



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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SOLOMON ISLANDS

Waste Data Profile

June 2025



Solomon Islands and PacWastePlus

Solomon Islands 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 Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands is a large island-nation in the Melanesian southwest Pacific Ocean, comprising nearly 1,000 islands-including six major islands and over 900 smaller islands-spread across a land area of approximately 29,000 km² and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of about 1,589,477 km².

The country is divided into nine provinces: Central, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Makira-Ulawa, Malaita, Rennell and Bellona, Temotu, and Western, with the separately governed capital territory of Honiara located on Guadalcanal-the largest and most populous island. Honiara is the nation's capital and principal city, while other significant population centres include Auki (Malaita Province) and Gizo (Western Province). Solomon Islands is an independent state with an estimated population (2019) of 720,956. About 27.6% of the total population at the time was urban, and the rural population was 72.4%, a decline from 80.2%.

Government, Policies, Strategies, and Responsibilities

Solomon Islands has a National Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2017 – 2026, which is coordinated by the Division of Environment under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM).

The division supervises the formulation of laws and policies related to waste management, as well as the actual waste management operations throughout the Solomon Islands. In addition, the Division of Environmental Health Service under the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) is officially designated under the *Environmental Health Act 1990*, to provide professional advice regarding the formulation and implementation of environmental health policies, including waste management.

MHMS has designated environmental health supervisors assigned to all the 10 local provincial governments to support waste management in accordance with the National Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2017 -2026.

Waste Practices

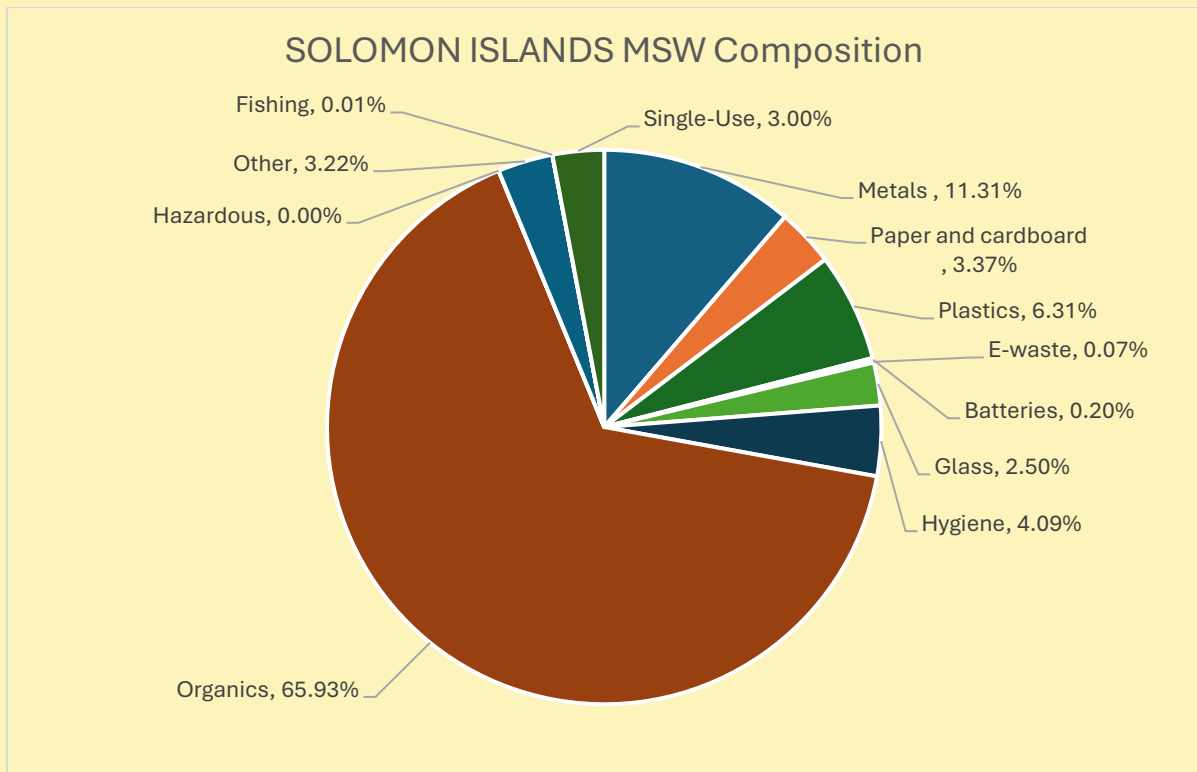
Overall, waste management services (collection, recycling and disposal) are only available at some level at most urban areas, especially Honiara, Gizo, Tulagi, Auki, Buala and others. This accounts for less than 30% of the country's population. The other 70% of the population is still without the basic waste management services, and are practicing burying, burning and open dumping.

There are about 9 waste disposal sites, which are mostly open dumping sites, with the exception of Ranadi at Honiara and Gizo with some daily control. In addition, there are some private waste disposal sites, that cater for the generated fisheries, oil and other industries generated solid waste. There are four main scrap metals recycling operators operating at Honiara, who regularly export an average of 8 shipping containers of scrap metals overseas of recycling purposes.

Solomon Islands has recently joined other Pacific Islands Countries with the banning of the Single Use Plastics, which is considered a great achievement for Solomon Islands in 2024 in combating the waste problems.

Core KPIs	Result
1. Count / capacity of modern waste facilities	0 / Unknown
2. Count / capacity of unregulated waste facilities	22 / Unknown
3. National recovery rate (%)	No data
4. Per capita waste generation rate (kg/capita/year)	98.15
5. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) composition (%)	Error! Reference source not found. Next Page
6. Household waste capture rate (%)	49%
7. Household collection service coverage (%)	44%
8. Fulfilment of MEA reporting requirements (%)	17%

Supplementary KPIs	Result
1. Cost of disposal to landfill (\$/t/tonne/annum)	\$3.14
2. Weight of waste disposed (tonnes per annum)	53,545
3. Weight of waste recovered (tonnes per annum)	960
4. Volume and type of stockpiled hazardous waste (m3)	Stockpiled hazardous waste: Used oil: 13 m³
5. Marine plastic pollution potential (tonnes per annum)	1,450
6. Awareness and support of waste management services (%)	23%
7. Proportion of strategic waste management initiatives implemented (%)	81%
8. Commercial waste capture rate (%)	No data
9. Commercial collection service coverage (%)	90%
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 Solomon Islands 2021 National Census, the APWC 2019 waste audits and surveys through the CLiP Project of Cefas, the 2023 landfill and household survey conducted through PacWaste Plus, new household and commercial surveys, and Eunomia 2025 Waste Facility Register surveys.

The APWC audits undertaken include a compositional waste audit of 216 household samples covering Guadalcanal, Honiara, Rural Auki. Updated qualitative surveys involving 142 household samples (Malaita, Western, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Choiseul, Rennell & Bellona, Temotu, Makira & Ulawa, Honiara) and 48 commercial samples (Malaita, Western, Guadalcanal, Honiara) were conducted recently.

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

Data Collection Challenges

Most of the waste facilities throughout the country do not have the proper data management system to record waste data. Some still use the paper-based system, which often leads to loss of data or unrecorded data in computers. This is the main problem in getting the data.

Some waste facilities administrators and owners especially recyclers are reluctant to share their data for some business reasons.

Others are reluctant to share data due to their concern of potential exposure of violation of environmental permits.

Highlights

- Solomon Islands has recently joined other Pacific Islands in banning identified Single Use Plastics in 2024 as a major achievement of the country in combating waste and its associated environmental and health impacts.
- Ongoing progress is made with the development of Solomon Islands Product Steward Scheme supported by PWP for the sustainable management of targeted waste items including recyclables.
- Ongoing progress is made under the ADB Project for improvement of waste management in Honiara, including the development of a new Waste Landfill.

Emerging Issues

There are several remote islands in the Solomon Islands, which highly depend on solar power and related products. This could lead to rising e-waste quantities and associated environmental issues in the country. The proposed Products Steward Scheme for Solomon Islands should consider these products for supporting appropriate measures to manage the generated hazardous waste.

While this data collection initiative by PWP may not gather all the missing data needed to fulfil the DCMR framework, it is an opportunity for SPREP to build on the created data supporting arrangements that were set up during this project for supporting ongoing data collection in the future.

Eunomia assisted some countries in setting up national data collection hub to collect submissions from all parts of the countries. The countries could reuse the same data collection forms for future data collection in line with the DCMRF timeline.



Waste Management Practices and KPI Narrative

Waste Facilities and Waste Handled Each Year	In Solomon Islands there is no modern facility and 22 unregulated waste facilities (disposal, recycling, incineration and storage) with unknown processing capacity as these are not recorded in most facilities. Approximately, 53,500 tonnes of waste is disposed of annually, and an estimated 960 tonnes of waste is recovered each year. The cost spent on disposal to landfill is estimated at \$3.14. Of the 10 landfills, 2 are over capacity, while 8 still have some remaining 2 – 5 years.	Hazardous Waste Stockpiles	Used oil is the only hazardous waste stockpiled in the waste facilities.
Household per Capita Waste Generation	The per capita waste generation rate is 98 kilograms per person per year.	Disaster Waste	Although Solomon Islands was affected by some past disasters (flooding in Honiara areas), no data was recorded.
Household Waste Statistics	The awareness and support of waste management services is very low at 23%. The top three waste categories identified in household municipal waste are organics, metals, and plastics. The household waste capture rate is 49%, and the household collection service has a coverage of 44%.	Marine Waste	The marine plastic pollution potential was identified as 1,450 tonnes per year
Commercial Waste Statistics	There was insufficient data to calculate a commercial waste capture rate and the commercial collection service coverage of 90% is recorded mainly in Honiara.	Strategic Initiatives and MEA Reporting	<p>Solomon Islands has committed to 2 Multilateral Environmental Agreements including Basel and Stockholm Conventions; they have fulfilled 17% of the requirements to the various MEAs.</p> <p>Solomon Islands has 16 waste management initiatives planned and have implemented 13, the proportion of strategic waste management initiatives implemented is 81%.</p>