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Guam

Kiribati

Nauru

New Caledonia

Niue

Republic of the  
Marshall Islands

Palau

Papua New Guinea

Samoa

Solomon Islands

Tokelau

Tonga

Tuvalu

Vanuatu

Wallis and Futuna

# Pacific WasteLine

*A brief update of waste management in the Pacific Islands* • Issue 2, June 2011

## Overview

*Pacific WasteLine* provides an update on waste management activities under the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010-2015 and other related activities. The Strategy and past issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from: [http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub\\_top.asp](http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub_top.asp)

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## Regional Waste Management News

**J-PRISM Project Begins.** The 5-year, 800 million Yen (USD10 million), Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (J-PRISM) implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with SPREP began in February 2011, following the signing of the J-PRISM Regional Cooperative Framework during the 21st SPREP Meeting in PNG in September 2010.

The JICA/SPREP J-PRISM is a partnership with 14 Pacific Island countries (PICs): Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, FSM, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Its purpose is to strengthen the human and institutional capacity base for sustainable solid waste management in the Pacific Region through implementation of the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010-2015. To achieve this, J-PRISM will focus resources in several thematic areas: 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), waste disposal, waste collection, awareness and education, capacity building, and strategic planning.



*PICs, JICA, and SPREP representatives at the signing of the J-PRISM Regional Cooperative Framework*

**Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative Progressed.** This 4-year, €1 million, regional project funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and implemented by SPREP will deliver a train-the-trainer vocational course in waste management, a regional waste oil collection and disposal program, and provide support to develop future country activity proposals. The recruitment of the Technical Assistant to implement the project is almost complete, and it is envisioned that implementation will begin in October 2011.

**Pacific POPs Release Reduction Project Consultations Held.** From 12-14<sup>th</sup> April 2011, PIC representatives met in Fiji to consult on the design of the regional project: *Pacific POPs Release Reduction Through Improved Management of Solid and Hazardous Wastes* funded by the Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The project preparation phase was executed by SPREP and the project document is being finalised based on the outcomes of the consultation, prior to submission by UNEP to the GEF Secretariat for consideration. The project aims to reduce releases of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) through better management practices for chemicals and wastes and will deliver a number of pilot projects covering medical waste incineration, composting of organic waste, and testing and identification of PCBs.

**Asbestos-Free Pacific!** Asbestos containing materials have been widely used in Pacific Island countries for housing and institutional building construction, yet there is a lack of systematic management and poor public understanding of the risks. Asbestos-Free Pacific – A Regional Asbestos Management Strategy and Action Plan aims to reduce the negative environmental and public health impacts of asbestos in Pacific island countries.

**Electrical and Electronic Waste (E-waste).** End of life electrical and electronic equipment (E-waste) is of increasing concern in the Pacific, with growing stockpiles of television sets, washing machines, radios, mobile

phones, computers, printers, photocopy machines and toys accumulating in Pacific landfills. This E-waste must be managed to prevent contamination of the environment. SPREP, The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Cook Islands Government have agreed to a collaborative approach to E-waste management in the region and will together take the lead in addressing this issue.

## INTRODUCING IPLA

**What is IPLA?** The International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) is a network that focuses on networking local authorities (LAs) across the globe in order to help address the capacity constraints (technology, financial, institutional, and policy) in implementing waste management infrastructure, and associated services.

**What are the Goals and Objectives?** The objective of IPLA is to enable LAs to expand their waste management services by accelerating the update of waste-related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management through promotion and facilitation of meaningful collaboration with a wide range of partners such as governments, business and financial sector, and civil society. The final goal of IPLA is to help LAs move towards a Zero Waste scenario on a global level.

**Who can join?** IPLA membership is open to all interested entities that align its mission of expanding waste management-related services of LAs. Although IPLA is unique in terms of giving specific focus to LAs, it will draw synergies with existing international initiatives and partnerships on waste management.

**What are the benefits of joining?** Sharing of knowledge, data, and information ■ Accessing expert advice and training ■ Addressing critical and emerging issues ■ Seizing new opportunities ■ Showcasing and recognition ■ Expanding further collaborations

**Is SPREP a member of IPLA?** Yes, and SPREP currently serves as the Sub-regional Secretariat for Pacific Small Island Developing States.

**How can I find out more?** Visit «<http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/ipla/index.htm>»



## Pacific Island Countries and Territories -Updates

### AMERICAN SAMOA

**Plastic Bag Ban.** Effective 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011, all stores were prohibited from supplying petroleum-based plastic bags to consumers and customers in American Samoa. The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency along with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Public Safety are the designated and authorized enforcers.

### COOK ISLANDS

**eDay Cook Islands Held.** In December 2010, a national e-waste collection day (eDay) was jointly coordinated in the Cook Islands by the Office of the Prime Minister, National Environment Service, Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP), E-Day New Zealand Trust, and others, with generous donor support from the New Zealand Government. The coordinated effort led to the export of 5154 pieces of E-waste which included 1147 computers, 1101 monitors, 543 printers and scanners and 476 keyboards.. This successful eDay presented an effective demonstration for small Pacific Island communities on the logistics of collection and removal of E-waste, and will be part of the basis for developing a regional E-waste Management Strategy.

**2004 National Waste Strategy Revised.** The National Environment Service revised the National Waste Strategy and developed a draft National Waste Management Policy with assistance from SPREP during April 2011. The draft revised document covers hazardous wastes, E-wastes, and health-care wastes.

**Local Government New Zealand Assists Cook Islands.** A scoping study was undertaken by Local Government New Zealand through a series of missions from July 2010 to February 2011 to identify institutional strengthening and capacity requirements to improve infrastructure planning and management in the Cook Islands. This assistance is essentially a skill sharing exercise between local authorities in New Zealand with the Cook Islands MOIP. The study identified immediate needs for short term technical assistance from New Zealand local authorities on wastewater and solid waste management to complement work by other partners.

### FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

**Waste Audits Completed.** Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in the four states of FSM came together with the Environmental Protection Authorities to plan and conduct solid waste management audits in their respective states early in 2011. The results will be the basis for developing State solid waste management plans during the latter half of 2011.

**Successful recycling in Kosrae State.** The Kosrae State recycling program established with UNDP assistance in 2006/07 was one of 3 nominees for the 2010 Energy Globe Award (Earth category) and was the focus of a 2-minute documentary launched during the gala award ceremony. In 2010, the recycling program received over 1,300 cubic metres of recyclable waste, generating some USD 86,000 in income for Kosraean families.



## FIJI

**National Solid Waste Management Strategy Revised.** The Department of Environment has initiated the revision of the National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2008-2010 through two stakeholder consultation exercises held in November 2010 and March 2011 with the assistance of SPREP. Further consultations on the revised draft strategy and subsequent endorsement are expected in the second half of 2011.

**Litter Decree Revised and Launched.** The Litter (Amendment) Decree 2010, which amends the Litter Promulgation 2008, was launched in May 2010. Among the amendments are the appointment of police officers as Litter Prevention Officers, and the power to require offenders to perform instant community service in or around the place of the offence.

## GUAM

**New Collection System Rolled Out.** The Guam Solid Waste Management Division successfully completed the roll-out of a new cart (bin)-based residential trash collection system in June 2010, which delivered 19,090 95-gallon bins to residents. The accompanying weekly collection service is charged at US\$30 per month, with additional charges for extra bags or bins.

**Curbside Collection System Piloted.** 1,000 households are the focus of a year-long curbside recycling pilot to determine the feasibility of a Guam-wide curbside recycling program. Each participating household receives a colour-coded recycling bin for cardboard and paper (newspapers, magazines, catalogs, unwanted mail and office paper), aluminum and other metal cans, and plastic bottles marked with #1 (PET) or #2 (HDPE).



[www.guamsolidwastereceiver.org](http://www.guamsolidwastereceiver.org)

## KIRIBATI

**Urban Development Programme Begins.** With the assistance of the New Zealand Aid Programme, Kiribati has embarked on an Urban Development Programme (2010-2013), the successor of the Sustainable Towns Programme (2007-2010). The Urban Development Program will focus on the delivery of enhancements to the urban environment on South Tarawa and Kiritimati Island that will make a real and sustained improvement to the lives of residents. These enhancements include landfill remediation, waste collection system improvements, bulky waste removal, and public awareness, which are priorities identified in the Kiribati Draft National Solid Waste Management Strategy.

## REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

**Disposal Site Decommissioning begins in Majuro.** The Majuro Atoll Waste Company (MAWC) staff members are busy decommissioning the Batakan-Jable waste disposal site for closure in early 2012. Mountains of bulky wastes built-up over 5 years on the 2 hectare site are being sorted by hand into recyclable and residual categories. The recyclables are sold to provide income that subsidizes the free residential waste collection service, while the residual wastes are landfilled.

**Identification of New Landfill Site in Progress.** The Environmental Impact Assessment process has begun, in order to identify a new landfill site on Majuro prior to the closure of the Batakan-Jable disposal site. Traditional landowners have offered coastal areas for landfilling. This proactive approach from landowners is due partly to the positive visual and economic impact of current waste management initiatives resulting from a combination of high levels of public participation, investment in the right types of waste management equipment, and creation of new job opportunities in segregation and recycling.

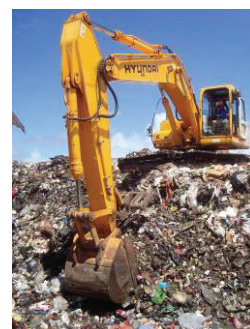


Photo: Steve Why, MAWC

## NAURU

**National Solid Waste Management Strategy Developed.** With SPREP assistance, and in consultation with over 40 stakeholders, Nauru developed a 10-year National Solid Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan, which is expected to be endorsed in 2011.

## PALAU

**Audit Report of M-Dock Landfill Released.** The management and operation of the M-Dock Landfill (situated in Koror State) from October 2007-September 2009 was reviewed by the Office of the Public Auditor. The audit recommendations include reviewing and approving the National Solid Waste Management Plan, controlling access to the M-Dock Landfill, approving the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation, reviewing the Tipping Regulation, and undertaking environmental (seawater) monitoring.

**Beverage Container Deposit System Begins.** A new beverage container recycling program was launched in April 2011. Under this recycling program, every beverage container (empty or filled) manufactured in, or imported into Palau is charged a deposit of 10 cents per container and the funds deposited into a Recycling Fund. Five (5) cents is refunded to the bearer for each container returned to an authorized redemption centre, and the remaining 5 cents support the administration of the program.

**Waste Reduction Act Approved.** A proposal to establish the Waste Reduction Act to promote the reduction in disposable plastic bag usage passed the third and final reading in the Palau House of Delegates in May 2011.



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Solid Waste Management Audit Report Released.** A waste management performance audit was undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General to assess the existence of legal and policy framework for solid waste management, the process by which such framework was implemented, and the compliance with the framework. Twenty one (21) recommendations were made which included development of national solid waste management legislation and policy, priority allocation of resources for waste management, and development of a Port Moresby recycling policy.

**Training for Waste Management Staff.** The International Labour Organization (ILO), JICA, and the National Capital District Commission (local authority for Port Moresby) teamed up to provide training to waste management staff in Port Moresby. The two-day training targeted 40 participants and focused on improving workers' practices for waste collection and disposal. See <[http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/publications/lang--en/docName--CMS\\_126981/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/publications/lang--en/docName--CMS_126981/index.htm)> to download a copy of the training manual.

**Waste Management System Studied.** The National Capital District Commission completed a time and motion study of the waste collection system in Port Moresby. The exercise was supported by JICA, with the assistance of a local biscuit manufacturer (Paradise Foods) that allowed its weighbridge to be used for weight measurements. The final report being prepared is expected to highlight areas for improvement.

**Baseline Investigations for Baruni Dumpsite Rehabilitation.** Under the JICA/SPREP J-PRISM Project, tenders were invited and evaluated for the investigation of the environmental, hydro-geological, biological, and topographical characteristics of the current dumpsite. The resulting data will be used to design and guide the rehabilitation of the dump into a more sanitary waste disposal facility. The site investigations will be undertaken by the successful company in the latter half of 2011.

**Building Local Capacity in Kavieng.** Introductory training on solid waste management practices and methods was provided to 15 key stakeholders in Kavieng District of the New Ireland Province by SPREP in June 2011. Technical advice was also provided on immediate and practical steps to improve waste management practices.

**National Policy on Non-Biodegradable Plastic Bags Progressed.** The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) developed and amended regulations new regulations to facilitate the implementation of a ban on the manufacturing, importation, and use of non-biodegradable plastic bags. The new Regulation is the *Environment (Control of Biodegradable Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2010*, whereas the regulations amended include *The Environment (Fees and Charges) Amendment Regulations 2010*, *The Environment (Prescribed Activities) Amendment Regulations 2010*, and the *Environment (Registration of Contaminants) Regulations 2010 and Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment Regulations 2010*. The intent of the new regulation mentioned is to control the manufacture and importation of biodegradable plastic bags through the requirement to obtain an environment permit, which requires the bags to be labeled and meet certain standards approved by the DEC.

## SAMOA

**Waste Management Act 2010 Passed.** The Waste Management Act 2010, which provides for the collection and disposal of solid wastes and the management of all wastes in Samoa, was passed in August 2010.

**Awareness on Waste Management Act Initiated.** With the financial assistance of SPREP, the Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) undertook a national media awareness campaign on the Waste Management Act 2010 at the end of 2010.

**Landfill Visit Program for Schools.** Exposure of young minds to the concepts of environmentally sound waste management is important for the future management of waste. This was the basis for a 2-week school program organized by a Japan Oversees Cooperation Volunteer attached to the MNRE and assisted by SPREP. Eleven (11) primary and secondary schools, 147 students, and 20 teachers participated in the program which increased awareness of the Tafaigata semi-aerobic landfill operation and other good waste management practices.

## TOKELAU

**Recyclable Waste Removal Program Started.** In April 2011, Tokelau embarked on a recyclable waste removal program, which by June 2011 had resulted in the removal of over 7 metric tons of recyclable waste to Samoa for further processing and export, and generated revenues to support further recycling. This was achieved under a memorandum of understanding (from 2007) between the environment ministries in both countries and with the partnership of a Samoan recycling company, and with financial and technical assistance from SPREP.

## TONGA

**E-waste Management in Tonga.** A newly created non-profit organization, E-Waste Tonga, was established in Nuku'alofa in 2010, and they have subsequently coordinated community workshops with outer islands (Ha'apai and Vava'u) to establish groundwork for implementing E-waste recycling programs. A private recycling company – GIO Recycling currently offers an incentive of 10 seniti (US\$0.06) per kilogram to encourage return of E-waste.

**Talanoa Veve (Talking Rubbish) in Tonga.** The Talanoa Veve national campaign is currently implementing its second phase of community awareness following the successful implementation of a National School Competition, won by 'Eua primary school student Fiula Kolotau Afu from GPS Tufuvai. The second phase will see the



Source: [www.talanoaveve.com](http://www.talanoaveve.com)

installation of educational signage in Tongatapu and Vava'u in highly visible, problematic areas in an effort to support ongoing educational initiatives both nationally and by local organisations in waste education. Visit [www.talanoaveve.com](http://www.talanoaveve.com) for more information.

## TUVALU

**10<sup>th</sup> EDF Assistance.** Tuvalu is a recipient of assistance from the European Union under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) to address waste management, water and sanitation. Under waste management section, a new Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu (SWAT) has been established, waste collection and disposal equipment has been procured to improve services, and each household has been provided with garbage bins.

## VANUATU

**Pre-Paid Garbage Bag Collection System Implemented.** In an effort to improve cost recovery rates, the Port Vila Municipality implemented a prepaid garbage bag collection system in September 2010 with technical assistance from SPREP. The collection program requires each household to purchase special garbage bags, which will be the only ones collected on the designated collection day. The cost of collection is built into the bag price, and the resident has the power to control his/her waste disposal costs by reducing the amount of garbage put out (i.e. less bags to buy).

## Other Waste and Pollution News

**Ballast Water Management Seminar in Fiji.** An awareness-raising seminar on Ships Ballast Water Management was held on the 19th May in Suva, Fiji. This is the first of its kind for the Pacific, and it helped take Fiji forward in addressing harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through shipping ballast water and hull bio-fouling. The seminar raised awareness on ballast water, highlighted the need to develop policies, a legal framework, and an action strategy for the region, in addition to emphasizing Fiji's important role as the maritime hub for the region. Some short and long-term actions were identified at the seminar including developing a Fiji National Policy based on existing legislation, engaging other sectors such as Environment, Biosecurity, Immigration, Customs, Navy and Maritime Safety Authority, developing legislation and policies and progress for ratifying the Ballast Water Management Convention. The seminar was attended by participants from government ministries and the private sector.



**New Model Legislations Developed.** Two new pieces of model legislation have been distributed to PICTs for national implementation – “A revised Model Marine Pollution Prevention Bill (with Ballast Water Management Convention provisions)” that replaces the 2002 model Marine Pollution Prevention Act prepared jointly by SPC and SPREP and a “new Model Ballast Water Management Regulation”. The model regulation is designed specifically for countries that have enacted comprehensive marine pollution legislation, particularly the model Marine Pollution Prevention Act, while the revised model bill is intended to help countries in their development of legislation to effectively implement international and regional conventions, programs and arrangements. The revised model bill requires appropriate modifications to be effectively implemented in the particular country which intends to use it as the basis of its’ marine pollution law. Please contact our Marine Pollution Adviser for further assistance – [anthonyt@sprep.org](mailto:anthonyt@sprep.org).

**Regional Training on Legal Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention.** The regional training on the Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention focusing of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement was held in Suva Fiji from the 16-18<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The training was attended by 19 participants from 13 PICs and was jointly facilitated by IMO, SPREP and SPC. Outcomes include commitments for domestic implementation of the new model legislations developed by SPREP/SPC as well as development of National Strategies and baseline information.

## Funding Sources

**Terra Viva Grants Directory:** The Terra Viva Grants Directory provides information about international grant funding for agriculture, energy, environment, and natural resources in the developing world. Funding opportunities can be viewed by upcoming deadlines and users can subscribe to receive regular updates. Visit the following website for more information <<http://www.terravivagrants.org/>>.

## Acknowledgements

The Pacific WasteLine is prepared based on information and data contributed by waste management staff in SPREP Member Countries and Territories.

## Contribute to the next issue...

Please send us your contributions. We welcome all interesting news and updates from SPREP Members, development partners, and Regional Organizations. Stories should be brief (50–200 words) and can be about recent news, successes and events. Images and internet links are welcome. Please email your contributions to [estherr@sprep.org](mailto:estherr@sprep.org).

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**Past Issues:** Past issues of Pacific WasteLine are archived on the SPREP website at « [http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub\\_top.asp](http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub_top.asp) »  
(Please note that the first issue was called “Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010-2015 – Implementation Update”)

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# Overview of Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010-2015

Legend

Thematic Area
Outcomes
Regional Intervention 1
Regional Intervention 2, etc
■ Gaps

**VISION:** A healthy and a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable Pacific for future Generations

**GOAL:** Pacific Island Countries and Territories will adopt cost-effective and self-sustaining Solid Waste Management Systems to protect the environment, in order to promote a healthy population and encourage economic growth

