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**மொது நிருவாக, மாகாணசபைகள் மற்றும் உள்ளூராட்சி அமைச்சு**  
**Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government**

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**மாகாணசபைகள் மற்றும் உள்ளூராட்சிப் பிரிவு**

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PL/15/MSW/Guidelines/01-2025

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திகதி  
Date

.01.2025

**Urban Waste Management Guideline No.01/2025**

All Provincial Chief Secretaries

**Regularizing Solid Waste Management of Local Authorities while fulfilling their Responsibilities towards creating a Circular Economy**

According to policy statements for Urban Solid Waste Management specified in the National Policy on Waste Management, approval has been granted on 23.12.2024 by the Cabinet of Ministers for taking action as per proposals submitted through Cabinet Memorandum No. PA/PCLG-35/107/2024 dated 16.12.2024 by the Hon. Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government with a view to regularizing solid waste management of local authorities while fulfilling the responsibility of all local authorities towards creating a circular economy.

02. Accordingly, all local authorities should take action as follows for ensuring the responsibility and commitment assigned with all citizens and local authorities in order to be involved in waste management activities identifying the importance of community engagement as well as community awareness towards a sustainable urban solid waste management procedure, empowering them, building strong relationships between the community and the institutions within the local authority areas and identifying and implementing identical activities and projects appropriate for each area with community engagement.

**2.1 Legal Background**

As per the National Policy on Waste Management approved on 01 October 2019 by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the essential community engagement towards waste management should be focused as well as the Policy on Urban Solid Waste under Serial No.1 of 8.2.1 of the said Policy and the policies for ensuring community engagement. They include;

- (a) Encouraging households, institutions and other commercial entities by local authorities for active participation in proper collection of urban waste effectively and efficiently with feedback mechanism
- (b) Preparation of time tables by local authorities for collection of waste with community engagement and in case of any change in time or a delay, notifying the community in advance using digital technology or other convenient methodology to prevent improper disposal of waste
- (c) Formulating strategies by local authorities for preventing waste generation, providing facilities for increasing the utility value of domestic waste as much as possible, minimization of waste through segregation of the appropriate source and further segregation

2.1.1 In addition to the above policy statements, implementation of the following policy statements has been introduced under contribution and satisfaction of citizens, civil organizations, community organizations and community representatives in terms of 8.5.4 of the National Policy on Waste Management.

- (a) Motivating community groups towards active contribution in waste management at domestic level focusing on the concept of “Happy Family”
- (b) Promoting among each other positive outcome of community contribution in waste management and negative impact of failure in taking timely measures and innovations, creative ideas as well as exchange of ideas community groups
- (c) Taking measures for further encouragement of system improvements, positive as well as negative outcome and effects on performance of waste management, outcome thereof at national and divisional levels with positive and negative chain reactions, promoting citizen consultation discussions and preparing citizen reports annually.

As per the National Policy on Waste Management, formulation of strategies and preparation of action plans by local authorities for urban waste management including sewerage and, providing facilities at divisional level for waste management and other activities in order to achieve objectives of the National Policy with the cooperation of each institution at divisional, provincial and national level, providing infrastructure facilities viz. land for storing, processing and disposal of waste, maintaining cleanliness in the area with public cooperation,

ensuring that no waste whatsoever is improperly disposed of so as to cause environmental issues and public distress, maximizing community engagement in their areas and introducing motivation methods for minimization of waste generation, monitoring and evaluation of performance and reporting progress periodically to authorities and the public with feedback access, is mandatory.

## **2.2 Targeted Objectives**

All local authorities should take action to achieve the following targeted objectives for ensuring sanitation and environmental protection which are the dual key objectives of solid waste management.

- 2.2.1 Making all citizens and local authorities legally responsible for engagement in waste management activities based on the entire community as waste generators and the extent of their involvement relating thereto
- 2.2.2 Initiate an attitude change through increasing the sensitivity of citizens and local authorities on the necessity of accountability and responsibility for individual and collective waste management by preventing and minimizing waste generation going beyond adaptation
- 2.2.3 Building public trust on the role of waste management of local authorities adhering to courteous methods with transparency
- 2.2.4 Necessary line up according to the Government Policy of minimizing the amount of waste directed for the final disposal by 30% during the 03 ensuing years, identifying and implementing appropriate activities
- 2.2.5 Preparing a local authority plan for identifying, implementing and taking follow up action relating to appropriate identical activities/projects for local authority areas and implementing accordingly while establishing a sustainable method of ensuring sanitation and environmental protection

## **2.3 Method of implementing**

It is essential to create the background required for working with local authorities, community and identified groups with the intention of increasing efficiency and productivity of waste management. They are;

- I. Partnership with community based organizations

Making community based organizations valuable travel companions for minimization of waste, recycling and promoting awareness programmes at ground level. This partnership empowers the community for active participation in waste management and intends to further strengthen community participation using local expertise through use of voluntary expertise in the local authority area.

## II. Women Community Based Organizations

Instantly covering a huge population and area by spreading the message of minimizing waste through a decisive population performing a crucial role in domestic and community waste management.

## III. Youth

Using the ability of youth to promote environment friendly practices through the strength, innovation and thinking of the young generation by engaging young groups

## III. School Children

The importance of domestic compost production and promotion of plastic, polythene waste recycling at school level

## V. Samurdhi beneficiaries, Aswesuma beneficiaries, the disabled community

It is intended to communicate the message properly to the community representing all ethnic groups and to activate the programme through compulsory participation of the said communities.

## VI. Waste Collectors in the Improper Sector

Arrangement of a proper procedure to cover all sections through confirming participation of particular groups

## 2.4 **Activities**

Action should be taken to minimize the amount of waste generated through inclination towards recycling by increasing the awareness of all citizens on proper segregation of waste collected by local authorities at the initial source itself with the cooperation of community organizations, various groups and institutions. Each local authority should prepare a plan on waste management to suit their local authority and according to the following activities as appropriate for their local authority and information specific to the relevant local authority area should be collected and a detailed action plan should be prepared based on the said information.

### I. Consultation opportunities with citizens/citizen organizations

Obtaining basic views and proposals by active participation of local authorities with the community of the area and citizen organizations for views and response on waste management issues and gaining an understanding of the expectations, views and proposals of residents through public surveys and community meetings. (This target can be achieved by obtaining maximum assistance of Community Development Officers.)

### II. Consultative Discussions with the Private Sector

Developing cooperation with the private sector including companies engaged in waste management and the recycling business while getting their contribution for waste management

### III. Establishment of Community Organizations, Committees and Groups

New establishment of identified targeted groups/community centres/rural committees or rural societies or reactivating existing committees/community centres or societies and making those groups active contributors to this role

### IV. Occasions where instant attention should be drawn

Identifying and mapping improper dumping sites in the authority area with the assistance of the community, community centres and rural committees and taking prompt action to rehabilitate the said improper dumping sites, taking necessary remedial action to prevent further disposal of waste while making the environmental police aware of it.

## V. Various Methodologies of Collecting Waste

Collecting waste properly by preparing a plan to cover authority area in supervision of waste bins, collecting segregated waste, collecting street and domestic waste and introducing a mechanism to make the community aware accordingly

## VI. Disposal of Waste and Production of Compost

- (a) Joining with the community for encouraging domestic production of compost, thereby persuading the community to minimize the waste generated domestically
- (b) Making the public aware on the benefits of compost, thereby encouraging promotion of benefits of compost and home gardening and use of compost in agriculture
- (c) Promoting urban and rural home gardening by promoting use of compost through youth participation on Whatsapp groups, Tik tok and You Tube

## VIII. Activating Networks with Participation of Citizens

By declaring a cleaning/rehabilitating day/week with the participation of the community including community centres, voluntary organizations, private institutions and trade unions, promoting activities viz. voluntary employee networks, civil society networks and establishment of committees at divisional level for regularizing solid waste management with participation of citizens;

- (a) Removing clogging and enabling flow of water in places such as drains, culverts with the possible risk of breeding of vectors including mosquitoes while cleaning the environment including surroundings of homes, barren lands, worksites, institutional premises etc.
- (b) Carrying out activities to maintain the beauty and cleanliness by cleaning the sides of roads, public toilets, canals and drainage systems in the city

- (c) Identifying the sections to be repaired/rehabilitated such as public toilets, drainage systems, roads etc. and preparing a priority list and completing the said repairs as much as possible with private partnership to prevent public distress
- (d) Taking action to regularize waste management and to generate an additional income to the local authority by holding a Kasala Pola
- (e) Providing media publicity and awareness for constant awareness on community responsibility and accountability
- (f) Formulating a mechanism on receiving public complaints and accordingly, prepare methods relating to the measures taken by the local authority (specifically on waste)
- (g) Promoting creative motivations on minimizing use of polythene and providing opportunities for purchasing them
- (h) Identifying suitable places for planting trees and flower gardens according to a proper plan for beautifying the city and engaging the community and private sector to construct and maintain them

03. According to the above guideline, action should be taken by local authorities to prepare a proper waste management plan identical with each local authority area, adjusting according to its future expansion based on an accurate assessment on the amount of waste generated daily in their local authority areas, to make the community, environmental police, private sector, school children, youth groups, Aswesuma beneficiaries, disabled community, Samurdhi beneficiaries and waste collectors of the improper section compulsory members in the said plan

04. As per the waste management plan of the local authority so prepared, responsibility should be taken to ensure the going concern by conducting meetings according to a prescribed time table with the establishment of a proper follow up and monitoring mechanism and the said instances shall be subjected to the monitoring and guidance of the Commissioner of Local Government and the Assistant Commissioner of Local Government.

05. All local authorities shall prepare their own waste management plan as per above instructions and guidelines and the implementation of activities identified accordingly, should be commenced from **01.02.2025** and, all Heads of Local Authorities shall ensure that the progress of the programme be prepared as per Annexure 01 and submitted monthly to the Commissioner of Local Government through the District Assistant Commissioners of Local Government. A report prepared quarterly as per Annexure 02 by the Commissioners of Local Government according to the said monthly progress, shall be forwarded to the National Solid Waste Management Support Centre.

06. It is kindly further notified to prepare plans covering all local authorities in your province as per instructions provided above for ensuring sanitation and environmental protection which are the dual key objectives of solid waste management, to provide necessary instructions and guidelines to Commissioners of Local Government, District Assistant Commissioners of Local Government and Heads of Local Authorities for taking steps to implement a continuous programme from **01.02.2025**.

**S.Alokabandara**

Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

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|---|---|--|
| 01. Secretary to the President  | - pl.f.y.i.   |  |
| 02. Secretary, Ministry of Defence                                      | - pl.f.y.i.   |  |
| 03. Secretary, Ministry of Public Security<br>& Parliamentary Affairs   | - pl.f.y.i.   |  |
| 04. Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development,<br>Construction & Housing | - pl.f.y.i.   |  |
| 05. Secretary, Ministry of Environment                                  | - pl.f.y.i.   |  |
| 06. Inspector General of Police,<br>Police Headquarters                 | - pl.to notify Environmental Police Units   |  |
| 07. All Commissioners of Local Government                               | } To prepare plans,<br>implement and monitor<br>according to necessary<br>future measures |  |
| 08. All Assistant Commissioners of Local Government                     |   |  |
| 09. All Heads of Local Authorities                                      |   |  |