



THINK GREEN KEEP SINT MAARTEN CLEAN

Moving to Intergrated Solid Waste
Management on St. Maarten (ISWM-SXM)



Promoting Ecological and Human Health

June 2023

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"A VISION IS NOT JUST A PICTURE OF WHAT COULD BE; IT IS AN APPEAL TO OUR BETTER SELVES, A CALL TO BECOME SOMETHING MORE."

Professor Rosabeth Moss Kantler
Harvard Business School



This document outlines the vision for integrated solid waste management in Sint Maarten by 2050. The vision is created as part of the project 'Moving to Integrated Solid Waste Management on Sint Maarten' (ISWM-SXM).

The Government of Sint Maarten implements ISWM-SXM with the support of the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International) and the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB). More information about this project can be found at www.nrpbsxm.org/solidwaste.

For the preparation of this vision, input was used, among other things, from previous studies and reports, such as the 'Roadmap Waste Management' (2018), the forum 'No time to waste' (2018), meetings with stakeholders both inside and outside government during the second half of 2022, and a stakeholder consultation session in February 2023.



ISWM-SXM VISION

A Good Life For Everyone

A good life for everyone on Sint Maarten (people) within Sint Maarten's natural boundaries (planet) and good sustainable economic prosperity (wealth).

In 2050, Sint Maarten has moved toward a green and clean sustainable island with a circular economy, preventing waste generation and reusing products and materials as much as possible.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Landfill - The Unwanted National Symbol

Sint Maarten is among the highest solid waste generators in the Caribbean per capita.

Most of this waste ends up on the waste disposal site on Pond Island, next to the Government Administration Building. Here, ineffective disposal causes health risks via air pollution, and water and soil contamination.

The waste disposal site has become an unwanted symbol of uncontrolled waste management, posing risks to residents, visitors, and businesses. The tourism industry, which is the main economic driver of Sint Maarten, will miss opportunities for growth without an integrated solid waste management system.



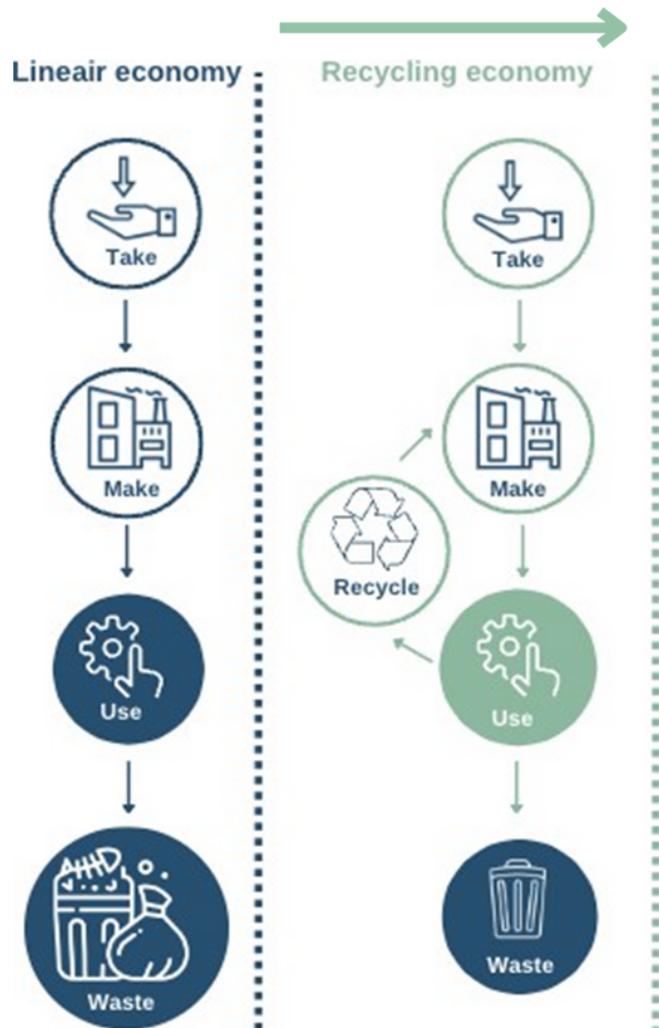
ISWM-SXM VISION

A Good Life For Everyone - A Glimpse of 2050

Imagine a future where Sint Maarten has transformed itself into a sustainable paradise. Well, this is exactly what has been envisioned by its policymakers, waste and environmental experts, and everyday citizens.

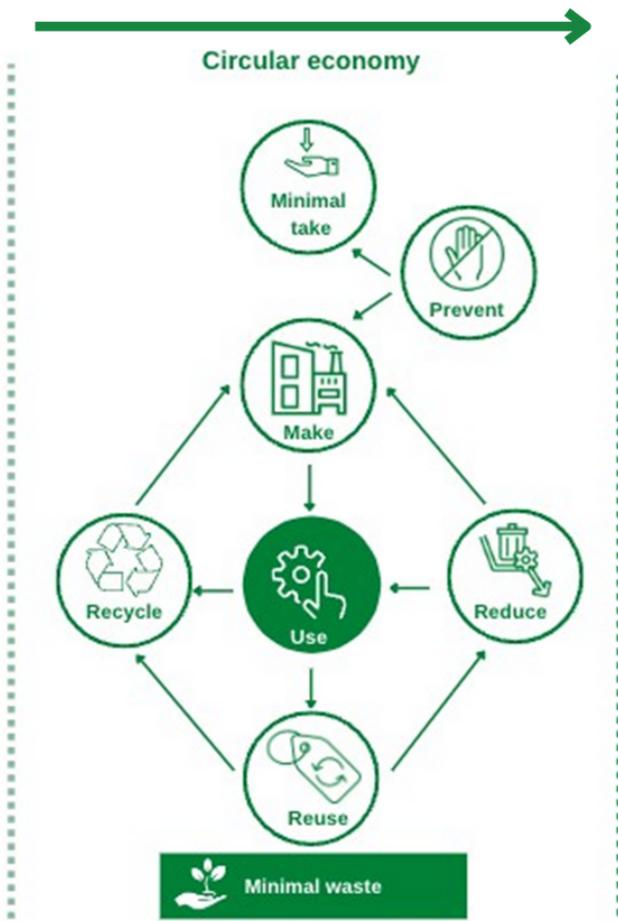
By 2050, we are striving to create a country bound by the laws of the circular economy - where waste is minimized, products are reused, and the value of raw materials is retained throughout a product's lifecycle. We want clear coastlines, clear beaches, and ponds thriving with plant and animal life. We want an island that is one of the cleanest and greenest in the Caribbean.

Sint Maarten's transition towards a circular economy will not only have created a healthier and greener environment, but it will also create new job opportunities and business ventures.



A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A Good Life For Everyone - A Glimpse of 2050



Through sorting, reusing, and recycling waste materials, people on the island will be sharing, repairing, and repurposing products.

The circular economy will also support a sustainable tourism industry, making Sint Maarten a choice destination for eco-tourists.

Additionally, the country will be working with other Caribbean islands to broaden its knowledge about waste management solutions and establish mutually beneficial arrangements from a sustainable and financial standpoint.

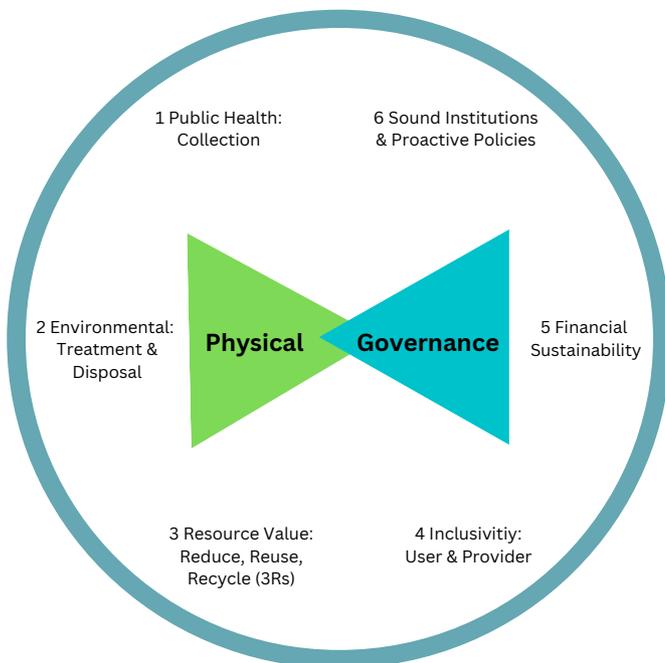
Sint Maarten will prove that it's possible for everyone to enjoy their lives while also taking care of the environment and achieving sustainable economic prosperity.



ISWM-SXM AMBITION

With an integrated solid waste management system, waste is managed in a sustainable manner

Proper solid waste management is a critical step in successfully transitioning to a circular economy. Therefore, our ambition is for an integrated solid waste management system (ISWM) to be in place in Sint Maarten by 2030. In this system, Sint Maarten's waste is disposed of, reused, or recycled in line with international best practices and minimal environmental impact.



The key physical components:

- The protection of public health by having an efficient and effective collection system.
- Environmental protection, particularly during waste treatment and disposal.
- Maintaining value in used materials.

The governance strategies to deliver a well-functioning systems:

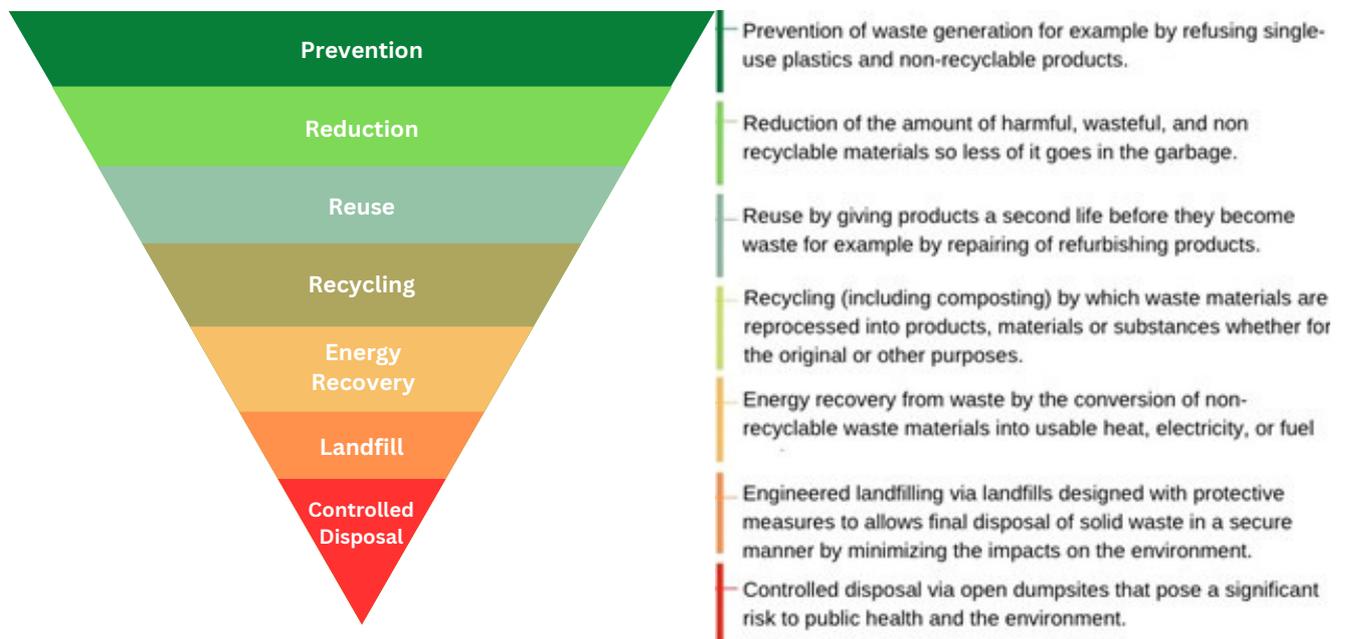
- Inclusivity, that is, allowing stakeholders to contribute and benefit.
- Financial sustainability in terms of cost and fees.
- A base of sound institutions and proactive policies.



THE WASTE HIERACHY

How Should Solid Waste Be Managed?

The Waste Hierarchy (or the ladder of circularity) introduces the preferred waste processing options which are best for the environment. It guides waste management decisions both at the organizational level as well as at the individual level.



The Waste Hierarchy 'This is something that Sint Maarten should aspire to.' First prevent, what you cannot avoid and you then reduce. How does this connect to Vision 2030?

Sint Maarten is currently facing a waste management challenge where products are purchased, used, and discarded for disposal. All waste is sent to a controlled landfill.

To address this issue, a paradigm shift is necessary, focusing on waste reduction. The first step is preventing waste generation by questioning the necessity of new items. When waste is produced, the principles of reduction, reuse, and recycling should be applied to recover resources and divert waste from landfills. Although a landfill will always be needed, these initiatives aim to slow down its filling rate and extend its lifespan, reducing the need for new waste disposal investments. Improvements at the landfill will also ensure proper management of hazardous and medical waste, improving its overall rating.

ISWM-SXM GOALS

The ISWM-SXM goals for 2030 were formulated based on initial estimates and will be tested and refined in terms of achievability and realism, in consultation with stakeholders.

Government, residents, businesses, and visitors all must take steps to realize our vision, and we call all start today by minimizing our waste. The next step for the government is to start moving towards integrated solid waste management and the construction of waste processing facilities.

Professionalism & Sustainable Reform

100%



100% Professional Collection Of Waste

Solid waste from residents, visitors and companies is collected in a professional manner. Recycling is made easy.

Services include cleaning of public spaces and removal of debris and wrecks.

There is (almost) no litter on the streets, parks, ponds, beaches and other public areas.

There is effective enforcement on waste disposal rules, as well as on littering, illegal dumping, and for businesses that do not maintain the cleanliness of their operational areas area (according to their permits).

100%



100% Landfill Site Reforms

The waste disposal site(s) are fit for the purpose of waste disposal, that is, they have been sanitized and designed according to international standards, such as being outfitted with a liner, as well as mechanisms for leachate collection and treatment.

At the entrance of, there is a working weighbridge at the entrance of waste disposal sites to monitor incoming waste volumes.

This will enable better data collection to continuously improve waste disposal operations. It also supports the collection of a gate fee.

ISWM-SXM GOALS

Disposal, Diversion and Awareness

75%



75% Solid Waste Diversion of Waste Disposal Site

The volume of waste going into the landfill has decreased.

All waste is processed according to more preferable processing options (see the Waste Hierarchy). Where needed, waste is sorted at the source, or at least after collection.

There are recovery and/or recycling facilities for waste streams, such as organic waste, recyclables, building and construction waste, etc.

Recyclables can also be exported.

90%



90% Aware Residents, Businesses and Visitors

Residents, businesses, and visitors are proud of Sint Maarten and its cleanliness. Attitudes toward waste disposal has changed and residents are motivated to prevent waste. Residents have the capacity, and opportunity for proper waste behavior. Good waste management is an integral part of the tourist experience and supported by all partners in the tourist industry.

A multi-year public campaign, with regular feedback, has been implemented in a joint effort with relevant stakeholders, aimed at influencing behavior regarding prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling of solid waste.

Integrated solid waste management practices are included in community councils and school training programs.

NGOs and government supports local initiatives to produce compost or other usable products from waste.

The waste treatment system creates new business opportunities and jobs, and supports a resilient tourism industry.

ISWM-SXM GOALS

Fiduciary and Operational Streamlining

100%



100% Financially Sound System

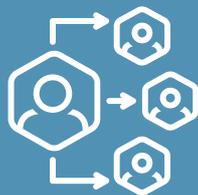
Solid waste management services and activities are cost-effective and affordable.

Investing in facilities will support proper waste management and job creation. A system of earmarked revenues covers the needed investments and operational costs.

These predictable and continuous revenue streams, which the Waste Authority guides, ensure good operations and access to investment loans.

Revenues can include waste levies for residents and companies based on the polluter pays principle, environmental impact fees for visitors and cruise ships, tipping fees, a tax on imported goods, and revenues from sales.

1X



Robust Waste Authority

The Waste Authority is a well-funded and professional organization, with its own authority and budget and is responsible for solid waste management.

The Waste Authority operates within a solid and up-to-date legal and policy framework, in line with international conventions and regulations. Proper enforcement of regulations is in place.

The Authority manages, controls and monitors all waste-related topics with a maximum effect based on minimum contributions from taxpayers. The Waste Authority is an autonomous entity, separate from the government, allowing it to operate in a stable environment and be accountable for its results.

The organization is well prepared for natural disasters and implements 'hurricane-proof' policies and procedures.

The Waste Authority ensures adequate and beneficial cooperation with the French side and other Caribbean Islands. A level playing field is arranged and maintained with the French side to avoid waste trafficking.

Also, possibilities for shared facilities and educational programs are explored. Once the long-term solution for Sint Maarten is clear, it might be possible to set up arrangements with the Dutch Caribbean islands of Sint Eustatius and Saba. Sint Maarten will also actively participate in regional activities to broaden and share local knowledge about waste management solutions, based on the best practices of countries with similar problems in the Caribbean region.

ST. MAARTENS' VISION

As told through the eyes of our stakeholders

STANDARDIZATION & ENFORCEMENT

There are separate waste collection bins per waste stream on beaches and in public spaces. The bins are frequently placed, consistent and people respect them.”

VISIBLE STANDARDS & INCENTIVES

“No smoke smell anywhere in town. Garbage bins where garbage can be separated. Plastic bottles can be recycled in all supermarkets in return for money or points for groceries.”

STRUCTURE & SOCIAL IMPACT

“For SXM I see structure taking place. I see recycling happening, recycling bins placed in several districts on the island. I see active campaigns, highlighting the importance of a clean SXM and a healthy society. I honestly see change, once implementations are in place.”

INNOVATIVE MEASURES & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

“Clean streets, no ‘zwerfafval’(littering). Underground garbage bins in every neighborhood. Community recycling and having incentives for recycling.”



**For inquiries,
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Presented to

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