



Ministry of the Environment  
and Water Resources



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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# ZERO WASTE MASTERPLAN





## INTRODUCTION

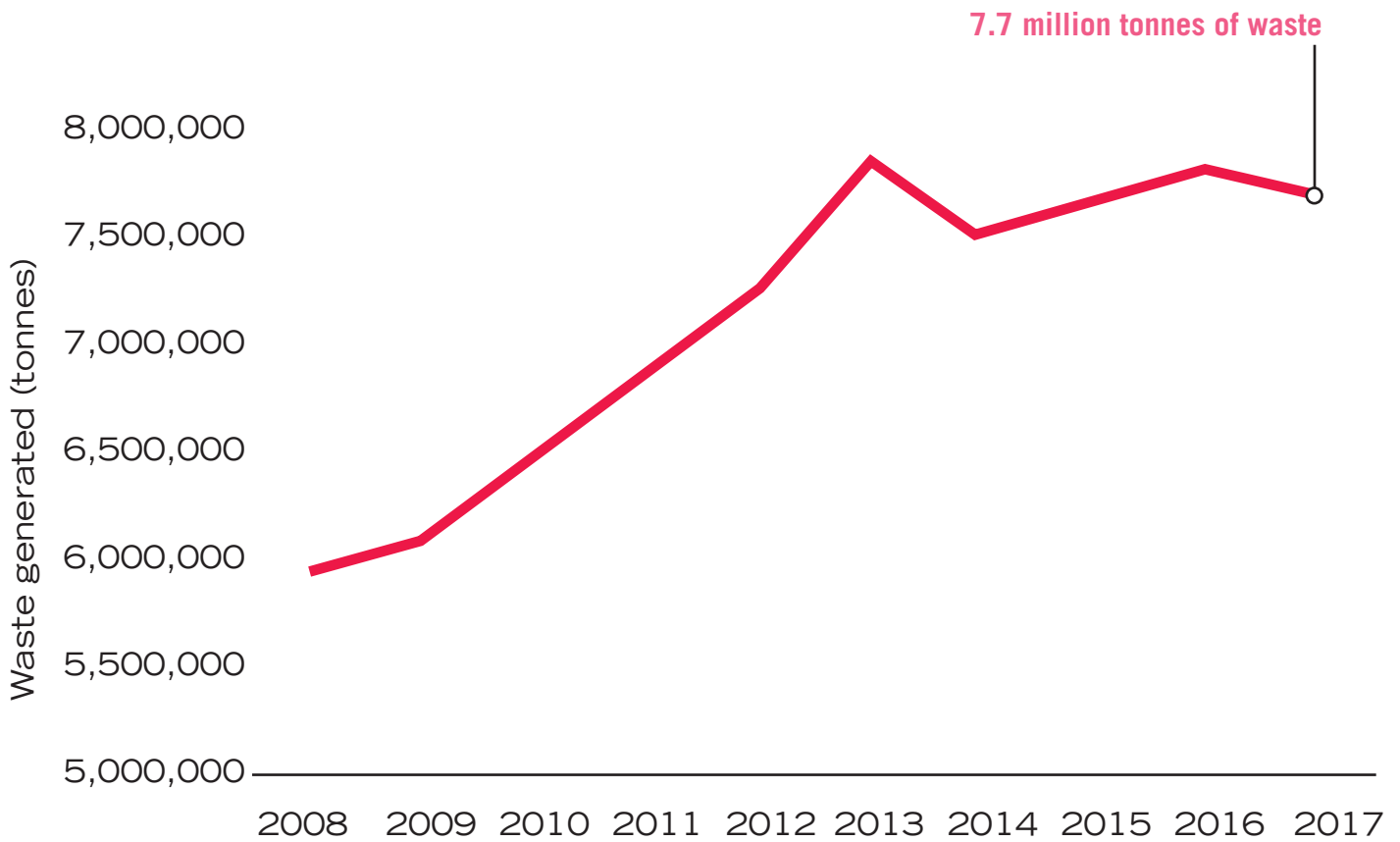
Over the years, Singapore has put in place an effective and efficient waste management system to safeguard our health and protect the environment.

But **our waste is growing at an unsustainable rate**, as our population and economy grow. At the same time, climate change is putting increasing pressure on resources.

We invite you to contribute your views on how we can pursue more sustainable consumption and production, and build a strong culture of reducing, reusing and recycling.

Join us on our journey to make Singapore a Zero Waste Nation.

In Singapore, waste disposed has increased seven-fold over the past 40 years. **About 7.7 million tonnes of waste was generated in 2017.** This amount is enough to fill 15,000 Olympic-size swimming pools!



We incinerate most of our waste to minimise what we send to our only landfill. Even so, we will run out of space on Semakau Landfill by 2035 if we continue generating waste at the current pace.

We cannot keep building more landfills or incineration plants.

The Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) has been working on our inaugural Zero Waste Masterplan.

The Masterplan will detail our upcoming policies for waste management. We plan to pursue circular economy strategies by reusing and recycling resources, turning trash into treasure

and producing and consuming sustainably.

It is important that the Masterplan incorporates views from all sectors, because it will take a whole-of-nation effort to achieve our vision of a Zero Waste Nation.

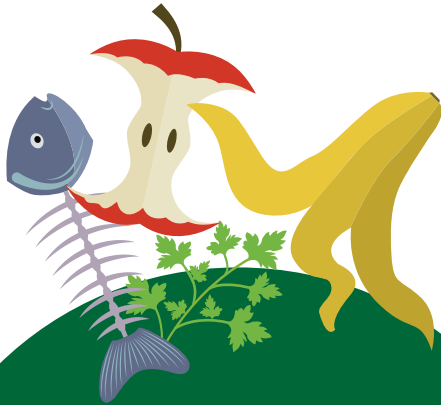
The Masterplan has thus been shaped by numerous engagements and consultations with the people and private sectors. Just last year alone, the National Environment Agency (NEA) consulted more than 250 companies.

This online consultation is part of our final phase of consultations, which will include focus group discussions in April.

# TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

We have identified **three key waste streams** to address in the Masterplan: food waste, electrical and electronic waste (e-waste), and packaging waste, including plastics.

These waste streams are generated at high volumes, have low recycling rates, and/or have potential impact on the environment.



**760,000 tonnes of food waste in 2018**  
– equivalent to two bowls of rice per person per day



**One third of domestic waste in 2018 was packaging waste**



**60,000 tonnes of e-waste a year**  
– equivalent to each person throwing away 70 mobile phones

Addressing these waste streams will require changes to our current lifestyle.

We will have to re-think our consumption habits

and the way we manage waste.

We will have to practise the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) on a large scale, as a nation.

# FOOD

In 2018, we generated 760,000 tonnes of food waste, equivalent to two bowls of rice per person per day. Of this, only 17 per cent was recycled.



## How can we reduce food waste?

Give us your views through the [online survey](#).

**Food waste can be turned into compost**, and used to generate energy if we can segregate it from general waste.

From 2021 onwards, MEWR/NEA will work with the public sector to take the lead in segregating food waste for treatment in large public sector buildings where a significant amount of food waste is generated.

Developers of new developments which are expected to be large food waste generators will be required to allocate and set aside space for on-site food waste treatment in their design plans.

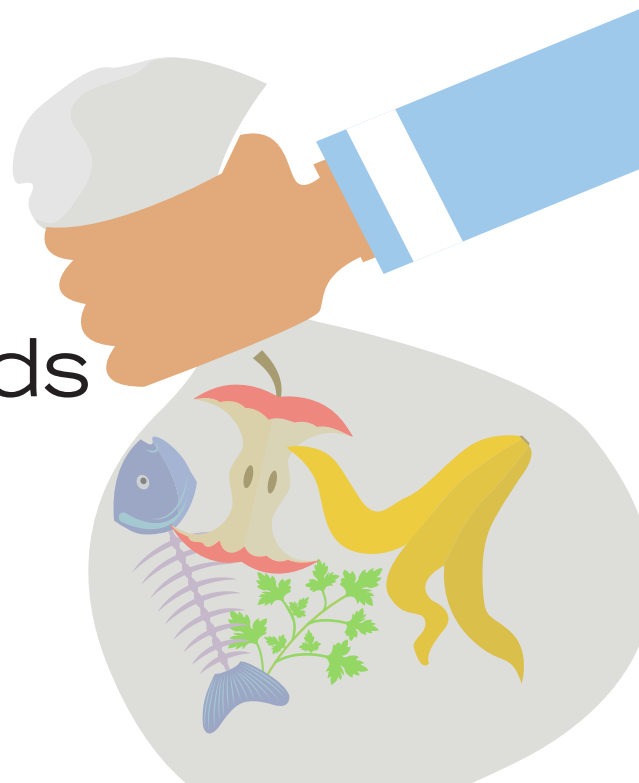
From 2024, large commercial and industrial food waste generators will be required to segregate their food waste for treatment.

Such premises include large hotels and malls, and large industrial developments housing food manufacturers, food caterers and food storage warehouses.



## How can we encourage households to segregate food waste from general waste?

Give us your views through the [online survey](#).





## E-WASTE

Singapore generates **60,000 tonnes of e-waste** a year — equivalent to each person throwing away 70 mobile phones. Only 6 per cent of this amount is recycled.

From 2021, producers that supply covered electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) to the local market will be responsible for the end-of-life collection and treatment of their products.

Suppliers of consumer EEE, which refers to equipment largely marketed to and bought or used by the general public (e.g. laptops, mobile phones and household appliances), will be required to join a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO).

The PRO is appointed by the NEA to collect and send e-waste for recycling. Collection targets will be imposed on the PRO, but as a transitional measure, penalties for missing enforcement targets will not be imposed in the first three years.

The new regulations will incentivise producers to design products that last longer, and which are easier to repair, dismantle and recover materials from.



### How can we reduce e-waste?

Give us your views through the [online survey](#).





# PACKAGING WASTE

Packaging waste, including plastics, makes up about **one-third of domestic waste** disposed of in Singapore.

Under the mandatory packaging reporting framework, producers of packaging and packaged products (i.e. brand owners, manufacturers, importers, and supermarkets) with an annual turnover of more than \$10 million will be required to report on the amounts and types of packaging they put on the market, and their plans to reduce, reuse and recycle them.

These businesses will need to register with NEA when the reporting framework comes into effect in 2020, and submit their first report in 2021.

This will lay the foundation for the introduction of an Extended Producer Responsibility framework which will be implemented by 2025.



## How can we reduce packaging waste including plastics?

Give us your view through the [online survey](#).



# RECYCLE RIGHT

Currently, 40% of what goes into our blue recycling bins cannot be recycled.

This is because people put in unsuitable items, or recyclables with food and liquids. The food and liquids contaminate the other recyclables, which then have to be disposed of as general waste.

To raise awareness on how to recycle correctly, we have launched a #recycleright movement to convey the following key points:

There is no need to sort different types of recyclables for the blue bins – they will be sorted centrally before being recycled.



Check the labels on the blue bins to find out what recyclables to put in.



Make sure your recyclables do not contain food or liquids.



Clothes, shoes and stuffed toys are not recyclables – donate them if they are in good condition.



## How can we help households to recycle right?

Give us your views through the [online survey](#).







# JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION

A Zero Waste Nation will have positive effects on our economy, environment, health and community.

It will take a whole-of-nation effort to create the changes we need. Your views will help to shape our path towards a Zero Waste Nation, and lay the foundation for a sustainable environment for future generations. Together, we can build a better Singapore.

Join the conversation at  
**[mewr.sg/zerowasteconsultation](https://mewr.sg/zerowasteconsultation)**

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