Site (HPLS) will need to take place within a reduced timeframe.

The remaining useful life of HPLS calculated in 2015 was 12 years without active intervention. Whilst some initiatives and ingenuity have yielded sustainable benefits the remaining life of the site is estimated to be relatively unchanged.

The cost of developing and constructing a new airport compliant landfill site with the same facilities as HPLS was £3 Million, also calculated in 2015. Inflation and other increases estimated this cost to now be in excess of £4 Million and with a lead in time of at least 3 years for the planning, technical design, development and construction of a new site.

Reducing, reusing, recycling and treating more waste will help to reduce potentially negative impacts on the local environment by reducing reliance on landfill. Reducing, reusing and recycling also uses up fewer natural resources from the use of virgin materials and contributes towards Climate Change mitigation.

Collection of recyclable wastes at source i.e. from homes and businesses and processing through a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) centrally located at Horse Point Landfill Site will divert significant quantities of waste from landfill and thus contribute to the remaining useful life of the landfill site.

1.4 Policy Rationale

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.

Reducing waste will not only protect the environment but will also save on costs for disposal. In the same way, recycling and/or reusing the waste that is produced benefits the environment by lessening the need to extract resources and lowers the potential for contamination. As such waste management is beneficial both socially and economically.

The Policy identifies waste management as an opportunity to mitigate the impacts on wildlife and to develop the infrastructure and economy of St Helena, and also an opportunity to strengthen the branding of the sustainable island. Recycling aluminium beverage cans and exporting them back in to international markets would, for example, contribute toward landfill reduction.

2. OVERARCHING POLICY FRAMEWORK

2.1 Strategic Objectives

The Waste Management 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 Waste Management Policy supports the National Goal; *Altogether Greener* in the St Helena Island 10-Year Plan 2017 – 2027.

The Waste Management Policy aligns with 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 Waste Management Policy is aligned with the following Strategic Outcomes within St Helena's Vision and Strategy:

- a) Effective Infrastructure: *we live in well-designed sustainable places where we can all access the amenities and services we need.*
- b) Altogether Greener: *we value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations.*

The Waste Management Policy supports ENRP Strategic Priority 1: *Protect the natural environment by conserving biodiversity, preventing, minimizing or mitigating against any negative activity and/or impact, to conserve and enhance the Island's natural capital.*

2.2 Policy Aim and Objectives

The Waste Management Policy aims to develop 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 now and in the future and bring benefit to the environment of St Helena.

The Policy objectives are to;

- Develop effective co-operation and joint working between SHG, stakeholders, businesses and residents to maximize the benefits of waste reduce, reuse and recycle opportunities.
- Achieve sustainable management of all wastes arising on St Helena in a manner which does not impact on health or the environment.
- Protect and preserve the environment for future generations, in line with the Environmental Protection Ordinance, through ensuring full legislative compliance for waste management activities.

Implementation of This Policy will be guided by the following principles:

- Precautionary principle: Where evidence is inconclusive, or non-existent, SHG will make reasonable efforts to fill evidence gaps but will also need to as far as is reasonably practicable and proportionate, apply precaution within an overall risk-based approach. This would need to be considered based on risk, which will be made upon the best available techniques and evidence, combined with knowledge, information and/or expertise from elsewhere in the world.
- Polluter pays: The 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.
- Collaborative: A range of different activities taking place have the potential to result in the accumulation of waste. Therefore, in order to minimise the risks of environmental impact occurring, it is essential for the different Portfolios within SHG and other relevant organisations to work together.

2.3 Scope

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

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, promoting existing activities and encouraging and supporting the development of new initiatives.
- 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 Environmental Protection Ordinance to manage the Island's waste.
- Design and deliver waste management projects and public education and awareness campaigns in order to sustainably manage waste and improve the natural environment.

3. POLICY OUTLINE

The Policy is to ensure that SHG understands and addresses waste management impacts in a local and international context. In order to properly assess and address waste management implications, SHG will need to include waste management in its strategic planning framework. Waste management has a range of implications, - legal, budgetary, infrastructure, planning and environmental, all which need to be actioned at both political and operational levels.

4. POLICY OWNERSHIP

This Policy will be owned by the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio (ENRP) and is approved by Executive Council.

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

The Environmental Management Division will monitor work towards the objectives and provide publicly available information on their progress every two years through an SHG State of the Environment report. While certain objectives may be achievable relatively quickly, others may only be achieved in the longer term.

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