

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
(Solid Waste Management Division)

Strategy and Action Plan on Resource Recovery and Recycling

- **Background**

- The increase in solid waste generation is becoming a major problem in Mauritius, with the sole landfill of the island nearing saturation.
- In 2020, over 510,000 tonnes of solid wastes were disposed at the Mare Chicose sanitary landfill, representing around 97% of the total solid wastes generated on the island.
- Out of these, over 50% comprise organic wastes (food and yard wastes) with the remaining being recyclables (paper, plastics, glass, metals and textile wastes).

While the Mare Chicose Landfill has been ensuring a safe and environmentally sound management of solid wastes since 1997, this is not a sustainable approach. In this context, the Solid Waste Management Division, with the financial assistance of the Agence Française de Développement, developed a new Solid Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan focussing on Resource Recovery and Recycling.

- **Strategic Areas of the Strategy and Action Plan**

The Strategy and Action Plan defines five key areas that represent the cornerstone of the new Solid Waste Management Strategy for Mauritius as follows:

- Strategic Area I: “Prevention and Environmentally Responsible Consumption”
- Strategic Area II: “Increase in Resource Recovery”
- Strategic Area III: “Adequate Technologies for Energy Recovery”
- Strategic Area IV: “Provision of Adequate Disposal Infrastructure”
- Strategic Area V: “Information, Education and Communication”

- **Strategic Area II – Increase in Resource Recovery**

The Ministry is embarking on the setting up and operation of regional composting plants and sorting units on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis. Prior to the operation of the regional composting plants and sorting units, waste segregation at source will have to

become a reality in Mauritius. In that regard, bins will be provided to each household for source-segregation of their wastes into three fractions, namely wet wastes (organic wastes), dry wastes (recyclable materials) and residual wastes. Composting plants will accept source-segregated organic wastes, such as food and yard wastes, while the sorting units will accept recyclable materials, such as paper, plastics, glass and metals for further sorting prior to selling to recyclers. It is expected that the first composting plant and sorting unit will be operational by mid-2024 in the Northern or Western regions of Mauritius.

Notwithstanding the coming into operation of regional composting plants and sorting units, the Solid Waste Management Division has already initiated several projects in line with resource recovery and recycling, as follows:

- Setting up of Civic Amenity Centres within La Chaumiere, La Laura, Poudre d'Or and Roche Bois Transfer Stations to allow the public to dispose of their waste items such as paper, plastics, metals, construction and demolition wastes, waste oils, E-wastes and used tyres;
- Procurement procedures for the setting up and operation of a used tyres processing facility;
- Commissioning of a feasibility study on the setting up and operation of a scrapyards for end-of-life vehicles; and
- Commissioning of a feasibility study on anaerobic digestion of organic wastes in Mauritius.

With all these projects to be implemented in the short to medium term, it is expected that the recycling industry in Mauritius will significantly develop in line with a circular economy and thus help Mauritius achieve Target 12.5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12 on “Responsible Consumption and Production”, that is “*By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse*”.

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