



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



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Fiji

Waste Data Profile

June 2025



Fiji and PacWastePlus

Fiji is one of fifteen countries to participate in the SPREP implemented and European Union's Delegation to the Pacific funded PacWastePlus Programme. The PacWaste Plus Programme aimed to improve waste management activities across the islands and strengthen the capacity of governments, industries, and communities to manage waste and protect human health and the environment.

About Fiji

Fiji is an archipelago in the southwest Pacific Ocean, consisting of 322 islands, a third of which are permanently inhabited. Fiji is one of the most developed Pacific Island economies. Its natural resources include timber, minerals and fish resources. The largest foreign exchange earners for Fiji are tourism and remittances from Fijians working overseas.

Approximately 50% of Fiji's population (884,887 based on 2017 census) lives in urban areas. Fiji's capital, Suva, is one of only two cities in the Pacific with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Classified as an upper-middle income economy in the Pacific, Fiji citizens have more education (in terms of school years) relative to other Pacific countries and a better health system. However, Fiji is projected to suffer the highest cardiovascular burden, at roughly 60% in 2040.

Fiji's government is a democratic parliamentary republic and has a legal system based on the English common law model.

Government, Policies, Strategies, and Responsibilities

Fiji faces mounting challenges in waste management driven by rapid population growth, urbanization, and increased economic activity. Solid waste management is primarily handled by municipal councils, which oversee collection and disposal at sanitary landfills and dumpsites. However, these councils often lack sufficient resources and enforcement capacity, leading to gaps in service, especially in informal settlements and rural areas.

Key issues include rising waste volumes overwhelming existing landfills and dumpsites, limited recycling with most waste-including organics, plastics, and hazardous materials- ending up in landfills and legislative gaps and enforcement issues. While Fiji has enacted laws such as the Environment Management Act 2005 and Litter Decree 1991, enforcement remains a major challenge due to limited manpower and resources. Illegal dumping and littering persist, with stricter penalties and better monitoring now being considered.

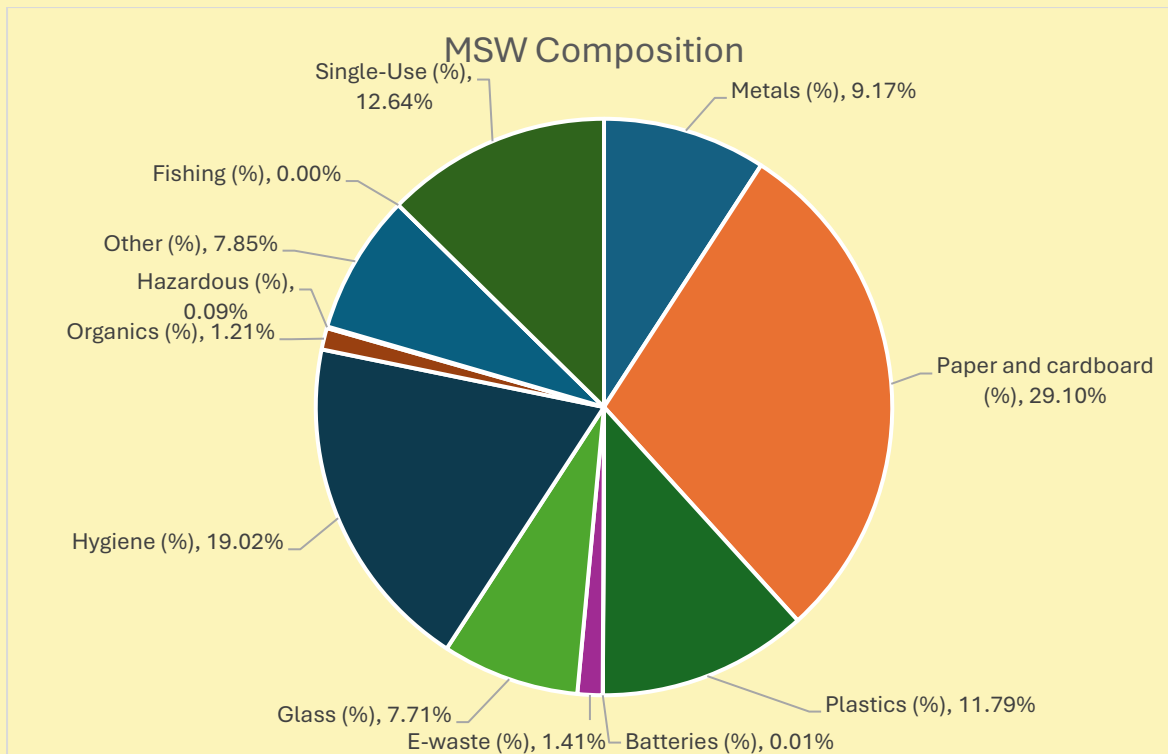
Waste Practices

The government is taking proactive steps with households being encouraged to compost organic waste, with some councils achieving 100% composting of market waste. Community engagement efforts include public education campaigns, training of litter prevention officers, and the installation of CCTV in dumping hotspots. Fiji is also working to strengthen regulations, finalize landfill guidelines, and explore the establishment of a dedicated Waste Management Authority.

In summary, Fiji's waste management system is evolving, with ongoing reforms focused on improving regulation, infrastructure, and public participation. However, significant challenges remain in enforcement, resource allocation, and adapting to increasing waste volume.

Core KPIs	Result
1. Count / capacity of modern waste facilities	1/ Unknown capacity
2. Count / capacity of unregulated waste facilities	8/ Unknown capacity
3. National recovery rate (%)	0.2%
4. Per capita waste generation rate (kg/capita/year)	51.41
5. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) composition (%)	Error! Reference source not found. Next Page
6. Household waste capture rate (%)	68%
7. Household collection service coverage (%)	54%
8. Fulfilment of MEA reporting requirements (%)	20%

Supplementary KPIs	Result
1. Cost of disposal to landfill (\$/tonne/annum)	\$2.99
2. Weight of waste disposed (tonnes per annum)	190,389
3. Weight of waste recovered (tonnes per annum)	61,039
4. Volume and type of stockpiled hazardous waste (m3)	Stockpiled hazardous waste: Used oil: 2,868 m³
5. Marine plastic pollution potential (tonnes per annum)	7,148.5
6. Awareness and support of waste management services (%)	89%
7. Proportion of strategic waste management initiatives implemented (%)	73%
8. Commercial waste capture rate (%)	Insufficient data
9. Commercial collection service coverage (%)	93%
10. Total weight of disaster waste disposed (tonnes per annum)	No data



National Waste Analysis Snapshot

About the Data

The data used to inform the KPIs include the Fiji 217 National Census, the APWC 2021 waste audits and surveys through the IUCN PWFI project, and Eunomia 2025 Waste Facility Register surveys. The APWC audits undertaken include a compositional waste audit of 254 household and 31 commercial samples and qualitative surveys involving 235 household and 42 commercial samples covering Levuka, Nausori, Lautoka, and Suva.

The Waste Facility survey undertaken by Eunomia was undertaken in all disposal and recycling facilities in Fiji.

Data Collection Challenges

Absence of modern data recording system at most waste facilities to accurately record, analyse and report data. This is mainly the case for waste disposal sites throughout the country with only two waste facilities with the proper data recording system. The rest are manually recorded in books or forms, which subject to loss and damages.

Installation of proper waste recording systems for waste disposal sites are expensive to operate and maintain in the long run.

Sharing of sensitive business-related data and information is a concern for some businesses, especially waste recycling facilities.

Due to limited time, no data was submitted directly from the waste facilities on annual budgets, received waste and others. Although data was made available through the support of the Department of Environment, most of the data relevant to the KPIS, could not be all received.

Highlights

No major new developments from the reported highlights during the recent waste audit reports.

Several waste projects supported by PWP, JPRISM 3, SWAP, POLP, GEFISLANDS, etc covering several waste activities ranging from recycling, hazardous waste, marine litter, economic instruments, etc.

Emerging Issues

Staff of DOE are mostly new and have not been involved in past waste audits. There was strong interest and eagerness to learn during the Eunomia Team-led training and workshop on the DCMRF and Waste Audit. This is beneficial to the long-term fulfilment of the DCMRF and accordingly requires follow up training on the Waste Audit Methodology. Further capacity building would be helpful for DoE. Likewise, devolving the training to the council level would be beneficial in collecting sufficient data to cover the whole country. Due to limited time in planning and conduct of this training, there was no opportunity to invite the council representatives.



Waste Management Practices and KPI Narrative

Waste Facilities and Waste Handled Each Year	In Fiji there is 1 modern facility (Naboro Landfill) and 8 unregulated waste facilities with unknown processing capacity as these are not recorded in most facilities. Approximately, 190,389 tonnes of waste is disposed of annually, and an estimated 61,039 tonnes of waste is recovered each year. The cost spent on disposal to landfill is estimated at \$2.99. It is difficult to calculate how much airspace is available for the various landfills with the current level of waste disposal and operations. Naboro Landfill is expected to have a lifespan until 2050.	Hazardous Waste Stockpiles	Only used oil was reported stockpiled in the waste facilities.
Household per Capita Waste Generation	The per capita waste generation rate is 51.4 kilograms per person per year.	Disaster Waste	There was no record of wastes generated from the most recent flooding which affected Fiji. The marine plastic pollution potential was identified as 7,148 tonnes per year.
Household Waste Statistics	The awareness and support of waste management services is high at 89%. The top three waste categories identified in household municipal waste are paper and cardboard, hygiene, and single-use plastics. The household waste capture rate is 68%, and the household collection service has a coverage of 100%.	Marine Waste	Fiji has only committed to one Multilateral Environmental Agreement, i.e., Stockholm Convention; they have fulfilled 20% of the requirements to this MEA.
Commercial Waste Statistics	The commercial waste statistics indicate a relatively robust level of service coverage and waste capture. The commercial sector achieves a 93% waste capture rate.	Strategic Initiatives and MEA Reporting	Fiji has 15 waste management initiatives planned and have implemented 11, the proportion of strategic waste management initiatives implemented is 73%.