



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



PacWastePlus
PACIFIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 85-month project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to **sustainably and cost effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution.**

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NAURU

Waste Data Profile

June 2025



Nauru and PacWastePlus

Nauru 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 Nauru

Nauru is a small coral island located in the southeast Pacific Ocean with a population of 11,680 people and around 2,021 households as of the 2021 census. Nauru is the smallest island nation in the world at only 21 km² area.

Government, Policies, Strategies, and Responsibilities

Rather than having specific waste management legislation in place, waste management falls under general environmental legislation and strategies for solid waste management, such as Environmental Management and Climate Change Act 2020, National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2011-2020 and Litter Prohibition Act 1983 etc.

The responsibility for managing solid waste is divided among governmental departments:

- **Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment:** responsible for planning and coordinating the development of the National Waste Management Policy Framework. In addition, it is also responsible for the management of hazardous waste.
- **Department of Health:** Administers the Litter Prohibition Act.
- **Department of Finance and Economic Planning:** Responsible for the Economic Infrastructure Strategy and Investment Plan 2011, which includes solid waste management infrastructure stocktake.

The implementation of the waste management programme is carried out by Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC), who operate waste collection, disposal, composting and recycling.

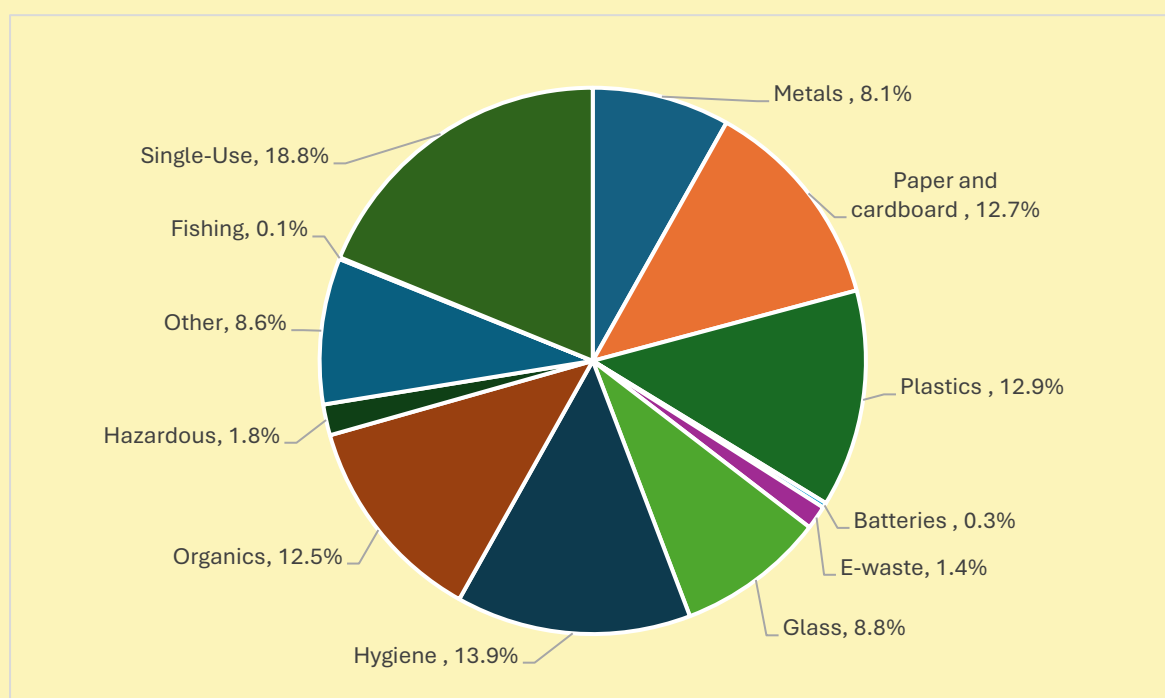
Waste Practices

Nauru's waste management practices primarily rely on burying, burning, dumping, and landfilling. There is limited access to proper waste collection and disposal facilities, and no collection service for recyclables in the country, although there are plans to design and implement one – a recycling facility is under construction but is not yet operational. There is some separation of materials at the Nauru waste facility with e-waste, chemicals and gases stockpiled, and organics mulched on an ad-hoc basis and reused by locals on plantations or farms.

Core KPIs	Result
1. Count / capacity of modern waste facilities	0 / Unknown
2. Count / capacity of unregulated waste facilities	3 / Exceeded theoretical capacity
3. National recovery rate (%)	0%
4. Per capita waste generation rate (kg/capita/year)	49.0
5. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) composition (%)	Error! Reference source not found. Next Page
6. Household waste capture rate (%)	86%
7. Household collection service coverage (%)	86%
8. Fulfilment of MEA reporting requirements (%)	14%

Supplementary KPIs	Result
1. Cost of disposal to landfill (\$/tonne/annum)	US \$35.74
2. Weight of waste disposed (tonnes per annum)	9,147
3. Weight of waste recovered (tonnes per annum)	0
4. Volume and type of stockpiled hazardous waste (m3)	183.25 m³
5. Marine plastic pollution potential (tonnes per annum)	10.1
6. Awareness and support of waste management services (%)	86.0%
7. Proportion of strategic waste management initiatives implemented (%)	84%
8. Commercial waste capture rate (%)	29%
9. Commercial collection service coverage (%)	29%
10. Total weight of disaster waste disposed (tonnes per annum)	0

Nauru National Waste Composition



National Waste Analysis Snapshot

About the Data

The waste audit was carried out in December 2020 by Tonkin & Taylor International Limited, commissioned by SPREP.

The quantitative audit sampled 88 households and 13 businesses. In addition, 74 households and 17 businesses were qualitatively interviewed.

A visual landfill audit assessed 88 loads, and 43 stockpile assessments were also conducted.

The 2025 project endeavoured to update data on the landfill by completing the Waste Facility Register.

Data Collection Challenges

Lack of quantification of some materials received by NRC Waste Facility.

Highlights

- A recycling facility is under construction.
- High awareness and support for household waste services.

Emerging Issues

- Growing volume of waste being handled at the NRC Waste Facility.
- Theoretical capacity of the Waste Facility has been exceeded since 2018.
- Limited recycling practices at present, although a recycling facility is under construction.
- High awareness and support for household waste services provides a strong foundation for improved practices, although commercial waste coverage is currently low.



Waste Management Practices and KPI Narrative

Waste Facilities and Waste Handled Each Year	In Nauru there are 0 modern facilities and 3 unregulated facilities with a capacity that has been exceeded since 2018. On average, 9,147 tonnes of waste is disposed of, and 0 tonnes of waste is recovered each year. The cost spent on disposal to landfill is US\$35.74 per tonne. The landfill is over capacity.	Hazardous Waste Stockpiles	There were 3 hazardous waste stockpiles identified where the main waste categories were e-waste, chemicals, and other.
Household per Capita Waste Generation	The per capita waste generation rate is 49.0 kilograms per person per year.	Disaster Waste	The total weight of disaster waste disposed of per year was 0 tonnes in 2024-25, as no disasters occurred.
Household Waste Statistics	The awareness and support of waste management services is 86%. The top three waste categories identified in household municipal waste are single-use, hygiene, and plastic. The household waste capture rate is 86%, and the household collection service has a coverage of 86%.	Marine Waste	The marine plastic pollution potential was identified as 10.1 tonnes per year.
Commercial Waste Statistics	The commercial waste capture rate is 29% and the commercial collection service coverage of 29%.	Strategic Initiatives and MEA Reporting	Nauru has committed to 2 Multilateral Environmental Agreements including the Basel and Stockholm Convention and have fulfilled 14% of the requirements to these MEAs.