



This initiative is supported by PacWastePlus-a 85-month project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to sustainably and cost effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution.

# Tuvalu

## RECYCLABLES AND ASBESTOS

### Expansion of Waste Initiatives to the Outer Islands



## Tuvalu Project Summary

### THE ISSUE

Tuvalu's Outer Islands have not received significant support for waste management, and do not:

- Have facilities to participate in the Waste Levy (implemented in Funafuti 2019) so all items are disposed to the environment or dumps.
- Have understanding of the presence of Asbestos and impact on human health.

### THE SOLUTION

The Department of Waste Management seek to extend waste management initiatives to their Outer Islands, through:

- Implementation of systems and facilities to expand the Tuvalu Waste Levy
- Assess the location and quantity of Asbestos and develop of a Strategic Plan for its management

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. All islands have facilities, equipment, and legislation to enable participation in the Waste Levy
2. Understand the presence of asbestos and develop a strategic plan, including strengthened legislation to ban its importation
3. Outer island communities living safely with asbestos and participating in the Tuvalu Waste Levy

### Data & Education

- Waste Audit
- Regional Data Collection Monitoring and Reporting Framework
- Data Collection for Sustainable Financing and Asbestos Assessment
- Waste Profiling
- Education and Awareness Support
- Waste Management Decision Tool
- Research Documents approved by the Research Advisory Group
- Organics management guidance documents

### Legislative Environment

- Legislative & Regulatory Stocktake and National Option Paper
- Pacific Standards on Organic management
- Legislative Support for Sustainable Financing
- Support for progressing asbestos importation ban
- Asbestos management guidance documents

### On-Ground Activities

- Recycle collection facilities (depots, equipment, and signage) for all communities
- Baler at Transfer Facility
- Asbestos testing equipment and PPE
- Asbestos training and assessment support
- Asbestos Strategic Action Plan
- Waste management section of Island By-Laws drafted
- Specialist equipment for composting
- Education and awareness - outreach, radio, social media, and logo competition

### Capacity Building

- Capacity Needs Analysis
- Capacity building: Asbestos Management, Education and Awareness Training, Healthcare Waste Management, Organics Management, Sustainable Financing, and Waste Auditing



Expanded the national waste management legislation and recycling infrastructure to outer islands, enabling equitable access and participation in a sustainable financing system for recovering beverage containers, e-waste, and batteries, reducing reliance on dumpsites and improving environmental outcomes.

A field-based asbestos diagnostic tool, coupled with the development of a national asbestos assessment, strengthened Tuvalu's ability to determine presence of asbestos, development of a draft national management plan, and the development and implementation of legislative instruments related to asbestos management. Capacity was built in the Customs Department to ensure long-term public and environmental safety through stopping the importation of asbestos.

*It is important for us that all communities in Tuvalu have equal access to waste facilities they can benefit from a cleaner environment.*

*PacWastePlus has provided us the long term ability to understand the location of asbestos and therefore manage its risk. Along with the asbestos ban to stop any new asbestos arriving – we will be able to keep our community safe.*

*Epu Falega, Director of Waste Management*



9 New Waste and pollutant management Legal instruments drafted:

- Asbestos Ban Regulation
- Asbestos Code of Practice
- 7x Island By-laws

7 new facilities collecting/processing recyclables from Tuvalu's outer islands

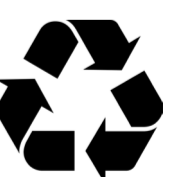


1 upgraded recycling facility processing an estimated 544m<sup>3</sup> per year enabling access to overseas recycling markets



16 training courses delivered increasing capacity of Tuvalu to safely manage asbestos, healthcare waste, organics, depot operation, data collection and GIS, and equipment operation and maintenance

139m<sup>3</sup> recyclable materials estimated to be diverted from dumpsite per year due to islands depots\*



\*Tuvalu Waste Audit

## About PACWastePlus

The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus, is a 85-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by SPREP to sustainably and cost-effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution.