



Mid-Term Evaluation Brief /2023

PacWaste Plus (PWP) is a regional programme working with Pacific Island States to improve their solid waste management practices. Funded by the **European Union**, PWP is implemented by the **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**. Between January and August 2023, **NIRAS** conducted a mid-term evaluation of PacWaste Plus, producing a series of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to improve the programme implementation.

Republic of the Marshall Islands



Country project focus:



Organics Management

Local actors involved:

RMI Environmental Protection Authority, Majuro Atoll Waste Company (MAWC), Laura Organics Facility, Jable-Batkan landfill.

Main results achieved:

- A stocktake of existing waste legislation and an assessment of legislative frameworks were completed.
- A waste audit was completed.
- A feasibility study was undertaken to analyse opportunities for introducing an Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit system.
- One week-long hands-on composting training was conducted for six staff at the Majuro Atoll Waste Company.

Good practices

The country project in the Marshall Islands seeks to increase the capacity and improve composting operations of the existing Laura Organics Facility, in Majuro. PacWaste Plus provided a one-week training to staff at MAWC which was highly appreciated by trainees, due to its focus on simple techniques to ensure the right moist, temperature and nutrient conditions. The newly acquired knowledge will allow quick intervention by staff when conditions are not ideal. Previously, staff would make compost only when they had fish meal. With the training, they learned that the most common organic materials they process already contain carbon and nitrogen and can be composted without fish meal. Thus, the organics facility will operate more often and process a larger amount of organics than before. As other PWP's country projects also focus on organics processing, this training could be replicated in other Pacific countries as a good practice.

Lessons learned:

- Improving capacities where they already exist is more straightforward than building them from scratch. Building on the work from previous programmes and addressing the challenges faced by actors working with waste management increases the impact and sustainability of the intervention.
- Sustainable financing principles are yet to be incorporated into organic processing to sustain operations beyond the programme implementation period.

Next steps:

- Purchase organics shredder and equipment to enable diversion and re-use of paper and cardboard, and cardboard collection bins for businesses.
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and easy-to-follow materials for composting and landfill diversion.
- Conduct awareness and educational activities.
- Upgrade the Laura Organics Facility for effective composting.



“ New knowledge to the compost process helps us sustain the knowledge of fertilizing our own food.

Majuro Atoll Waste Company staff member