



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.

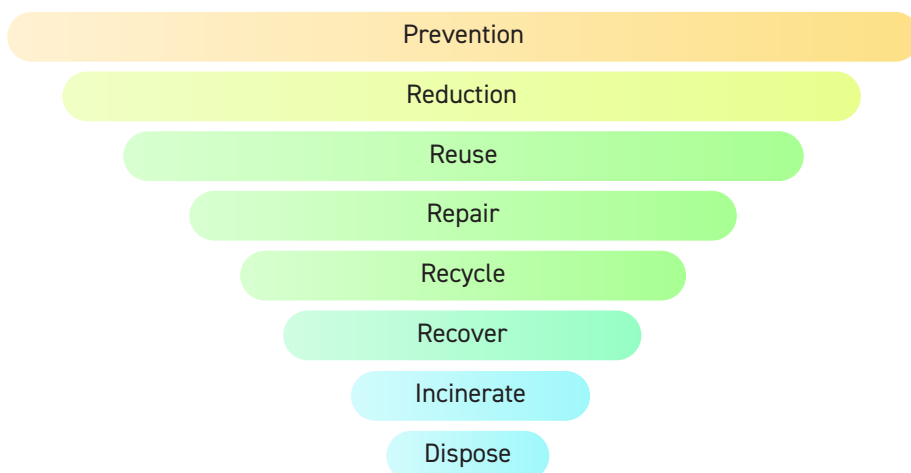


Figure 1: Waste hierarchy graph

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.

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 |

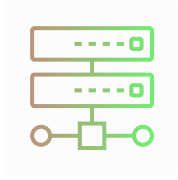


STRATEGY 5

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 coastline 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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