

WASTE WISE CITIES CAMPAIGN

The global scale of urbanization and economic growth are creating a potential “time-bomb” regarding waste we generate in the world’s cities. If not addressed now, the significant negative impact on human health and the environment will be felt by nations at all levels.



Solid Waste Management is now a global issue that everyone should care about: poor solid waste collection and uncontrolled disposal are polluting air, soil and water, threatening our health; the growing amount of waste generated in cities daily is accounting for a large portion of local governments' budgets; unmanaged waste from our society is creating marine litter pollution menacing our oceans' ecosystems.

However, if properly managed, our waste is a great opportunity. Resource recovery from the waste stream reduces consumption of natural resources, which are already depleting. New circular economy business models create jobs and enhance income for the urban poor. An improved urban environment and quality of life create investment opportunities for sustainable urban development.

UN-Habitat encourages all cities in the world to be **WASTE WISE**; that means to be a city that uses our precious resources wisely through rethinking, refusing, reducing, reusing and recycling its materials and waste before as well as after consumption. All cities regardless of their size and financial capacity can improve upon the current state of their solid waste management. **WASTE WISE CITIES CAMPAIGN** aims to support cities and local governments in achieving waste management related Sustainable Development Goals, as well as implement the New Urban Agenda.



- ☉ Let us support cities to gather waste data and monitor their waste flows!
- ☉ Let us back cities up in working with the informal sector and boost recycling!
- ☉ Let us channel funding for adequate waste management facilities for inevitable waste!
- ☉ Let us curve the current trend of waste and turn it into useful resources for everyone!



Waste SDGs

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution



KEY PRINCIPLES OF WASTE WISE CITIES CAMPAIGN

UN-Habitat invites cities to join the Waste Wise Cities Campaign. To join, cities are requested to confirm their commitment to the following Key Principles, which assist them on their way to becoming a Waste Wise City:



Assess quantity and type of waste generated



Improve collection and transportation of waste



Ensure environmentally safe disposal



Promote "Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"



Empower and work with different stakeholders



Establish better working conditions for waste workers,



Learn from others on innovative technologies



Make long-term strategic plans considering waste



Design financial and other incentives



Encourage "Rethinking on waste"



Regularly review progress



Strive towards achieving the SDGs and NUA

WHAT WASTE WISE CITIES CAMPAIGN OFFERS

Knowledge & Good Practices Sharing

To properly manage waste, it is essential to have the right expertise supported by case studies and experiences obtained from different parts of the world.

UN-Habitat will facilitate this through:

1. An interactive knowledge-hub
2. Online courses on:
 - a) Waste SDG indicators monitoring
 - b) Alternative and appropriate solutions to achieve Waste SDGs
 - c) Waste management governance system

Waste Data & Monitoring

It is absolutely necessary to have an understanding of a city's waste flow, starting with waste generation, then collection and ending with the controlled management of waste to plan and invest in adequate waste management infrastructure.

UN-Habitat supports member cities in this process through:

1. Regional training workshops
2. Face-to-face trainings in the field on request from member cities
3. Open waste SDG indicators database
4. Report 'Solid Waste Management in World Cities'

Advocacy & Education

Without responsible behavior and attitude towards your own waste, proper waste management cannot be achieved even if a state-of-the-art waste management infrastructure is provided.

UN-Habitat wants to raise global awareness for sustainable waste management through:

1. Advocacy and education campaigns to raise awareness on the 5R, food waste, municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, etc.
2. Awareness raising events on the 5R, food waste, municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, etc.

Project Finance & Bankability Support

For project ideas to be realized, its institutional, technical and financial feasibility should be duly checked according to the local context.

UN-Habitat will support cities in this process through:

1. Listing of potential waste management projects based on proposals from member cities
2. Trainings on financing solid waste management
3. Strengthened partnership between donors and member cities, as well as facilitate public-private partnerships

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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**WASTE-WISE
CITIES**



To:

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Letter of Intent: Waste Wise Cities Campaign

On behalf of the city of _____, I wish to state our intention to join UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities Campaign and commit to make efforts to:

1. Assess quantity and type of waste generated by residents, establishments and businesses
2. Improve collection and transportation of waste
3. Ensure environmentally safe disposal of waste
4. Promote the 5 Rs – Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse the use of single-use items, to derive maximum value from waste
5. Empower and work with civil society, NGOs, private and informal sectors
6. Establish better working conditions for waste workers, whether in formal or informal employment
7. Carefully evaluate and implement innovative technological alternatives, e.g. waste-to-energy schemes, and learn from other cities
8. Make long-term strategic plans for urbanisation, which fully consider solid waste generation and treatment
9. Design financial and other incentives, promoting a transition to a more circular economy and reducing waste
10. Encourage "Rethinking on waste" through public education and awareness efforts to change public attitudes towards waste
11. Regularly review progress on Municipal Solid Waste Management in the city and provide achievements and success stories annually on the Waste Wise Cities Campaign website
12. Strive towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the goals of the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda

We recognize that the signing of this letter of intent is not binding and does not imply any legal or financial obligations or otherwise, by the signatory parties.

We, the city of _____ are confident that the collaboration between us and UN-Habitat will be fruitful and of mutual benefit for achieving our goals.

Date:**Signed:**

[Name, Title, Signature and Stamp of City Representative]

What you will find on the next pages:

- Waste Wise Cities Campaign at 1st UN-Habitat Assembly
- Theme of 2019 World Habitat Day
- Results from our member questionnaire
- Our Advisory Group
- Call to Action

Waste Wise Cities Campaign at 1st UN-Habitat Assembly



The first UN-Habitat Assembly took place in Nairobi from 27th to 31st of May with the theme “Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities”. It hosted over 3,000 delegates & visitors, 4 heads of state

& government, over 50 ministers & vice ministers and about 60 mayors. The new Governance Structure of UN-Habitat, which comprises of a universal assembly and an executive board, was set up and resolutions were passed concerning the strengthening of UN-Habitat’s mandate as the focal point for SDG #11.

Waste Wise Cities Campaign was present during the whole week with different activities and side events, that we like to share with you.

Waste Wise Cities Campaign Clean up

Already before the official inaugural session of the Assembly member cities organized Clean Ups to raise awareness that solid waste is everyone’s responsibility. An example is the city of Ndjamen, Chad. With 30 volunteers two hectares in one district of the city were cleaned.

Douguengar Masra Arsene, Head of Sanitation Division at the Ministry of the Environment reports: *“We collected garbage from households, bars, restaurants, streets, and public spaces in the demarcated area. Then, we deposited this garbage in the temporary landfill with the help of the company ABLOUGA’s hats. These 200-liter capacity carriers made it possible to make ten (10) trips from the collection to the temporary dump. This operation took us five (5)*



hours, according to which we collected 2 tons of household waste. This waste consists of paper and cardboard, kitchen and food waste, plastics, and a lot of sand. At the end of the clean-up operation, some women gave their opinion of satisfaction and are happy to live in a healthy environment without the disease.”



Waste Wise Cities Press conference

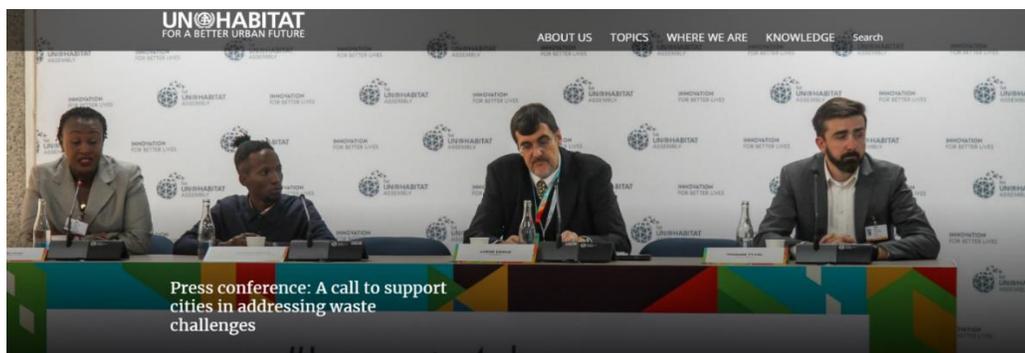
During the press conference Andre Dzikus, Coordinator of the Urban Basic Services Branch at UN-Habitat, presented the global challenge of solid waste management and Waste Wise Cities Campaign as part of the solution. He confirmed UN-Habitat's commitment for sustainable solid waste management and introduced the four key action areas Waste Wise Cities Campaign will focus on: Knowledge & Good Practices Sharing, Waste Data & Monitoring, Advocacy & Education, and Project Finance & Bankability Support. He also renewed the call for action to tackle the solid waste management challenge.

Isaac Mutisha Muasa, Chairman of Mathare Environment Conservation Youth Group, won the 2018 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour for the Youth Group's work in improving the living qualities in Mathare, a low-income settlement in Nairobi, Kenya. He illustrated the daily waste management problems slum dwellers are facing and how to involve everyone in taking active measures.

Przemek Pyziel presented the work of his start-up Planet Heroes, the world's first eco-crowdfunding platform, through which community-based organizations and waste management entrepreneurs who are actively engaged in cleaning cities or recycling on the ground are matched, receiving financial support for their work through online funding.

Last but not least, Dr. Skitter Mbugwa, Kisii County Executive Committee Member for Energy, Water and Environment & Natural Resources, part of Waste Wise Cities Campaign, demonstrated the efforts the County has been undertaking to reach more sustainable waste management in partnership with UN-Habitat, as well as Kisii County's expectations on the Campaign.

[Here](#) you can download the presentations of Przemek Pyziel and Dr. Skitter Mbugwa.



Film Screening – the sound of waste

TESTIMONIES is an audio-visual project that showcases the sound of waste, waste treatment and the people working with waste. It consists of four parts that were featured at the UN-Habitat Assembly:

After some introductory words from Graham Alabaster, Chief of Waste and Sanitation at UN-Habitat, Testimonium, an abstract and intimate portrait of waste, was screened. The images and sound were reflected in a discussion between Mohammed Hassan Mohammed (waste picker at Dandora Dumpsite), Mary Waithe Mwangi (waste picker at Dandora Dumpsite), Imanol Zabaleta (EAWAG), Joyce Klu (Waste

Management Unit, UN-Habitat) and David Makori (Chief Environmental Officer, Nairobi City County Government). Afterwards Testimonial # 1-3 gave voice to three different people working at Dandora Dumpsite in Nairobi, each with their own unique personal story, including their daily life at the dumpsite, personal challenges, and expectations for the future. The event concluded with further discussion between the panel members and the audience regarding the challenges solid waste management is facing in Nairobi (and in many places around the world), as well as waste as a source of income.



The three Testimonials can be watched here:

Testimonial # 1 WAMBUA:

<https://youtu.be/CHbBlkxJsx8>

Testimonial # 2 MAM: <https://youtu.be/hXCK4U4Koyg>

Testimonial # 3 MOHAMMED:

<https://youtu.be/k2ujfRtAQ38>

Waste Wise Cities Campaign – Bringing together partners for innovative solid waste management approaches

This side event enabled UN-Habitat, UN Environment, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, International Solid Waste Association, and Swiss Aquatic Research Institute (EAWAG) to strengthen the partnership for addressing the global and regional waste management challenges through Waste Wise Cities Campaign and African Clean Cities Platform. It was agreed that innovative financing and private sector involvement are key aspects regarding the acceleration of active progress for solid waste management.

Waste SDG indicator monitoring, and waste data collection will be the first step to attract worldwide investment for waste management, with the UN agencies taking the lead. The pilot testing and data collection of SDG 11.6.1 (Proportion of Municipal Solid Waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total Municipal Solid Waste generated in the city) in Nairobi, Kenya, demonstrated the effectiveness of the indicator in finding the gaps in infrastructure investment and capacity development of local governments. Mombasa County, Kenya, is now committed to work with UN-Habitat and EAWAG to conduct another pilot, which will contribute to the global SDG monitoring framework development while addressing the waste management challenges in the county. As the discussion explored waste management measures to move towards a circular economy, policymakers were recommended to hold producers accountable for providing easily recyclable products (Extended Producer Responsibility).

A video of the event can be watched at the [UN-Habitat Facebook page](#).



Consultation for the Advisory Group of Waste Wise Cities Campaign

A consultation for Waste Wise Cities Campaign Advisory Group was successfully carried out on May 29th during the Assembly. The participants were: EAWAG, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Global Alliance of Waste Pickers, International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), Let's do it world, The Global Green Growth Institute, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), UN Environment, Waste Netherlands, Sanergy and the City of Dortmund (observer). The United

Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) was unfortunately not able to join. During the consultation an overview of Waste Wise Cities Campaign was given and its current Theory of change was discussed, as well as the online questionnaire and the way forward for the campaign. Another Advisory Group Call took place on 10th of July. Cities, city networks and private sector are still invited to express their interest for the Advisory Group.

Waste Wise Cities Campaign Booth



A booth informed about Waste Wise Cities Campaign during the whole UN-Habitat Assembly and gave cities the opportunity to join. New members include Banjul, Brikama Area and Kanifing Municipality from The

Gambia and Manzini from Swaziland. Furthermore, a “red chair” was offered for people to talk about waste management and send their message to the global community.

Theme of 2019 World Habitat Day has been announced

This year's world Habitat Day will be celebrated on 7th of October with the theme **“Frontier technologies as innovative tool to transform waste to wealth”**.

The Global Observatory will be held in Yaoundé, Cameroon (a member city of Waste Wise Cities Campaign). World Habitat Day is observed every year on the first Monday in October and supports UN-Habitat's mandate to promote sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The 2018 topic was Municipal Solid Waste Management and the beginning of Waste Wise Cities Campaign.

Impressions from last year:

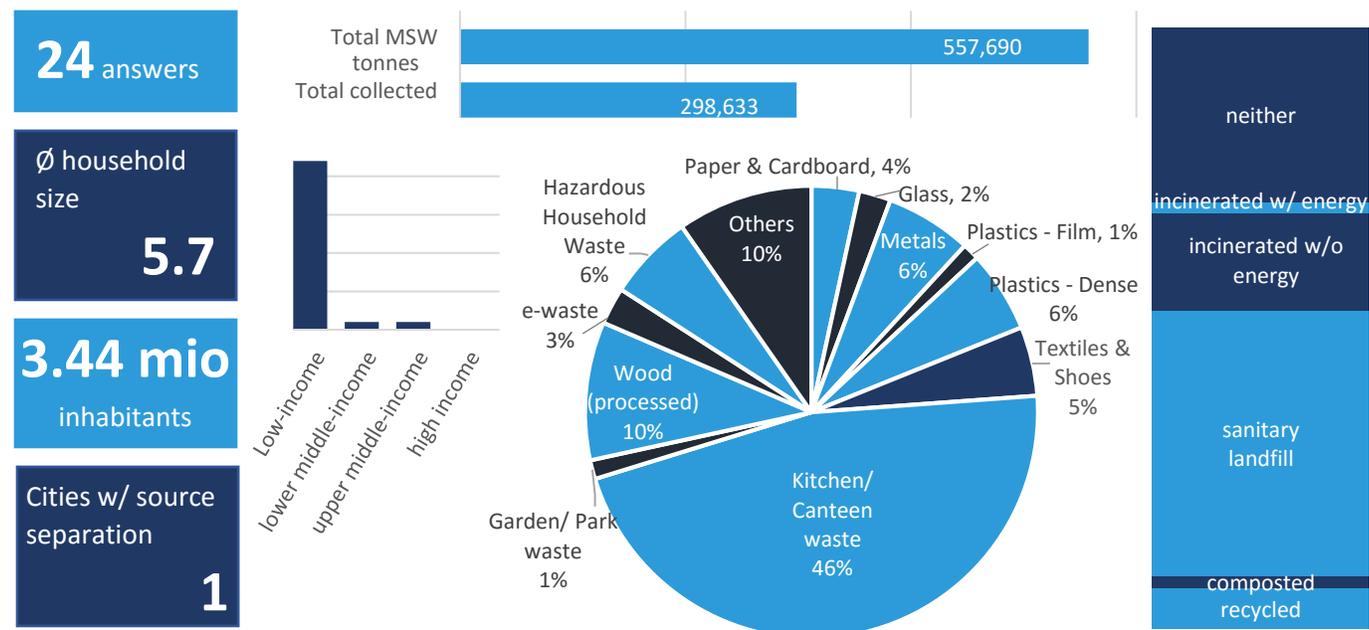




Some results from our member questionnaire

After receiving the letter of intent to join the campaign and promote the 12 principles of sustainable waste management, cities are asked to fill in a questionnaire about the status of waste management in their city.

In the following we present some results. Member cities who haven't filled the questionnaire in yet, are kindly asked to do so.



Advisory Group

The Advisory Group consists currently of 12 members, ranging from UN Agencies over NGOs, Associations and research institutes to the private sector. Cities, city networks and private sector are still invited to express their interest for the Advisory Group.

It will meet twice per year along major international events. In between the members will have regular calls to advise UN-Habitat, discuss the way forward and build partnerships.



Call to Action

- Promote and push sustainable waste management in your city and worldwide!
- Share innovative ideas and approaches as well as success stories with Waste Wise Cities Campaign!
- Contact us if you want to start monitoring the waste flow in your city!
- Build partnerships and include all stakeholders, then tell us about it!