



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.**

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

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ORGANICS PROJECT

Improving Solid Waste Management in Majuro: Diversion of 40% Waste from Landfill

The overflowing Jable-Batkan dumpsite in Majuro is the urgent problem for waste management faced in the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI). This dumpsite has long exceeded its design capacity with waste now pushed up to 17m high against a seawall on the ocean side of the atoll. The priority for RMI is to reduce waste disposal at the dumpsite. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seek to focus their PacWastePlus investment to introduce a programme to divert the largest two components of waste - organics (17%) and paper/cardboard (22%) - from disposal and instead be processed to compost at an organics facility. In addition to reducing 40% of waste disposal at the dumpsite, almost doubling its remaining lifespan, this project will provide local organic compost to communities to assist improve with soil quality and crop yield.

Items targeted for inclusion in the project include:



Organics



Paper



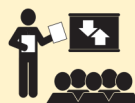
Cardboard

The RMI seeks to utilise the PacWastePlus investment for the following activities:



FACILITY

Construction of an organic and paper/cardboard diversion and processing shed at the dumpsite



TRAINING

Training for operators of the composting facility



EQUIPMENT

Purchase of equipment to enable immediate processing and volume reduction of the items



LEGACY WASTE

Supply of compost to the community



RESEARCH

Research into use of cardboard in composting, and at what ratio, to provide an effective circular solution for its management



COMMUNICATIONS

Implementation of project education and awareness actions to identified stakeholders

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION



In February 2020, the President of the Marshall Islands issued an **Emergency Proclamation** of the dumpsite, **declaring it a health threat** to the general public, particularly to employees and neighbouring residents



This emergency proclamation highlighted the urgency for waste management and the need to reduce the volume of solid waste disposed at Jable-Batkan landfill



The MAWC **Solid Waste Management Plan for Majuro 2019 – 2028** prioritises waste reduction and recycling as essential to reduce waste coming to the final disposal site in order to prolong the life of the disposal site



The organic and paper/cardboard project will help achieve this goal by **diverting almost 40% of waste from disposal**, almost doubling its remaining lifespan



RMI have developed legislation for the management of waste including the **Styrofoam Cups and Plates, and Plastic Products Prohibition, and Container Deposit Act 2016** – to assist with the reduction of waste needing disposal



The legislation includes:

A prohibition on the importation, manufacturing, or sale of Styrofoam and plastic cups and plates, and plastic shopping bags



A container deposit program, collecting a levy on aluminium cans, PET bottles and glass bottles



A priority for RMI is increasing **food security** and **enhancing climate resilience** through enhancing locally grown produce



The organic and paper/cardboard project will help achieve this goal by:

processing organic materials into compost to be sold to the community, replacing imported chemical fertilizers



educating the community on composting and the value of growing food and consuming local produce

CURRENT STATUS / MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY WASTE

Current Situation:

Data collection and Education and Awareness



Organics and paper/cardboard make up approximately **40% of materials** to Majuro dumpsite.

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



(Data collection on composting facility operation, education and awareness programme through implementation of National Education and Awareness Plan)

Policy & Regulation



Existing legislation for waste governance performing at a MEDIUM-to-HIGH LEVEL



Current legislative environment for managing waste:

The central legislation governing waste management in RMI is an environmental protection and regulatory control model



Primary legislation to manage waste are the **National Environment Protection Act 1984** and **Styrofoam Cups and Plates, and Plastic Products Prohibition, and Container Deposit Act 2016**



(MAWC Laura Composting Operations Procedure, MAWC Landfill Organics & Paper/Card Diversion Operations Procedure)

On-Ground Activity



Household organics in Majuro are currently collected and disposed at the dumpsite.



A small volume of organic material from farm is processed at two small-scale composting facilities at Laura



Majority of paper and cardboard received at the Majuro dumpsite is from businesses



An initiative to convert material to briquettes in 2014 was trialled but unsuccessful due to high labour and processing timeframes



(Compost facilities/equipment to enhance processing of organics and paper/cardboard)

Human Capacity



Capacity - STRONG ability for collection of organic items

CHANGING capacity in the areas of processing/treatment, disposal/control and equipment operation and maintenance



(Training for effective composting, training for operation of equipment)

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



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 RMI 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

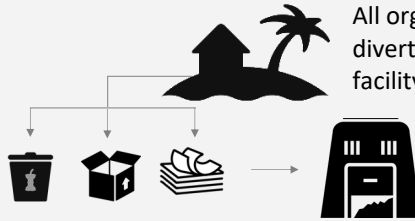


Utilise traditional knowledge and customs to enhance participation, environmental protection and stewardship

MAPPING PROJECT SUCCESS



LONG TERM OUTCOME



All organic and paper/card material in Majuro diverted to a designated organic processing facility



MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES



Locally produced compost replaces imported fertilizers and is utilised by households and businesses to improve quality of soil



Pollution caused by inappropriate landfilling of organics and paper/card from Majuro is reduced as 95% of organics and paper/card are captured by compost facilities and diverted away from landfill and environment



Financially viable compost facilities in operation on all RMI islands due to quality of product and compliance of facilities to Composting Operations Procedures.



Reduction of methane gas produced from the RMI landfills as a result in the reduction of organic waste being disposed



SHORT TERM OUTCOMES



Have an organics diversion system in place at Majuro dumpsite to divert organic waste from disposal



Have an informed and engaged community participating in the composting programme and purchasing locally produced compost



Have the Laura organics facility operating effectively, processing organic and paper/card material into compost for sale to the RMI community



Dedication of a portion of the dumpsite as organic and paper/card processing, and system to immediately divert the items from disposal



Equipment – including a mobile chipper – to collect, process and transport materials for composting



Compost Facility making and supplying local compost to growers and households in RMI



Development of a Composting Operations Procedure; and Organics & Paper/Card Diversion Operations Procedure



OUTPUTS

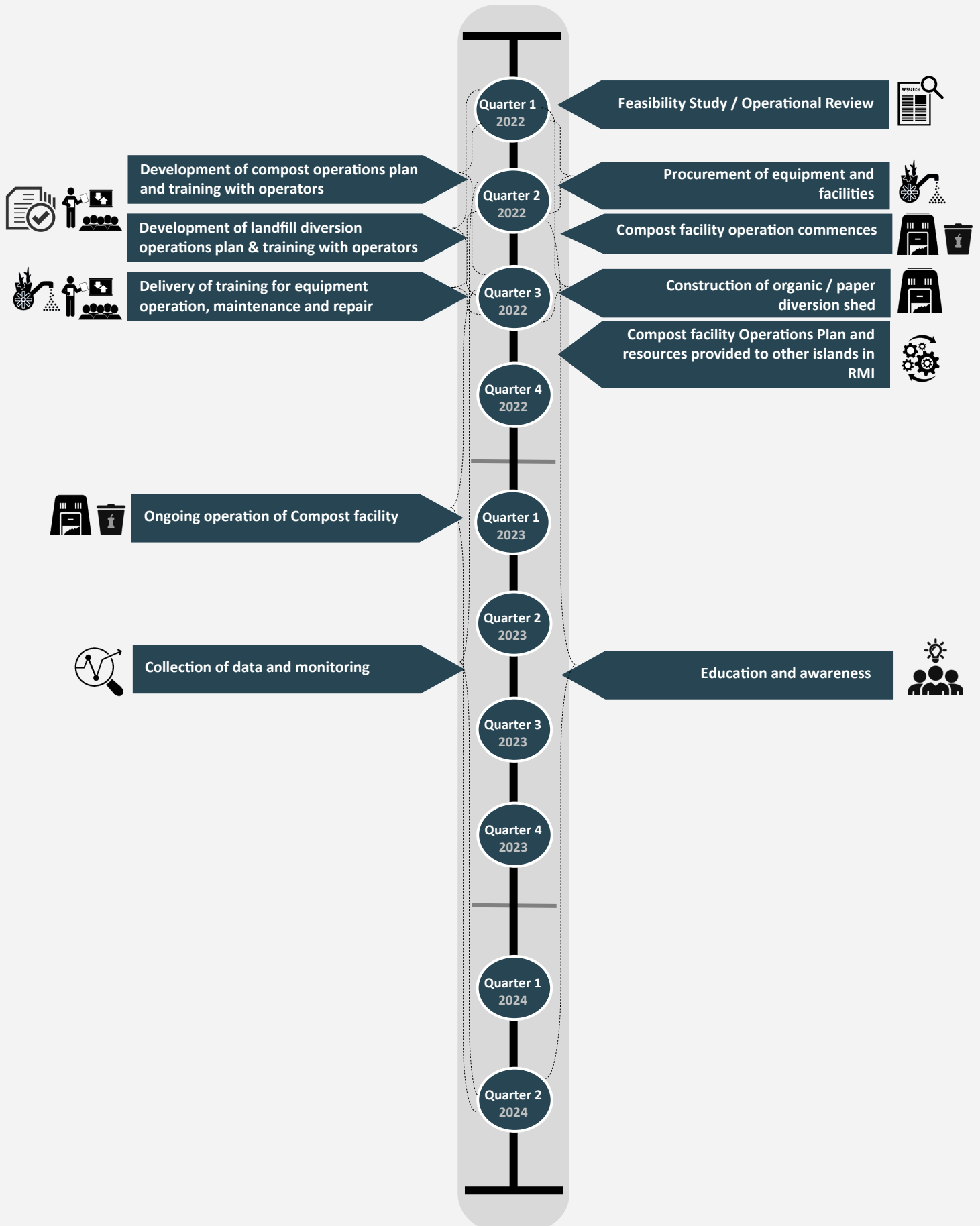


Compost Facility operators trained in effective composting



Education and awareness programme delivered to all communities

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE



PACWASTEPLUS REGIONAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES AND WHAT RMI CAN EXPECT



Health Care Waste Management

RMI 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

RMI 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

RMI 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

RMI 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

RMI 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

RMI 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

RMI 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

RMI 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

RMI 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 RMI Project by visiting

<https://pacwasteplus.org/country-project/republic-of-marshall-islands/>

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)