



Organisational Information

The Vanuatu Recyclers and Waste Management Association consists of businesses and organisations, registered in Vanuatu, that have had a demonstrable association with recycling, waste management, waste minimization or commercial waste production for at least 12 months.

Vision – An active and sustainable recycling & waste management industry in Vanuatu that reduces the environmental footprint of waste and capitalises on innovation and opportunities.

Mission – Facilitate and communicate between members, government and international initiatives so our members can take up opportunities to realise their aspirations to improve waste management and recycling in Vanuatu for the benefit of people, environment and business following the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Return.

VRWMA sees our position as a facilitator and conduit for information. We recognise the strengths and capacity of our members, both businesses and organisations, to implement actions and participate in projects and initiatives. VRWMA is a collective platform where collaboration and ideas can flourish and communication can flow amongst our members and between VRWMA and government, donors, international consultants, academics and others in the field for recycling and waste management.

Objectives & Functions as written in the VRWMA constitution:

- To promote and implement appropriate and applicable 3R + Return policies, legislations, projects and activities for minimizing wastes and their impacts to Vanuatu`s environment and people`s health.
- To strengthen the recycling and waste management industry for supporting sustainable waste management services in the country.
- To promote appropriate practices and approaches to the private sector for the proper management of the generated commercial wastes in the country.
- To promote national standards and guidelines for waste recycling, collection and disposal in the country.
- To support ongoing efforts, researches, projects and activities in the countries for the management of the difficult waste streams.
- To represent the voice of Vanuatu Recyclers and Waste Management advocates at the national, regional and international bodies, meetings and conferences.
- To collaborate with regional and international agencies on waste related research, projects, and programs for the improvement of waste management in the region.
- To explore funding opportunities for supporting waste 3R + Return initiatives in the country.
- To represent Vanuatu to the Regional Recycler and Waste Management Association



Our Story

On Independence Day in July 2017 Vanuatu's Prime Minister, recently returned from the UN Ocean conference, announced Vanuatu would be banning single use plastics. One year on, single use plastic shopping bags, plastic straws and polystyrene takeaway containers were banned. The second phase came into effect at the end of 2018, banning 7 other un-necessary single use plastics. Prior to the Ocean Conference, there were voices in our community calling attention to marine plastic pollution. We saw petitions to ban plastic bags. There were litter cleanups that demonstrated the problem was real for Vanuatu and not just the rest of the world. However, it was the government's commitment to tackling plastic pollution that has created the momentum that gave rise to VRWMA. In March 2019 a meeting was called for people interested in the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The meeting was facilitated by JPRISM, which is funded by JICA. From that meeting our association was born. We are comprised of civil society organizations, recyclers and businesses committed to reducing their environmental impact. Our aim is to work together to find solutions that work for the environment, the people and the businesses of Vanuatu. Our vision is to create a platform where civil society and businesses can work closely with government and international donors to find solutions that will work in and for Vanuatu.

We believe that collaboration will lead to positive outcomes – we have charities, who want to see a reduction in plastic use, working together with manufactures who use plastic packaging, to find ways forward. We want to work with government to help advance their policies and honor their commitment to reduce plastic pollution, whilst ensuring our manufacturing sector, that employs many local people, stays strong. We support bans for many single use plastics, but bans are not the solution to every waste management issue. We would like to work together to ensure the right solutions are found that are effective, but also have the least impact on the local economy. The first initiative we have been engaged in is the development of a container deposit scheme in Vanuatu. The association members have produced a policy paper putting forward recommendations that will allow the scheme to be effective and, after the initial set up costs, self-funding. We believe our recommended model is the best fit for Vanuatu and are looking forward to working with government and donors to take this forward.

Our association is not all about plastics. We would like to see our future endeavors include activities to improve any of the three Rs. For example; recycling of other products such as paper and cardboard, improving composting, awareness-raising programmes or working with communities, industry and tourism to reduce our waste footprint. As representatives of private sector and local NGOs, we see ourselves as a conduit for government and donors to interface with these sectors. We are all aware of the global awakening to the effects of plastic pollution and the resulting surge in concern. The world is rallying to address this issue. There are at many projects addressing plastics and waste. We are at an opportune time to explore how Vanuatu can best take advantage of this wave of interest. We hope the existence of an organization such as VRWMA, with our collective experience, will help to coordinate efforts and ensure activities are well suited to Vanuatu.

Some investments in this field have been excellent and we would like to see more of the effort and funding produce meaningful results. Our wish is to see actions on the ground that will make a difference and can be sustained well in to the future, not just to the project end. Our members have demonstrated a long-term commitment to Vanuatu and will be actors in their respective organisations for a long time to come. Our plans are ambitious. We are looking forward to engaging in useful dialog and working with government and donors to achieve the outcome we are all striving for: Moving our society and commerce to a cleaner, more sustainable future.



Vanuatu Recyclers and Waste Management Association Strategic Plan 2021-2024

As the VRWMA see itself as a facilitator and a communicator, assisting member to take advantage of opportunities that arise, many of the strategies listed below will depend on the opportunities and initiatives arise.

Progress towards the goals will be assessed annually at the Annual General Meeting of the organisation.

Goals	Strategies	Activities	Priority
Assist waste producers (retailers and manufacturers) to reduce waste they produced by ensuring they are aware of opportunities that arise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecting with projects• Passing on information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directing project team members to appropriate enterprises• Targeted emails with information• Share Information on Facebook page	High
Creating and improving systems and infrastructure for waste streams that have potential to be recycled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Container deposit scheme for beverage containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to work with the CDS- working group chaired by DEPC, government and donors on activities in the work plan for the CDS including:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Drafting a detailed model of the CDS.ii. Preparing recommendations for any legal instruments that are required for the schemeiii. Prepare draft documents required for the management of the schemeiv. Calculate amount of legacy material and estimate the funds required to cover refunds for these materialsv. Seek funding for seed capital to cover the cost of legacy materialvi. Establish timing and content of a communication plan.	High



Strategic Plan 2021-2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and recommend other waste items suitable for deposit scheme to the relevant agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and recommend a priority list of recommended items to be added to CDS once it is established and running well 	Low
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying specific waste from industry that could be utilised – repurposed or recycled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting members with waste to local groups and organisation wanting to utilize waste Pass on information or ideas or initiatives from elsewhere Find funding and organise an ideas forum. 	Low
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> encouraging civil society to re-use / repair by connecting people with unwanted items with people who will use, repurpose or repair items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and moderate FB group 	Low
Create enabling conditions for plastic recycling in Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating circular economy for plastic packaging Ensuring any infrastructure for plastic recycling is appropriate for the waste in the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research for possible markets for recycled plastic and how it needs to be processed to get it to market Access funding for machinery needed to process plastics and machinery to process plastic waste into material that can be shipped overseas such as counters, washers, shredders Research logistic of getting recycled plastic to market and any impediments Engage with governments, companies and NGOs to find solutions to impediments to recycling plastics 	High
Find solutions to impediments and barriers to recycling	Discussions with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify impediments and barriers to recycling Identify people 	High
Advice, guidance, collaboration and awareness raising	Active 2-way communication with government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify point of contact with DEPC and Municipalities Invite government to meetings of the VRWMA Respond to requests and communications 	High



Strategic Plan 2021-2024

	Guide the ANZPac Plastics Pact priorities and targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with members Create a list of priorities & give feedback to the Pact 	High
	Engaging with Projects and initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VRWMA becomes a point of contact for private sector and organisations for incoming recycling and waste management projects and consultants Encourage government to direct enquires to VRWMA A web presence Providing advice to ensure project activities are useful and appropriate for Vanuatu and benefit the sector. Reduce time wasted at beginning of projects on gathering information already in circulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create web presence with website Page on website that gives information and guidance on how to engage with private sector and NGOs in Vanuatu Post new information / reports to website. Work with volunteer of the French government feasibility study to collate all known current information. Respond to requests and communications 	Medium
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support communication programmes for recycling and good waste management practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with and encourage government, NGOs and businesses to deliver communications campaigns Give advice on content of campaigns or awareness materials. Share Facebook posts Email members about campaigns 	Medium
Identify member's concepts for reducing waste that require technical assistance or funding to implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a suite of ideas and potential projects ready should assistance and or funding arise Create a concept note template 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access funding for assisting industry to access ideas/ infrastructure and implement their ideas Assist with writing of concept notes and consult with members for endorsement by VRWMA 	Medium



Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Improve glass recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce better end product from crushing glass to sand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access funding for machinery for grading glass sand. 	Medium
Expand membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWRMA represents a wide range of recyclers, waste producers, waste collectors and NGOs interested in reducing the impacts of waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook posts, Newspaper article Members to have conversations with others eligible companies and organisations that they have connections with 	Medium

Alignment with National, regional and international policies and strategies on recycling and waste management	
National Waste management and pollution control strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic areas: i) Waste minimisation and ii) integrated waste management Objectives: i) Support waste management activities ii) establish incentive schemes that implement polluter pays, iii) reduce waste at source and at landfill
National Sustainable Development Plan – the People’s plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment goals and policy objectives: 2 Blue Green Economic Growth. Economy goals and policy objectives: 1 sustainable and Equitable growth; 4 – create jobs and business opportunities.
Cleaner Pacific Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Goals 1) Prevent generation of wastes and pollution 2) Recover resources from waste and pollutants Strategic Actions: B) Promote public-private partnerships. C) Implement sustainable best practices in WCP management
Sustainable development goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 – Decent work and economic growth; 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 11 – Sustainable cities and communities; 12 – Responsible consumption and production; 14 – Life below water; 15 – Life on land; 17- Partnerships for the goals.