

3R and circular economy in Thailand:

Achievements, Initiatives, Challenges and Opportunities

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MSW Management Status in 2019-2023



Source: Pollution Control Department : 2024



Achievements/ new initiatives in 3R and circular economy areas;

Policies and plans on Waste Management

- Roadmap on Plastic Waste Management (2018 - 2030)
- National Action Plan on **Waste Management phase 2** (2022 - 2027)
- Action Plan on **Plastic Waste Management phase 2** (2023 - 2027)
- Action Plan on **Food Waste Management phase 1** (2023 - 2027)



- Life Cycle Approach
- 3R Principle (Reduce Reuse Recycle)
- Public Private Partnership
- Concept of Circular Economy
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

EPR on Waste Management

- **MOU** to promote packaging management (circular economy concept and applied the principle of EPR)
- **5-year EPR Implementation Plan** on Packaging Waste Management (2023 - 2027)
- **(Draft) Act on Sustainable Packaging Management***
- **(Draft) Act on WEEE Mangement***

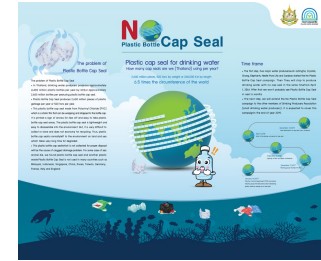
*(on-going proposal to the Cabinet)



3R and circular economy best practices

Cooperation among stakeholders

- Stop using plastic bag since 1st January 2020 (departments, supermarkets, convenience stores)
- Stop using plastic capseal for drinking water bottles since 1st April 2018 (five major drinking water companies)
- Reduction of single-use plastic in food delivery
- Ban plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers in National Parks/ Zoological Centers
- Smoke-free and zero waste beaches
- Development of the **design recommendations for recyclable packaging (D4R)**
- Development of **5-year EPR Implementation Plan on Packaging Waste Management (2023 - 2027)**



- Reducing plastic bags and polystyrene foam food containers in the governmental office building
- Establish drop-off stations for recyclable waste in departments, supermarkets, convenience stores
- Development of the digital platform for recyclable material buying
- Development of a guideline for sorting and collecting categorized sorted waste
- **Banned the import of plastic scrap since 1 January 2025**
- Campaign the reduction of plastic bags in local markets/ supermarkets



challenges and opportunities:

Challenges

1. Current law and regulation
 - Linear Economy
 - No provision on waste segregation at sources and recycling
 - Ineffective waste management fee collection
2. Waste of budget allocated for infrastructure investment
3. Cooperation among stakeholders
4. Public awareness

Opportunities

1. Strong government policy
2. **Voluntary based program by private sector**
3. Global Plastic Treaty
 - Law & regulation
 - Education & outreach
 - Capacity building
 - Technical & technology transfer



Next step forward:

- Driving Pilot Project on Voluntary Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Management, in parallel with laws and regulations on Packaging Waste Management
- Determining waste types based on final disposal, with emphasis on household source separation of waste
- Establishing Environmentally Friendly Product Standards/Guidelines (Recyclability, Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) Standards, and Related Matters)
- Establishing policies and plans in accordance with the new International Legally Binding Instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Thank you very much
for your attention !!

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