

Marine debris and plastic waste management: **International experiences**

International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC)
Osaka, Japan

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What are marine debris?

Any material that is **man-made, solid, entering waterways**

directly through littering or indirectly, via rivers, streams, storm drains.

Where does marine debris come from?

8 million metric tons of plastic goes into the ocean, every year.

It is estimated that between 80 and 95% of waste that enters the rivers, estuaries and seas does so from land.



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Associated public health issues



Source: Tumblr

Opportunities for Improvements

Normative & Legislative

- Strategies and Action Plans
- Regulations & Bans
- Financial Incentives

Technological

- Plastic to fuel
- Recycling
- Waste to Energy

Behavioural

- Consumers behaviours (consumers have the power to drive demand and therefore influence production)
- Improved awareness and education (environmental awareness, business opportunities by attaching a value to waste)

Production

- Life cycle thinking (i.e. better design, use of alternative and environmentally sound material and technologies)
- Circular economy approach

It is therefore critical, that producers, retailers, consumers, distributors, municipalities, collectors and recyclers actively engage to develop action plans and strategies for best practice.


A young child, wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a colorful patterned jacket, sits amidst a vast, sprawling landscape of unsorted waste. The ground is covered in a thick layer of trash, including plastic bags, food scraps, and various debris. In the background, a line of trees is visible under a hazy sky. The child's expression is somber, looking directly at the camera.

Waste Management: A Global Challenge

Waste Management: A cross-cutting issue

A reduction of 15 to 20% of worldwide GHG emissions could be achieved through sustainable waste management*





Global initiatives to minimize marine plastic waste and marine debris

CleanSeas Campaign: Turn the tide on plastic

Over the next 5 years, UN Environment aims to transform habits, practices, standards and policies around the globe to dramatically reduce marine litter and the harm it causes.



#CleanSeas

www.cleanseas.org

Global Partnership on Marine Litter



The GPML is a global partnership gathering international agencies, Governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, civil society and individuals

The Next Wave

Investment Strategies for Plastic Free Seas



The SIDS Waste Management Outlook

The Small Island Developing State Waste Management Outlook is currently being developed by UN Environment IETC.

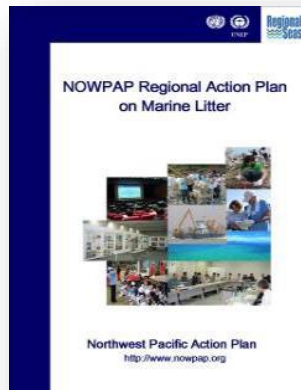
Waste management on islands calls for region-specific policies and adapted technologies.

Representatives interested in being part of the process please contact ietc@unep.org



NOWPAP's efforts to address marine litter problems

NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (ML) (2008)



**Prevent ML
input**

**Monitoring
quantities
and
distribution
of ML**

**Remove
existing ML**

NOWPAP: Many but one example of Buy Back Program in the Republic of Korea



LOCAL ACTION THAT CHANGED BEHAVIOR AND RESULTED IN:

- ✓ **Collection of more than 31,000 tons of discarded fishing gear and other litter at sea**
- ✓ **Mobilized investments by the central and local governments reached USD 20 million**
- ✓ **Number of collection sites is expected to be 80 in 2018**
- ✓ **Cost-savings of more than €1.5 million during the first phase (2009-2013)**
- ✓ **More than 46,000 new jobs, mostly among seniors**

Thank you



For further questions, contact

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