



Photo: A. Carvan/SPREP

## 2015: Our year in review

Welcome the second edition of PacWaste News and our last for the 2015 calendar year.

It's been an extremely fruitful few months for PacWaste with a number of key outputs taking place such as the Third Annual Steering Committee Meeting held in Tarawa, Kiribati. I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended and contributed to a very successful event. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Government of Kiribati for making us so welcome and providing invaluable assistance to all PacWaste delegates whilst in-country.

You can read more about the Steering Committee Meeting and associated workshops in this newsletter. You can also access the final and approved minutes for the meeting along with the 2016 work programme and budget, on the [PacWaste website](#).

Also on the PacWaste website you can find a short video that we have prepared to showcase some of our shared achievements from 2015. We invite you to take a look at [PacWaste 2015: Our year in review](#), keeping in mind that none of these milestones would have been possible without the commitment of you – our partners, donors, supporters and friends on the ground.

On behalf of all of the PacWaste team at both SPREP and the European Union I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

Thank you for your support in 2015, and here's to a new year of a cleaner and safer Pacific for all.

Mr Stewart Williams  
PacWaste Project Manager  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)



Mr Stewart Williams

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## LATEST NEWS



The rapidly increasing use of electrical and electronic equipment in the Pacific is resulting in increased volume of E-waste. Photo: Alice Leney

## PacWaste E-waste and ULAB implementation

PacWaste recently called for tenders from qualified and experienced consultants to assist with the implementation of the E-waste/Used Lead Acid Batteries component of the PacWaste project in the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, and for atoll integrated solid waste management pilot in Republic of the Marshall Islands (Majuro Atoll).

All tender information related to PacWaste, including calls for tenders and award of contracts, can be found on the [resources section](#) of the PacWaste website.



In October, 2015 participants from hospitals and clinics across Tarawa gathered at the Tungaru Central Hospital in Nowerewere to learn how to effectively and safely handle healthcare waste. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

## A new model for the management of healthcare waste in Kiribati

PacWaste has joined forces with the GEF funded Pacific POPs Release Reduction project to deliver an innovative [new pilot project on integrated healthcare waste management](#) at Tungaru Hospital in Kiribati. This new pilot project will ensure that the island nation's largest hospital has the necessary capacity and resources to implement a cost-effective and self-sustaining healthcare waste management system.

The focus of the Pacific POPs Release Reduction project is to minimise the release of toxic Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the PacWaste project aims to improve the management of hazardous waste in the Pacific region. Given that improper incineration is a key contributor to the release of POPs, the Kiribati pilot scheme's focus on improved healthcare waste management through best-practice incineration techniques fits very nicely within the scope of both projects.



In total, PacWaste is providing incinerators to 12 different countries through the healthcare waste management component of the project.

## New incinerators arrive for installation and commissioning

PacWaste is pleased to advise that 21 of the 26 healthcare waste incinerators being procured through the project have been fabricated and shipped to their destinations.

The incinerators are highly efficient and are equipped with two combustion chambers – one to safely burn healthcare waste and another to burn the smoke generated from the first chamber. This technology ensures that very few emissions are released as a result of the incineration process.

Once the incinerators are installed, incinerator operators will be equipped with the necessary skills to operate and maintain the equipment. These activities will be complemented by healthcare waste management training and the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure systems at nominated healthcare facilities.





Group photo of participants at the Third Annual PacWaste Steering Committee Meeting in Tarawa, Kiribati. Photo: A.Carvan/SPREP

## Postcard from Tarawa, Kiribati

Globally, hazardous waste management is a pressing and complicated issue, and nowhere is it more challenging – or urgent – than on the low-lying atolls of the Pacific. In October this year, representatives from 13 Pacific island countries had the pleasure of gathering in Tarawa, Kiribati for the Third Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the PacWaste project.

Over the course of the Steering Committee Meeting and associated workshops, participants discussed the work programme for the next 12 months of the PacWaste project and learned how Kiribati is seeking to improve the health of its environment and people through sustainable waste management initiatives.

One highlight of the programme was a workshop and presentation, organised by the Kiribati Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD) and New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), on the successful implementation of the pre-paid 'green bag' in Kiribati.

The public awareness component of the green bag programme – which included public performances and plays – was critical to its success. At the workshop, PacWaste delegates had the opportunity to see one of the performances and discuss elements of effective public awareness campaigns in a Pacific island context.

The event also highlighted the critical importance of actively engaging women and young people in waste management initiatives, especially given their proximity to waste generation – and segregation – at the household level.

At a special celebration held at the Kiribati Parliament buildings in Ambo, Mr Moannata Ientaake, Permanent Secretary for MELAD, applauded PacWaste for its results on the ground over the past two years and noted the scope of activities planned for the future:

“In Kiribati, the PacWaste project is supporting healthcare waste management initiatives, undertaking asbestos removal works and supporting an E-waste pilot project to safely extract and export valuable or hazardous materials from old electronic and computer equipment. The Government of Kiribati looks forward to continuing our work with the European Union and SPREP to protect the people and the environment of Kiribati from the impact of hazardous waste.”



Photo: T.Hartley/SPREP



## USEFUL LINKS



## Smart choices for a cleaner and safer Pacific

To support the European Union's 2015 European Year for Development, PacWaste has launched a colourful new poster to highlight the important role that we all play in protecting the future of our islands. Called 'Smart choices for a cleaner and safer Pacific' the poster promotes a range of simple actions that contribute to reduced waste and increased resilience.

Free copies of the colourful and informative poster can be downloaded from the [PacWaste website](#). A limited number of posters and stickers, printed on 100% recycled paper, are available to educational institutions. Copies can be requested through SPREP's Information Resource Centre and Archives (IRCA) by emailing [SPREP\\_IRCA@sprep.org](mailto:SPREP_IRCA@sprep.org)

## PacWaste Country Profiles now available online

A new set of country profiles for participating PacWaste countries are currently being developed. The profiles provide detailed information about the work that PacWaste is undertaking in 15 countries and include detailed information such as incinerator locations, proposed asbestos intervention sites and more.

Profiles are currently available for Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Timor-Leste and Nauru. Profiles for the remaining countries are expected to be available early in the new year. All Country Profiles can be downloaded from the [PacWaste website](#).



## Coming up

- Request for Tenders (for healthcare waste management training) to be released: *January, 2016*
- E-waste processing pilot (Kiribati) finalised: *January, 2016*
- ULAB collection and export pilot (Majuro, RMI) finalised: *January, 2016*

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**Our vision:** *The Pacific environment – sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

**PacWaste**  
PACIFIC HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT



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