



PROJECT SNAPSHOT NIUE

This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 72-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.**

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E-WASTE & RECYCLABLES PROJECT

Sustainable Management of Waste in Niue (Advance Recovery Deposit and Fee and E-waste Management)

Items are imported into Niue in growing numbers, but there are currently limited viable options for their end-of-life management and/or export. As such, most items imported are disposed of at the dumpsites or stockpiled on vacant land. Electronic waste stockpiles, in particular, are increasing and resulting in increased pollution and health risks to Niue people. The priority for Niue is to introduce a financially sustainable system to enable the long-term collection, management, and export of recyclable and end-of-life electronic items, utilising the new Recycle Facility (funded by the Government of Australia).

The Niue Department of Environment seeks to focus their PacWastePlus investment to:

- 1) support the implementation of a Sustainable Financing system (known as the Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit - ARFD)
- 2) support the establishment of an electronic waste dismantling center to enable processing and export of electronic waste

Items targeted for inclusion in the first phase of the Niue Sustainable ARFD project include:



Aluminium Cans



PET Plastic Bottles



End-of-Life Whiteware



Electronic Items

Niue seeks to utilise the PacWastePlus investment for the following activities:



LEGISLATION

Assistance for drafting and approval of legislation to empower the ARFD system (Waste Management Act and ARFD Regulation)



TRAINING

Capacity building of staff to operate an electronic waste dismantling center



SYSTEM

Support to update customs and finance systems to provide for the operation of the ARFD system



FACILITY

Construction of Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit depot facilities in all communities



LEGACY WASTE

Collection, processing and export of legacy electronic waste from stockpiles



EQUIPMENT

Purchase of electronic waste dismantling equipment



COMMUNICATIONS

Implementation of ARFD and E-waste education and awareness actions

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION



The Niue Government has been considering a **sustainable financing system for waste management** since 2016



Recycling standards regulations were drafted in 2016, however they did not meet the objectives at the time



Feasibility study into the design of an ARFD completed in 2020



Minister support for ARFD in 2020



National Integrated *Waste Management Strategy* 2010-2015 - **Overall goal to reduce waste disposal**



The Niue ARFD project will help achieve this goal by creating a self-funding mechanism to enable:



Long-term collection, management and recovery of recyclable materials



Diverting them away from landfill to an appropriate recycle market



A **Niue Waste Recycling Facility** is currently being constructed, expected to be completed by mid-2022.



The facility will collect and process PET plastic bottles, glass, and aluminium cans



PacWastePlus project and other donors will invest additional infrastructure to enable this facility to collect and process other waste types, such as electronic and bulky waste



Niue ARFD project will provide for long-term financial sustainability for the facility operation



A refund system for aluminium cans is currently in operation at the **Catholic Church**. A previous Clean up Niue Campaign (funded by the NZ Government) undertook a one-off collection of e-waste and bulky waste in 2010



Niue ARFD project will build on the success of the Catholic Church initiative by formalising the buy-back system and expanding to other waste items



Stockpiles of e-waste and bulky waste built up again, leading to the design of the Niue ARFD project – to provide a formal system enabling the long-term funding for collection, processing and export of these items.



CURRENT STATUS / MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY WASTE

Current Situation:

Data collection and Education and Awareness



Recyclable materials comprise approximately **30% waste to landfill**



Electronic waste stockpiles are found throughout Niue



Awareness messaging for management of recyclables - on-going as opportunities arise



(Data collection on ARFD operation, including recyclables collection and export/formal education and awareness programme through implementation of National Education and Awareness plan.)

Policy & Regulation



Existing legislation of Niue for waste governance was assessed as performing at a MEDIUM to MEDIUM-TO HIGH level



Current legislative environment for managing waste:

Primarily governed under the **Environment Act 2015** (and supporting regulations) and the **Public Health Act 1965**



Local government's powers to deal with wastes are found in the **Village Councils Act 2016**



Other key ancillary legislation, such as the **Customs Act**, regulates specific waste issues (e.g. the recent prohibition on plastic bags)



(Waste Management Act and ARFD Policy and Regulation)

On-Ground Activity



Four disposal sites currently in operation: Mutalau, Makato, Huihui and Vaiea



Household recyclables (aluminium cans, PET plastic bottles, glass) are collected from households and taken to one of the dumpsites for stockpiling



A refund system for aluminium cans is currently in operation at the Catholic Church



There is no formal collection and processing of EOL electronic waste items, resulting in illegal disposal and stockpiling



Despite collecting recyclable items from households, it is currently a challenge for Niue to export them to overseas markets due to:



Lack of regular funding and export of items

Lack of economy of scale



(Additional tools and equipment provided to the new Waste Recycling Facility to enable collection and processing of EOL electronic waste, collection of legacy electronic waste from stockpiles and export from Niue, and update customs and finance systems to enable implementation of ARFD)

Human Capacity



Capacity – WEAK to CHANGING ability to manage electronic waste in areas of treatment, which includes, Occupational Health and Safety, Collection, Transport, Process/Treat and Disposal/Control, and Legislative Regulations / Standards

Capacity - STRONG ability to manage recyclable items in all areas of treatment, which includes, Knowledge, Collection, Transport, Process/Treat and Disposal/Control



(Hands-on E-waste dismantling training and training for operation of ARFD)

GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIAL AND DISABILITY INCLUSION (GESDI) CONSIDERATIONS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NIUE



Equality in today's society requires sound waste management.

All people have the right to access waste infrastructure, participate in decision making and able to voice grievances, access information and awareness messages, and be protected from harmful effects of waste – on health, environment, culture and traditions.



Opportunities for Niue to provide for equality during the management of recyclables



Continue development of effective legislation to provide coordinated and equitable approach for waste management.



Include considerations regarding equality and inclusion in waste-related legislation and regulation



Consider additional bans and phaseouts of certain types of problematic or hazardous products



Provide for effective implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of waste-related legislation to protect vulnerable members of society



Mobilise additional resources for waste management including through an Advance Recovery Fee system



Enhance the availability and accessibility of information



Include additional Government departments, in particular labour, culture, women, and equality-related authorities and/or bodies, in waste-related decision making to identify and address potential inequalities



Provide waste management facilities for rural and outer island communities



Enhance efforts to protect waste workers

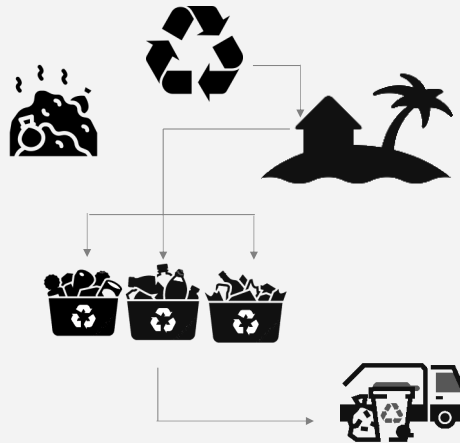


Utilise traditional knowledge and customs to enhance participation, environmental protection and stewardship

MAPPING PROJECT SUCCESS



LONG TERM OUTCOME



All recyclable and EOL electronic items in Niue are diverted away from landfill



MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES



Niue Recycle Facility is operating in a financially sustainable manner through the collection of fees through the ARFD system, not solely reliant on government income



Pollution caused by inappropriate management of recyclable products is eliminated as EOL items are collected and processed at the Recycle Center and exported from Niue



Marginalised groups engaged in recyclables management to generate income



Recovery and recycling industry provides equal opportunity employment



SHORT TERM OUTCOMES



Legislative environment in Niue which enables the long-term operation of an ARFD system, providing for cohesive, coordinated, and self-funded management of recyclables and electronic items



E-waste dismantling operation at the Recycling Facility, efficiently collecting, processing, and exporting targeted electronic items through the provision of equipment and delivery of relevant training



Have households and communities in Niue effectively managing their recyclable and EOL electronic items and participating in the ARFD system



OUTPUTS



Development, and completion of a Feasibility Study to inform the design of the Niue ARFD Scheme



E-waste dismantling center established at the Recycle Facility



Development, revision, and enforcement of legislations for the operation of the ARFD scheme



E-waste legacy stockpiles collected, processed and removed from Niue



Customs systems updated to provide for the collection of the ARFD and Customs staff trained in its use

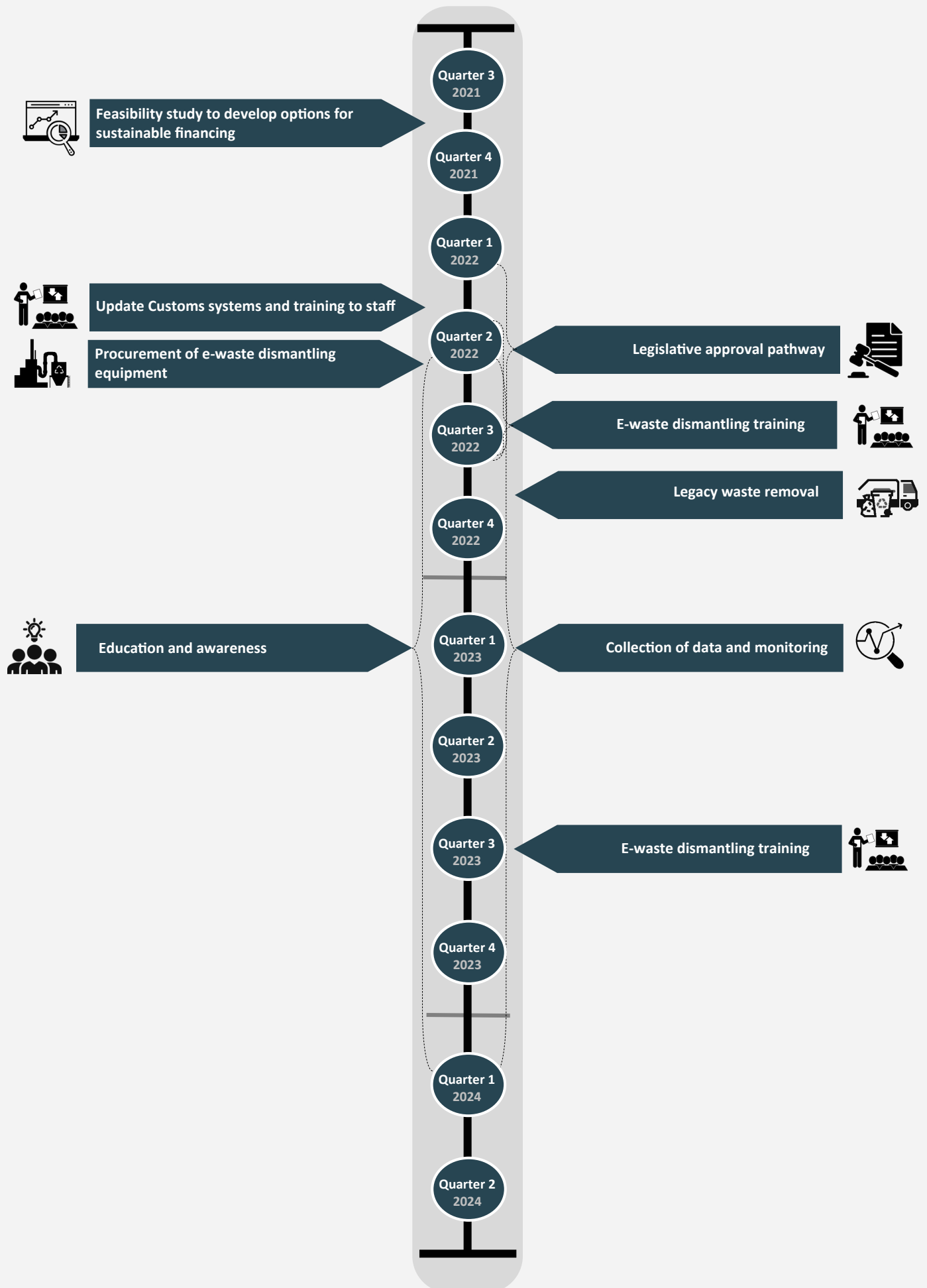


DoE staff trained on e-waste dismantling to effectively handle, process and export items overseas



Implementation of effective ARFD national education and awareness program

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE



PACWASTEPLUS REGIONAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES AND WHAT NIUE CAN EXPECT



Health Care Waste Management

Niue will receive:

- Healthcare waste training [storage, treatment, and disposal solutions for healthcare waste]
- Assessment of the impact of the PacWaste Project healthcare waste activities
- Repair selected healthcare waste Incinerators in the region
- Work with development partners to implement a long-term plan for the sustainability of health care waste infrastructure
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Asbestos Management

Niue will receive:

- A guidance and drafting note to assist with legislative reform to ban the importation of asbestos
- Template Code of Practice to guide the safe handling and management of asbestos
- Communication resources and materials to provide information on safe handling and management of asbestos
- Learnings from other country projects focused on asbestos
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Organics Management

Niue will receive:

- Document providing technical analysis of how to compost common organic materials received in the Pacific
- Template Minimum Standard document to guide effective and safe composting
- Resources to guide organic facility design and operation
- Training on organic facility design and operation
- Ongoing Technical Assistance
- Learnings from country projects focused on organics management



ARFD / Sustainable Financing

Niue will receive:

- Communication resources and materials to provide information to stakeholders on the benefits of ARFD systems
- Resources and training to assist during ARFD system design and guide decisions support
- Learnings from other country feasibility studies and projects focused on ARFD
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Disaster Waste Management

Niue will receive:

- Terms of Reference for the establishment of an Environment Sector Working Group (Cluster) within National Disaster Management Framework to ensure effective implementation of disaster Waste Management Response and Recovery
- Drafting/Guiding Notes on National and Community Disaster Waste Management Plans
- Disaster Waste Training Manual for use at both the National and Community level
- Learnings from country projects focused on disaster waste management
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Regional Course Development

Niue will receive

- Development of a sustainable capacity building program for waste management in based on country needs
- Training through the adopted training courses, both vocational and tertiary



Schools Curriculum Development

Niue will receive

- School curriculum on waste management education (eight programme waste streams) incorporated in to existing school core subjects such as Maths, English and Science
- Primary school education-problem based curriculum
- Secondary school education-culturally responsive
- Tertiary school education-culturally responsive
- Training and capacity building opportunities for teachers



Bulky Waste Management

Niue will receive:

- Guiding document and a Decision Support Tool to guide on how to design and implement a national ELV management programme.
- Drafting/Guiding Notes on how to draft national legislation for the management of End-of-Life vehicles
- Safe Dismantling Training Manual
- Publications and awareness materials



Behaviour Change

Niue will receive

- Learnings of the community-based social marketing Pilot projects and replication of successfully implemented projects
- Ongoing Technical Assistance

ABOUT THE PACWASTEPLUS PROGRAMME

The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus, is a 72-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional management of waste and pollution sustainably and cost-effectively.

About PacWastePlus

The impact of waste and pollution is taking its toll on the health of communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change, and adversely impacting social and economic development of countries in the region. The PacWastePlus programme will generate improved economic, social, health, and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices for all participating countries.

Countries participating in the PacWastePlus programme are: *Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.*

KEY OBJECTIVES

Outcomes & Key Result Areas

The overall objective of PacWastePlus is “to generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment”.

The specific objective is “to ensure the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific Island communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements”.

Key Result Areas

- **Improved data collection, information sharing, and education awareness**
- **Policy & Regulation** - Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented.
- **Best Practices** - Enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development implemented
- **Human Capacity** - Enhanced human capacity



Learn more about the Niue Project by visiting

<https://pacwasteplus.org/country-project/niue/>

For more information please contact:



The PacWastePlus team on pwp@sprep.org



Or visit - <https://www.pacwasteplus.org>

Disclaimer

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**Countries mentioned in this publication are as at November 2021*

(post project please email sprep@sprep.org)