

WASTE WISE CITIES



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Waste Wise Cities Newsletter #7

October 2020 - More on SDGs



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Which SDGs are linked to 11.6.1 again?

In our [May edition](#) we introduced you to SDG indicator 11.6.1. and how it can be used to improve a city's solid waste management system.

As SDG indicator 11.6.1. is closely linked to other SDGs, we want to introduce them:



SDG indicator 1.4.1 on access to basic services

More than 700 million people, or 10 per cent of the world population, still live in extreme poverty today, struggling to fulfil the most basic needs like health, education, and access to basic services. While this proportion has been declining since 1990 (from 36 per cent), the pace of change is slowing down and the COVID-19 crisis risks reversing decades of progress in the fight against poverty. The UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research warns that the global pandemic could increase global poverty by as much as half a billion people, or 8% of the total human population due to economic fallouts. This would be the first time that poverty has increased globally in thirty years.¹

SDG indicator 1.4.1 measures the proportion of population living in households with access to basic services and is based on several other SDGs. It is measured through 5 basic services

markers, one being access to basic waste collection services. A key assumption underpinning this methodology is that a household is considered living in poverty, if it has no or limited waste collection service. Waste Wise Cities Tool (SDG indicator 11.6.1 assessment) provides the ladder of service that classifies waste collection services as no, low, basic, improved or full. It considers aspects of frequency, regularity and proximity of the collection points.



SDG 12.3 on food waste

Food wastage is one of the core global issues to achieve sustainable production and consumption patterns by 2030. Currently around 30 percent of food produced is lost or wasted every year, while 13 per cent of the population in developing regions do not have enough to eat². Not only are the resources that went into creating uneaten food wasted, but when food waste is disposed of in landfill sites and decomposes without access to oxygen, it creates methane, which is a 24 times more effective greenhouse gas than CO₂, adding to climate change.

SDG 12.3 calls for a halving of food waste at retail and consumer level and reduce food losses along production and supply chains. It has two components, measured by two separate indicators. Sub-indicator **12.3.1.a, Food Loss Index**, focuses on

food losses that occur from production up to (and not including) the retail level. Sub-indicator **12.3.1.b, Food Waste Index**, focuses on retail and consumption levels.

The waste composition data collected during the assessment for SDG indicator 11.6.1. can be used to calculate the Food Waste Index in a city.

Read more about Food [Loss](#) and [Waste](#), and have a look at the [Food Loss and Waste Database](#) hosted by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is the largest online collection of data on both food loss and food waste and causes reported throughout the literature.

SDG 12.5 on recycling

Recycling is a central pillar in the transition towards a circular economy in which governments and private sector work together in order to create long term, sustainable economies. In many ways, recycling is seen as a final effort to effectively utilize resources after people try to both reduce their consumption and find more efficient processes in production. Recycling is a vital way to reduce the environmental impact of mining, which is destroying natural landscapes and using hazardous chemicals in the process. By investing in recycling and transforming already extracted resources, economies can make significant strides in decoupling economic growth from resource use.

SDG indicator 12.5.1 measures the **National Recycling Rate**, i.e. tons of material recycled. Two data points, total waste recycled and total waste generation, are needed for this indicator. They are generated on the city level during the SDG indicator 11.6.1 assessment.

Read more on the [National Recycling Rate](#).

¹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

² <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/sustainable-lifestyles/food-and-food-waste>



5Rs



International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste



This year, on 29th September, the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAWLW) was observed for the first time to raise awareness that reducing food loss and waste requires the attention of all, from food producers, to food supply chain stakeholders, to food industries, retailers and consumers. Actions are required globally and locally to maximize the use of the food produced.

The observance was celebrated virtually. If you missed it, you can watch the recording [here](#).

IDAWLW 2020 is promoting the following Key Messages:

1. There is no room for food loss and waste in this time of crisis! The COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call to rethink the way in which we produce, handle and waste our food!
2. Reducing food losses and waste provides a powerful means to strengthen our food systems.
3. Innovation, technologies and infrastructure are critical to increasing the efficiency of food systems and to reducing food losses and waste.
4. Public interventions should seek to facilitate investments in food losses and waste reduction by private actors especially at this critical time.
5. Innovative business models, with the participation of the private sector need to be shaped and new approaches are needed to finance them, to stop food loss and food waste.
6. We should all be food savers: for the people, for the planet!

[Find out more!](#)

COVID-19 could not stop World Cleanup Day!

COVID-19 didn't stop the World from standing up for the environment; millions of people from over 158 countries joined World Cleanup Day. 16 countries postponed their cleanups due to COVID-19 or weather conditions and they will do World Cleanup Day during the next few weeks. This made World Cleanup Day the biggest mobilizing live event in 2020.



© Lets Do It World

Countries participating in World Cleanup Day focused on individual and socially distanced group cleanups, doing digital cleanups, and running sorting-recycling-composting workshops. In many countries volunteers focused on picking up cigarette butts to draw the attention to highly dangerous cigarette butt littering.

World Cleanup Day 2020 has shown the power of individual and collective strength to stand for a clean and healthy planet. *"The main force behind World Cleanup Day is the worldwide network of dedicated leaders and teams, acting together under the umbrella of the Let's Do It World family. It is the core, brain and heart of the World Cleanup Day,"* said Heidi Solba, President and the Head of Let's Do It World Network.

19 SEPTEMBER 2020



Also Waste Wise Cities members participated in World Cleanup Day, for example Geita Town Council (Tanzania), Cape Coast (Ghana) and Kiambu County (Kenya). *"World Clean up day was done very well in our council. Participants participated effectively by groups. Activities which were done was sweeping main road, street roads, Geita bus terminal and markets."* reported Albert K. Auson, Environmental Officer, Geita Town Council.

Some UN-Habitat country offices also joined the action. For example Abel Estifanos, National Programme Officer, and Aklilu Fikresilassie, Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Ethiopia, reported: *"World Cleanup Day 2020 was a smashing success in Ethiopia. Led by city leaders and high officials, millions of people across the regional capitals flock to the streets and neighborhoods to partake in the cleaning activities. It is UN-Habitat's great pleasure to introduce/bring World Cleanup Day to Ethiopia and also take part in the cleaning activities across the three cities where it has presence, namely Addis Ababa, Hawassa and Bahir Dar."*



© Department of Water, Environment, Energy & Natural Resources-Kiambu County

International E-Waste Day

53.6 million metric tonnes of electronic waste was generated worldwide in 2019, having increased by 21 per cent in just five years, according to the [Global E-waste Monitor 2020](#). However, only 17.4 per cent of this e-waste was recycled.



To raise awareness for e-waste recycling and increase the same, the WEEE Forum created the International E-Waste Day (IEWD) on 14th of October in 2018. The WEEE Forum is a not-for-

profit association of 40 WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) producer responsibility organisations across the world, founded in 2002. [Read more](#) about the WEEE Forum and have at the activities for IEWD.

IEWD is also celebrated by members of the UN E-Waste Coalition, composed of the International Telecommunication Union and nine other United Nations entities, including UN-Habitat. It aims at increasing collaboration, building partnership and supporting Member States to address the global WEEE challenge by working in 3 areas: advocacy, knowledge sharing and joint implementation.

UN-Habitat is organizing two events to mark IEWD:

Workshop: Lithium-ion EV battery: e-waste, electric mobility and energy nexus

UN-Habitat, the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative, and the Wuppertal Institute have developed four factsheets on lithium-ion batteries identifying synergies between e-waste, electric mobility and energy.

They cover the end-of-life management: initial battery design, re-purposing in energy storage systems, refurbishing, and recycling. The factsheets will be launched and presented; followed by interventions from practitioners.

[Join us](#) on 14th October, 3 – 4.30 PM EAT!

Webinar: Waste Technology Deep Dives - E-waste Treatment

UN-Habitat and the Wuppertal Institute, under the Urban Pathway project, present a webinar series that is diving deep into selected waste management technologies. This first session will take a closer look at the treatment of e-waste. Practitioners from Kenya and Brazil will talk about what kind of e-waste they receive, how they treat it and where the outputs of their process go.

[Join us](#) on 14th October, 5 – 6:15 PM EAT!

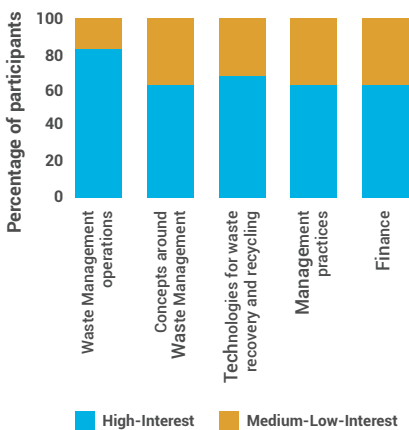


More from our needs assessment – Which training do cities want?

As introduced in our last newsletter, UN-Habitat conducted a needs assessment study, reaching out to more than 200 cities around the world. Responses were received from participants, working with local governments or the city's waste management system.

Today we want to share with you themes that local and regional government stakeholders showed an interest in for capacity building. The highest interest was shown in the theme "Waste Management Operations, followed by "Technologies for Waste Recovery and Recycling". However, also "Concepts around Waste Management", "Management Practices" and "Finance" are regarded as important topics. Do you have any thoughts on this? We would like to here your views, just [contact us!](#)

Local/regional Government stakeholders on the themes for capacity building



Get to know our Affiliates

In this section we give our Waste Wise Cities Affiliates the possibility to introduce themselves.



DOW East Africa

"Dow is proud to be an affiliate of Waste Wise Cities and to further growing our global relationship with the UN. In June, Dow announced its bold new sustainability targets, including, enabling 1 million metric tons of plastic to be collected, reused or recycled through our direct actions and partnerships.

We are striving to specifically solve the issue of plastic pollution through our three-prong sustainability strategy:

Driving circular economy solutions: Collaborating to help redesign and promote reusable or recyclable packaging applications. We are currently partnering with Mr Green to creating a recyclable market for flexible plastic waste.

Ensuring plastics don't end up in the environment: Investing and collaborating in key technologies and infrastructure to increase recycling. Project Butterfly is a Dow led initiative that invests in local recycling initiatives and community awareness and through it, we aim to launch a zero waste community in Kasarani, Nairobi, Kenya.

Increasing impact through partnerships: Tackling the issue of plastic waste will require collaboration. Through partnership with academia, Dow created a circular economy curriculum to help future leaders to engrain sustainability in their work.

Becoming an affiliate helps us to cross share knowledge and achieve a greater impact through our work in reducing waste in our environment."

Whitewall wastecare services - Community solid waste collection service



"The whitewall waste care services is a national non-governmental organisation in Sierra Leone with mandate to care for community sanitation, water and woodlot development. It works in four chiefdoms in Bombali District and has in addition to

building public toilets and planting trees etc., been collecting waste in Makeni City and neighbouring settlements since October 2016.

This service started when communities were mobilised to clean-up waste in their surroundings. Soon, it grew to serve Makeni City and beyond, putting more efforts in places with huge waste accumulation. So in 2017, the service involved area youths and community activists, teaming to participate in waste collection from the doorstep of residents to waste assembling points allocated by the Makeni City Council. So far, seventeen centres in five zones, have been demarcated with caseload of 8600

garbage containers on average estimated for daily collection. However, normal daily collection for this service has ordinarily been limited to 200 garbage containers on average, rising occasionally to 1400 garbage containers on monthly national cleaning days since February 2018. This situation has been so because of the lower capacity of the service to collect waste and or dispose of it at dumpsites, as it presently lacks dump truck(s), garbage containers, protective clothing, associated running costs and support for training and practice for staff, area youths and community activists."

Waste Warriors Society - Plastic Gullak



"Our team launched the "Plastic Gullak" initiative, which aims to not only raise awareness on plastic waste but also to channel recyclable plastics from schools to our plastic segregation facility while empowering students with social entrepreneurial skills. As the name suggests, the concept behind Plastic Gullak is to initiate the act of saving, but here instead of coins, we are helping

students save plastic and collect it in the gullak. We want children to see plastic not as waste, but as a resource. At present, Waste Warriors has installed six Plastic Gullaks in different schools in India from where 511 kg of waste has been collected since 2019.

We officially launched our Plastic Gullak program at the Bajaj Institute of Learning for Deaf Children, Purkal Youth Development Society, and Gyananda School of Girls. The collected plastic is weighed, the school eco-club is donated in exchange, and students are guided to use the money for a social cause. With raised money through plastic gullak, the student of the Bajaj Institute of Learning for Deaf Children donated woolen socks to women and children in a locality near their school."



Waste Wise Cities Affiliates

Do you want to:

- Support Waste Wise Cities and improve waste management in cities around the world?
- Be an official partner of Waste Wise Cities and UN-Habitat?
- Show up on the soon to be updated Waste Wise Cities website (after the update)?
- Implement the Waste Wise Cities Tool?
- Read about your activities in this newsletter?
- Do much more?

Then [contact us](#) and become a Waste Wise Cities Affiliate! Together we can become Waste Wise!

© Waste Warriors Society



Waste Wise Cities Challenge

On 26th August, we had the second virtual signing ceremony for the Waste Wise Cities Challenge.

7 cities were able to participate, representing 5 twins. Participants included the mayors of Hazmieh (Lebanon), Al Manara (Lebanon) and Mezitli (Turkey); Vice Mayor of Yangon (Myanmar) and Deputy Mayor of Osaka (Japan) Each participating city gave a statement and Andre Dzikus, Chief of Urban Basic Services Section, concluded the ceremony once again. Watch the [highlights](#) or [full session](#).

“On August 26th, Osaka City participated in the second signing ceremony of Waste Wise Cities Challenge. It was a great opportunity for us to share the atmosphere and introduce our city to

the participants from many cities as a supporter city of Yangon City.

Osaka is a beautiful city and known as an aqua metropolis. In the past, however, we had suffered from pollution and waste problems due to rapid industrial development. As a result of addressing the environmental issues, we have overcome these problems.

We have introduced the technologies and experiences on waste management to other countries. Currently, we are working in partnership with Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and Quezon City in the Philippines. As well as these cities, we are honored to be working with Yangon City in collaboration with UN-Habitat on this occasion.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, it is difficult to visit each other, but it is precisely because of this situation that we would like

to cooperate with the cities participating in the Waste Wise Cities Challenges.

We are very much looking forward to the positive challenges ahead with Yangon City.”



Yuko IHARA, Director, Environmental Policy Division, Environment Bureau, City of Osaka

Upcoming Webinar: Solid Waste Management - The Forgotten, Underestimated Child and Its Critical Role For Current and Future Crises



As part of [Daring Cities 2020](#), a virtual, global forum on climate change for urban leaders tackling the climate emergency, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, UN-Habitat is organizing a webinar on solid waste management:

While often overlooked in debates about how to reach climate goals, solid waste management can hugely contribute. If properly managed and the first steps are taken towards a circular economy, the sector can hugely help mitigate emissions from cities.

This holds also true for COVID-19: while the world focuses on washing hands, solid waste collection and treatment needs to continue in a safe way to avoid the spread of other diseases and ensure proper disposal of increased amounts of medical waste and potentially infectious waste from municipal solid waste stream.

This event will highlight how partnerships can harness opportunities to:

Respond climate emergencies effectively in COVID-19 situation;

- Maintain or even expand MSWM service delivery in crisis situation and
- Build back better for climate resilience

[Register here!](#)

Participating in Webinar “Sustainable Solid Waste Management during Covid 19”

Waste Wise Cities team was invited to share its experience and the work it’s implementing to support cities in safely continuing to deliver municipal solid waste services in the context of Covid-19. The webinar, Sustainable Solid Waste Management during Covid 19, was organized by 3R WASTE Foundation in partnership with All India Institute of Local Self Government. Other participants included International Solid Waste Association, Municipal Corporation of Gurugram and Waste Ventures of Hyderabad. If you missed the webinar you can watch it on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Webinar “Cleanup activities – where are we headed?”

World Cleanup Day took this year place on 19th of September. In preparation, UN-Habitat organised a webinar to

understand the impacts that cleanups are making globally and how they can be maximised. The event touched the theme of clean up from different perspectives, such as technology, partnerships, funding

etc. It ended in a discussion between panellists about the impacts of cleanup activities and its value for awareness raising was highlighted. Watch the session recording [here](#)



MEET OUR PANELISTS!

1. Tom Peacock-Nazil, Seven Clean Seas
2. Karolina Gurgul, Planet Heroes
3. Monika Habrzyk, Planet Heroes
4. Pankaj Choudhary, Let's Do It India
5. Jeff Kirschner, Litterati
6. Nicholas Kolesch, Alliance to End Plastic Waste
7. Oscar Wanjala, Let's Do It Kenya

WEBINAR: CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES, WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

Urban October



31 DAYS OF PROMOTING
A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Each October, everyone interested in sustainable urbanization from national and local governments to universities, NGOs and communities is encouraged to hold or participate in activities, events, and discussions about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of change in our cities and towns. Urban October begins with **World Habitat Day** on the first Monday of the month and ends with **World Cities Day** on 31st October. Activities can take place on those specific days or at any time during the month. This year's World Habitat Day global observance was held virtually on 5th and

6th October, hosted by the city of Surabaya in Indonesia, while other celebrations of World Habitat Day were held round the globe on the theme **Housing For All: A Better Urban Future**. If you missed it you can have a look at the recordings of the official celebration on Day 1 and the discussion round tables on Day 2.

World Cities Day 2020 is the seventh global celebration since it was launched on 31st October 2014 in Shanghai, China. The theme is Better City, Better Life and the sub-theme for this year is **Valuing our communities and cities**. [Read more](#) about Urban October.

If you are planning an event you can register [here](#).

Urban Agenda Platform

UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif launched on World Habitat Day the Urban Agenda Platform, a global platform for tracking progress, accelerating action and sharing

knowledge on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the SDGs. You will be able to submit actions you are undertaking to achieve Sustainable Urban Development and look for best practices for example on solid waste management. [Have a look!](#)



Call to Action

- Avoid food waste by shopping, storing and cooking smartly.
- If you are out and about in nature, take along a bag and pick up litter!
- Become a member or affiliate of Waste Wise Cities!