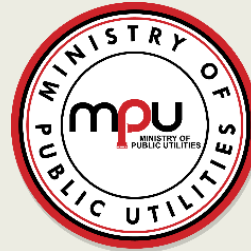




Changing the Landscape of **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Launch of the Revised Policy Framework
for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste
July 26, 2024**





Changing the Landscape of **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Internationally, a global movement has been gaining momentum. This movement calls for the creation of a thriving circular economy with greater sensitivity, both internationally and among our people in the Caribbean region, to the impact of our economic development activities on the environment.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) is seeking to establish a clear policy position for the management of the nation's municipal solid waste. This policy framework will support the country's international obligations under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our national goals outlined in the National Development Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago (Vision 2030), Theme V – Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development.

Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development

THEME V

LONG-TERM GOALS

1-15 Years; 2016-2030

1 A healthier environment

2 Improved energy efficiency

3 Improved climate resilience

4 Wastes will be reduced

5 Improve the quality of ecosystems and sustainable use of natural assets

6 Citizens are more environmentally aware

MEDIUM-TERM GOALS

1-10 years; 2016-2025

1 Renewable energy will be incorporated into the energy supply

2 Institutional arrangements for effective environmental management will be improved

3 Meet all international environmental obligations

4 Improved waste management and recycling capabilities

5 Biodiversity and ecosystem services are incorporated into all areas of national development

SHORT-TERM GOALS

1-5 Years; 2016-2020

1 Environmental governance and managements systems will be strengthened

2 Carbon footprint will be reduced

3 Climate vulnerability will be assessed

4 Comprehensive waste and pollution management systems will be created

5 Natural resource management will be improved

Policy Framework Alignment with International & National Goals

Careful consideration was given to the short term, medium and long-term goals of Theme V of the National Development Strategy which aims to ensure that environmental considerations are central to the nation's economic decisions. The goals of Theme 5 are congruent to 10 SDGs which include good health and well being, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, life on land and partnerships for the goals. These SDGs call for improvement in areas that impact the quality of life of our people in Trinidad and Tobago as well as people around the world.

Notable medium and long-term goals of Theme V are improved waste management and recycling capabilities, and the creation of comprehensive waste and pollution management systems, respectively.

With those goals in mind, the Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU) and SWMCOL commenced the process of developing an integrated system to manage our nation's waste in a sustainable manner to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

As part of this process, the MPU and SWMCOL have developed a policy framework for the management of Municipal Solid Waste in Trinidad and Tobago. This revised framework outlines strategies to create the synergies along the waste management value-chain in a manner that promotes human health and wellbeing, conservation of the environment and economic development.



Development of Revised Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Policy Framework

In developing the revised policy framework, MPU and SWMCOL utilized a multifaceted approach involving:



Extensive research on emerging and best practices for managing MSW regionally and internationally was undertaken by public sector technocrats. Technical support was also received from the Canada-CARICOM Expert Deployment Mechanism (CCEDM). This support facilitated a comparative analysis and assessment of the pros and cons, ease of implementation and ability of the proposed strategies to meet the desired outcomes. Additionally, the CCEDM funded a technical mission to Nova Scotia and Ontario, Canada to build local capacity to develop and manage an integrated solid waste system.

Over the period July 2022 to April 2024, MPU and SWMCOL engaged in extensive stakeholder consultations with key Ministries, Agencies and the Tobago House of Assembly in the public sector, along with several stakeholders in the private sector, such as associations, business chambers and the beverage industry, that are expected to play a role in executing the waste management strategies outlined in the revised policy framework.

Revised Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Policy Framework

National Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy 2024 (NISWRMP)

The NISWRMP outlines a roadmap for the next ten (10) years for Trinidad and Tobago to develop a comprehensive and sustainable management system for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW).

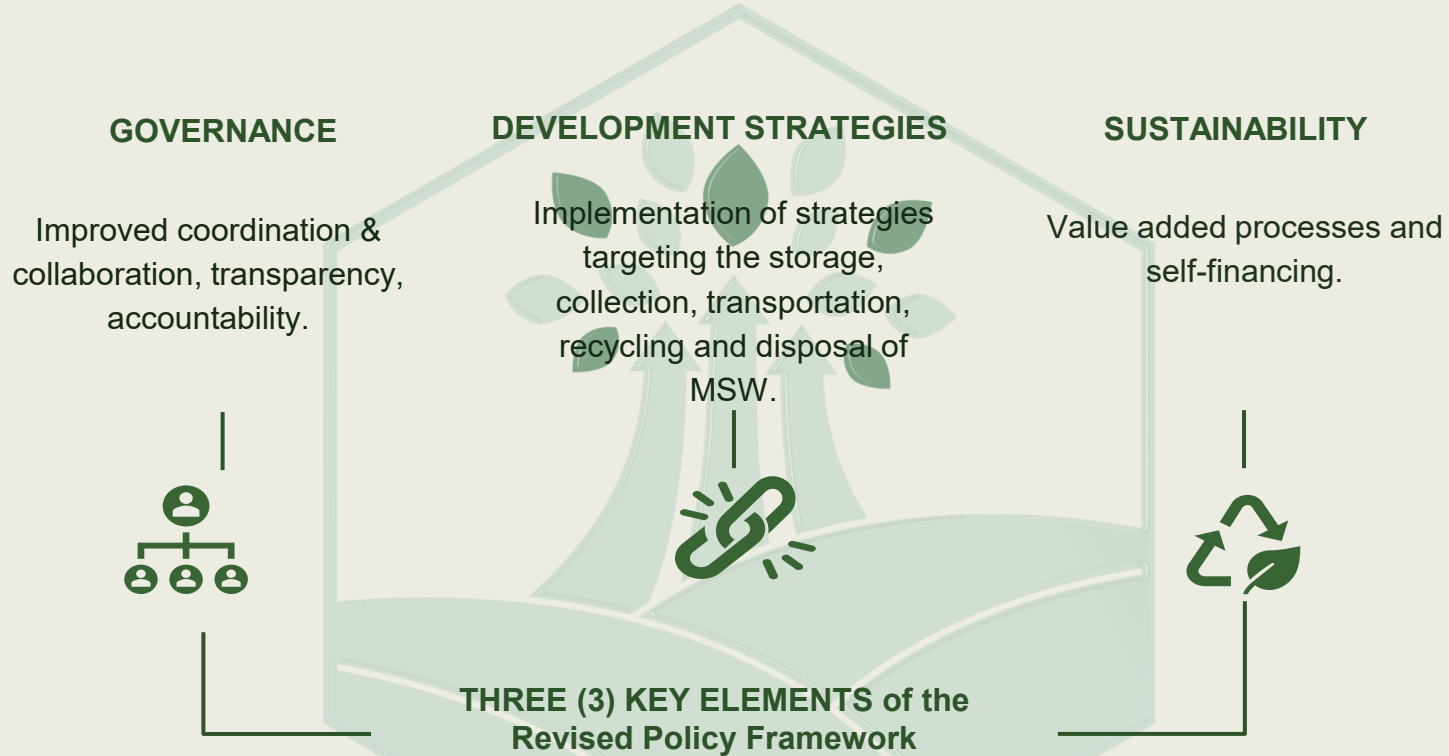
National Recycling Policy 2024 (NRP)

The NRP focuses on developing sustainable management systems for recyclable materials. The primary aim is to divert over 10 years an estimated 50% of recyclable materials currently landfilled into value added processes that will build a local recycling industry.

Beverage Containers Deposit Return Policy 2024 (BCDRS)

The BCDRS sets the framework for GoRTT to develop and administer a Beverage Containers Deposit Return System (BCDRS) for the management of sealed, non-refillable, single-use beverage containers that have a high likelihood of being disposed indiscriminately in the environment.

Revised Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Policy Framework



These three (3) key elements are the common thread of the revised policy framework.

