



**Republic of Liberia**

## **National Solid Waste Management Policy**

**Approved and Published by the  
Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia**

**On October 17, 2024**

A handwritten signature in black ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page.



# Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

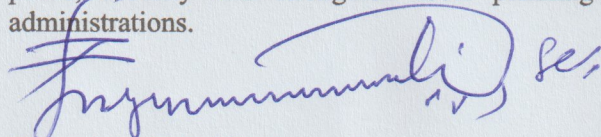
## FOREWORD

Liberia has had a long journey in the process of formulating a National Waste Management Policy. The fourteen years of civil conflict, the EBOLA pandemic and Covid-19 virus significantly undermined the delivery of sanitation services and resulted in the collapse of the public waste management system. Indiscriminate open disposal of waste in urban areas is widespread across the country in the absence of a regulatory framework. While waste management is a major responsibility of local governments, this complex task requires sustainable planning, organization and cooperation between the waste generators, local communities, services providers and municipal authorities at national, regional and local levels.

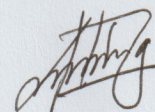
*The Lift Liberia, the Poverty Reduction Strategy for Liberia* (2008-2011) and Liberia's development framework, which raised Liberia from post-conflict emergency reconstruction and positioned it for future growth, mandated the development of a national solid waste policy. Furthermore, in order for Liberia to realize the status of a middle-income country in alignment with the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), the Government of Liberia has to ensure necessary and conducive living conditions by developing the required enabling policies. The National Solid Waste Management Policy (NSWMP) borders on the forwarding looking objectives of the SDGs to enhance human health and security. The NSWMP thus reinforces the government's commitment to improving sanitation and hygiene practices as expressed in Liberia's National Development Plan, the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID).

The overarching waste management policy statement outlines the vision of the Government of Liberia, which recognizes that effective & efficient waste management is essential for the development of sound public health and improved quality of life. Waste management should be implemented in a gender sensitive, environmentally and socially equitable manner, using the most economical means available. Linkages between the environment, public health, good governance, public and private sectors participation, gender and transparency issues, highlighted by this overarching policy statement are key issues that impinge on the needs of the waste sector which must be addressed in a sustainable and mutually supportive manner.

The National Solid Waste Management Policy provides a broad framework for the implementation of national objectives and builds synergies with existing policies and legal instruments governing waste management issues in Liberia. The guiding principles of this National Solid Waste Management Policy provides the foundation of the policy goals reflected across thematic areas aligned to the Government of Liberia's recognition of waste management as an integral component of good governance and is one of the most visible municipal services influencing local perception of governance. Therefore, it is incumbent on all local government authorities to prioritize waste management and ensure that a well-organized waste management system is established at their respective municipalities to serve as the common entry point for municipal revenue generation and delivery of basic services across the country as provided for in the Local Government Act of 2018, which prioritizes the three dimensions of fiscal, political and administrative decentralization and establishes a framework for effective and efficient service delivery at the sub-national level while enhancing participatory decision making to engender peace, security and strengthen local planning and capacity development for local government administrations.



Honorable F. Sakila Nyumalin  
**Minister of Internal Affairs**  
Republic of Liberia





## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

### Acknowledgement

After several years of progressive change in Liberia's waste management sector following *The Lift Liberia, The Poverty Reduction Strategy for Liberia (PRS) (2008-2011)* which mandated the development of a Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy, we have completed this national task.

We are grateful to our partners for the strong collaborative ideas for an integrated approach to sustainable solid waste management in Liberia. We acknowledged the strong collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Monrovia City Corporation, the Paynesville City Corporation, and other national stakeholders in driving the Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy.

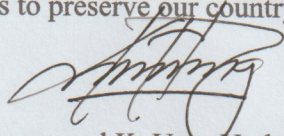
We thank the local authorities, especially township commissioners, mayors and county superintendents for their inputs and recommendations that enriched the content of the Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy. During the policy formulation process, sustained efforts were made by international partners which enabled the timely finalization of the Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy.

In this regard, we extend our profound appreciation to our development partners, especially the World Bank for the assistance provided to develop the *Solid Waste Policy Letter* that informed and provided vital inputs as driving instruments for the formulation process of this policy document. We are grateful to the International Labor Organization (ILO) for the technical assistance provided in December 2009 which facilitated the preparation of the first draft policy document.

Our special appreciation goes to UNICEF and UNDP for the support they provided to create momentum that facilitated the policy review and validation processes. This initiative enabled us to resuscitate the efforts toward the completion of the policy document and laid the grounds for the refinement of its goals, objectives and strategies consistent with the vision of medium-term economic growth and development.

We further recognize and appreciate both technical and financial assistance provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, European Union, Cities Alliance, WaterAid, USAID, JICA Habitat for Humanity International and World Hope International as well as national consultants for their financial and technical roles in the development and finalization the National Solid Waste Policy.

Finally, we are more grateful to our local technocrats through the Multi Stakeholders Waste Resource Recovery Platform for their tireless efforts in making this policy a living reality. In our efforts to preserve our country's environment, we are committed to clean, green and safe Liberia.



Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo  
**Executive Director/CEO**  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

### The Government of Liberia Policy Commitment

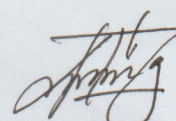
Sanitation plays a vital role in preventive healthcare and quality of life. For that reason, the Government of Liberia has made the provision of sustainable sanitation services as one of the priorities of the National Development Programs within the ARREST (Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, Tourism) Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID).

Today, the Government of Liberia is leading the development of supportive policies and legislations like the National Solid Waste Management Policy, the National Waste Regulations and Standard, the Methane Gas Policy as well as other policies. These national policies are to ensure the proper implementation of activities to overcome challenges and engage with opportunities in an integrated manner, that will effectively contribute towards achieving the goals of the National Development Agenda.

The Government of Liberia in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders will support the implementation of the National Solid Waste Management Policy by working with municipalities and service providers to attract funding for the implementation, designing guidance for improving operation and maintenance of solid waste facilities; and assisting the cities of Monrovia and Paynesville and other cities as well as towns and villages to have the needed solid waste facilities through joint projects to mitigate solid waste issues.

The Government of Liberia is encouraging active participation of private service providers in the Solid Waste Management sub-sector and will ensure that the principles advocated by this policy are adhered to in the process of sanitation services provision.

The Government of Liberia strongly recognizes the initiatives of the international and regional communities in making sure we have a clean and healthy environment.





# Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

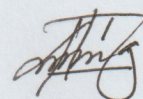
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA POLICY COMMITMENT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1.1 BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1.2 SITUATION ANALYSIS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
1.3.0 INSTITUTIONAL MANDATES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	12
1.3.1 NATIONAL WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE COMMISSION (NWASHC) .....	12
1.3.2 MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (MIA) .....	13
1.3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA).....	13
1.3.4 MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) .....	13
1.3.5 NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE OF LIBERIA (NPHIL) .....	13
1.3.6 MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY (MME) .....	13
1.3.7 LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY (LLA).....	14
1.3.8 MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS (MPW) .....	14
1.3.9 MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.....	14
<b>1.4 RESPONSIBILITIES .....</b>	<b>14</b>
1.4.1 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.....	14
1.4.2 COMMUNITY PROGRAMS .....	15
1.4.3 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.....	15
<b>1.5 LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>1.6 POLICY FRAMEWORK AND FORMULATION PROCESS.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2.0 OVERARCHING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>4.0 POLICY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
4.1 ACCESS TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES .....	18
4.2 TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.....	19
4.3 COST RECOVERY MECHANISMS FOR FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY .....	19
4.4. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTICIPATION .....	20
4.5 GENDER SENSITIVITY AND MAINSTREAMING .....	21
4.6 WASTE MINIMIZATION, CONTROL AND REGULATION .....	21
4.7 HAZARDOUS SOLID WASTES .....	22
4.8 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT .....	22
4.9 ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY .....	23
4.10 AWARENESS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION .....	23
<b>5.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING .....</b>	<b>24</b>
5.1 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION .....	24
5.2 INSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK .....	24
5.3 SOCIAL ASPECTS .....	24
<b>6.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION .....</b>	<b>25</b>
6.1 ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION .....	25
6.2 TECHNICAL ASPECTS.....	25



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

<b>7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>8.0 ROLE OF IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTIONS</b> .....	<b>26</b>
8.1 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT .....	26
8.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT .....	26
8.3 CITY CORPORATIONS, MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES .....	27
8.4 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY .....	27
8.5 MINISTRY OF HEALTH .....	27
8.6 NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE OF LIBERIA (NPHIL).....	27
8.7 MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY .....	27
8.8 LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY (LLA).....	27
8.9 MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS .....	27
8.10 COMMUNITIES AND HOUSEHOLDS .....	28
8.11 CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS .....	28
8.12 THE PRIVATE SECTOR.....	28
<b>9.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>10.0 AMENDMENT</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>11.0 EFFECTIVE DATE</b> .....	<b>29</b>

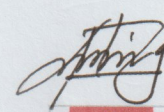




# Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAID	ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development
AfT	Agenda for Transformation
CDC	Congress for Democratic Change
BMGFs	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CBE	Community Base Enterprises
CBO	Community-based Organization
CMTs	Community Management Teams
DIG	Development Innovations Group
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPR	Extended Producers Responsibility
GOL	Government of Liberia
INGOs	International Nongovernmental Organizations
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMPAC	Improved Primary Waste Collection in Grassroots Communities
NSWMP	National Solid Waste Management Policy
LLA	Liberia Land Authority
LMA	Liberia Market Association
LGS	Liberian Geological Services
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOFDPL	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGOs	Nongovernmental Organizations
NWASHC	National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Commission
NPHIL	National Public Health Institute of Liberia
MCC	Monrovia City Corporation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PAPD	Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development
PAYT	Pay As You Throw
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SWM	Solid Waste Management
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
WB	World Bank





# Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

In the context of this policy document the following are the meaning of the key terms used:

**Collection** shall refer to the act of removing solid waste from the source or from a communal storage point.

**Composting** shall refer to the controlled decomposition of organic matter by micro-organisms, mainly bacteria and fungi, into a humus-like product.

**Controlled dump** shall refer to a disposal site at which solid waste is deposited in accordance with the minimum prescribed standards of site operation.

**Disposal** shall refer to the discharge, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking or placing of any solid waste into or in any land.

**Disposal site** shall refer to a site where solid waste is finally discharged and deposited.

**Environment** is understood as comprising the whole set of natural or biophysical and man-made systems of the surroundings of human beings and other organisms as they live, work and interact.

**Environment management** includes the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the various elements of the environment.

**Environment Monitoring** means the continuous determination of actual and potential effects of any activities on the environment.

**Environment protection** means all the interventions that may be deemed proper to maintain a high level of environmental quality, and that will also provide and enhance sustainable socio-economic development.

**Generation** shall refer to the act or process of producing solid waste.

**Generator** shall refer to a person, natural or juridical, who last uses a material and makes it available for disposal or recycling.

**Hazardous waste** shall refer to combination of solid waste which because of its quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics may: (i) cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (ii) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.

**Leachate** shall refer to the liquid produced when waste undergo decomposition, and when water percolate through solid waste undergoing decomposition. It is contaminated liquid that contains dissolved and suspended materials.

**Materials recovery facility** means a solid waste transfer station or sorting station, drop-off center, a composting facility, and a recycling facility.

**Municipal and Local Government Entities** shall refer to Municipal, Local Government Entities, Townships and Borough



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

**Municipal waste** shall refer to wastes produced from activities within local government units which include a combination of domestic, commercial, institutional and industrial wastes and street litters.

**Open dump** shall refer to a disposal area wherein the solid wastes are indiscriminately thrown or disposed of without due planning and consideration for environmental and Health standards.

**Opportunity to recycle** shall refer to the act of providing a place for collecting source-separated recyclable material, located either at a disposal site or at another location more convenient to the population being served, and collection at least once a month of source-separated recyclable material from collection service customers and to providing a public education and promotion program that gives notice to each person of the opportunity to recycle and encourage source separation of recyclable material.

**Occupational health** means the prescribed health standards specified in the Public Health Law in relation to different parts of which are occupied by different persons.

**Pay As you Throw (PAYT)** shall refers to unit pricing or variable-rate pricing, residents are charged for the collection of solid waste based on the amount they throw away.

**Pollutant** means a substance whether liquid, solid, or gaseous which directly or in directly alters the quality of a segment or element of the receiving environment or is hazardous or potentially hazardous to human health or the environment and includes Objectionable odors, radio-activity, noise, temperature change or other physical, chemical or biological change to any segment or element of the environment.

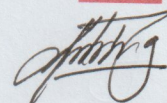
**Polluter-pays principle** means generally that environmental management tools such as licensing and enforcement are fashioned such that the economic cost of pollution is passed on to the polluter and that the cost of cleaning up a segment of the environment damaged by pollution, compensating victims of pollution, cost of beneficial uses lost as a result of an act of pollution and other costs that are connected or incidental to the foregoing, is to be paid or borne by the person convicted of pollution under this Act or any other applicable law.

**Public participation** means, in keeping with the peoples' right to know the potential impacts of decisions being made, the information relating to the right of any person to receive effective notice with relevant information and to review and comment on major decisions with such comments being taken into consideration at the decision making stage; and involves open, ongoing two-way communication, both formal and informal between decision makers and stakeholders those interested in or affected by the decisions.

**Recyclable material** shall refer to any waste material retrieved from the waste stream and free from contamination that can still be converted into suitable beneficial use or for other purposes, including, but not limited to, newspaper, ferrous scrap metal, non-ferrous scrap metal, used oil, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, glass, office paper and tin cans.

**Recycled material** shall refer to post-consumer material that has been recycled and returned to the economy.

**Recycling** shall refer to the treating of used or waste materials through a process of making them suitable for beneficial use and for other purposes, and includes any process by which solid waste materials are transformed into new products in such a manner that the original product may lose their





## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

identity, and which may be used as raw materials for the production of other goods or services: Provided, that the collection, segregation and re-use of previously used packaging material shall be deemed recycling under this the EPA standards.

**Resource conversation** shall refer to the reduction of the amount of solid waste that are generated or the reduction of overall resource consumption, and utilization of recovered resources.

**Resources recovery** shall refer to the collection, extraction or recovery of recyclable materials from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling, generating energy or producing a product suitable for beneficial use: Provided, that such resource recovery facilities exclude incineration.

**Re-use** shall refer to the process of recovering materials intended for the same or different purpose without the alteration of physical and chemical characteristics.

**Solid Waste** shall refer to all discarded household, commercial waste, non-hazardous institutional and industrial waste, street sweepings, construction debris, agricultural waste, and other n on-hazardous/non-toxic solid waste.

**Solid Waste Management** shall refer to the discipline associated with the control of generation, storage, collection, transfer and transport, processing, and disposal of solid wastes in a manner that is in accord with the best principles of public health, economics, engineering, conservation, aesthetics, and other environmental considerations, and that is also responsive to public attitudes.

**Segregation** shall refer to a solid waste management practice of separating different materials found in solid waste in order to promote recycling and re-use of resources and to reduce the volume of waste for collection and disposal.

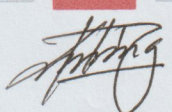
**Segregation at source** shall refer to a solid waste management practice of separating, at t he point of origin, different materials found in solid waste in order to promote recycling and re-use of resources and to reduce the volume of waste for collection and disposal.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

During the first draft policy formulation process in 2009, the Government of Liberia adopted the *Lift Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)* for its (2008-2011) development framework. The PRS strategic objective 3 for water and sanitation was intended "To ensure the sustainability of 90 percent of water and sanitation facilities in the country". To achieve this objective the PRS called for the development of a national solid waste policy. Because this was not realized, the time line for this deliverable was revised to June 2009 and the lead Ministry and Agency responsible for achievement of this PRS deliverable were Monrovia City Corporation (MCC), Ministry of Public Works and the Legislature. This second deadline was not met due to competing government priorities.

In an effort to complete the waste management policy, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Internal Affairs with assistance from UNCIEF, UNDP and other development partners facilitated the Monrovia City Corporation in collaboration with other cities across the country to conduct a review of the draft policy document to account for the emerging developments in the waste management sector since 2009, more especially to align the policy document with the sector goal of the Agenda for Transformation (AfT), Liberia's medium term economic growth and development strategy (2012-2017). A successor of the Lift Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy





## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

(PRS) which raised Liberia from post-conflict emergency reconstruction and positioned it for future growth was developed. The AfT water and sanitation sector goal advocated for increase in access to safe water supply and sanitation and improved hygiene practices across the country. In alignment with the AfT, a revised Solid Waste Management Policy was drafted which was validated twice. The draft was not finalized when the Unity Party (UP) lost the 2017 Presidential and General Elections.

The Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) government developed the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). Under the PAPD, the Government of Liberia expressed the desire to validate the National Solid Waste Policy but given budgetary constraints, the finalization of the document was delayed until 2023 when the CDC Government was voted out.

With coming in of the Unity Party government, sanitation and hygiene took a center stage again when sanitation was specifically mentioned as a pillar of the new government ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. To move ahead with the document, the Monrovia City Corporation and the Paynesville Corporation working with stakeholders and technicians expanded the draft solid waste management policy to include other forms of wastes and titled it the *National Waste Management Policy of Liberia*.

To ensure that the sanitation portion of the AAID becomes effective, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MOFDP) mandated the Environmental Protection Agency as the National Designated Authority to fast-track the finalization of the National Solid Waste Policy.

The EPA called for a technical working group of the all the sectors involved with sanitation work. At the technical working sections, the technicians agreed with the recommendation of the EPA Senior Management Team recommendation of finalizing the Solid Waste Management Policy as a quick intervention. The group agreed to work on the broad National Waste Management Policy as a later date. A small technical working group was established to finalize the document for final validation.

The National Solid Waste Management Policy was finally validated on October 17, 2024 with stakeholders.

### 1.2 Situation Analysis

According to [World Bank](#) the waste generation rate in Liberia is 0.44kg/capita/day. Accordingly, the current solid waste generated is 1.5 million kg per day, and of this amount, about 84.4 percent is inadequately managed, making the country as one of the highest improper solid waste management in Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, a study by Paco demonstrates that 64 percent of the solid waste is illegally dumped in ungazetted areas. This has a negative impact on the storm water drainages as solid wastes clog the drainages causing flooding in the cities. Improper waste disposal also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and represents the 5<sup>th</sup> largest source of emissions in Liberia. The sector is severely underfinanced. As waste management is a core mandate of city governments, they rely heavily on central government transfers to sustain the systems. If sufficient financing is not provided to support the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the solid waste management system and flood management infrastructure, it quickly becomes ineffective, making the upfront capital investment in new waste management facilities a risky investment.

Waste and environmental sanitation are among the powerful drivers of human development as they affect quality of life, improving health and rising wealth. These cut across all sectors of the economy including those that concern with health, environmental protection, improvement of human settlements and services, tourism, and general economic productivity.



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

Liberia aspires to be a middle-income status by 2030, a healthier and wealthier population will tend to generate more wastes including domestic, commercial, institutional, industrial and hazardous wastes. There is a need for urgent action based on a clear national policy to manage this trend, supported by sustainable financing.

Addressing poor behaviors and attitudes towards environmental sanitation is critical to achieving any meaningful progress. Considering the emerging challenges of locating treatment and disposal sites and based on experiences of developed economies, a desired long-term outcome of improving environmental sanitation would be to take steps that will lead to incremental reduction of the proportion of the waste stream that ends up in final disposal, beginning with waste prevention and reduction from all sources, especially at household levels.

Tackling the implementation of this policy will require significant financing and enhancement of capacity support to sector actors at all levels including individuals, households, communities, municipalities, institutions, commercial and industrial entities, service-providers and the private sector. Improving advocacy, increasing information, awareness and education, promoting enforcement of environmental laws and city ordinances will all lead to better compliance and will foster greater civic responsibility towards the environment.

The Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy seeks to position the priorities of the sector to effectively embrace the challenges of a changing climate and life-styles associated with modernization and improving wealth status. The policy lays the basis for developing a systematic approach and framework for identifying and harnessing resources for value-for money (economy, effectiveness and efficiency) services to all.

The LNSWMP aimed at developing and maintaining a clean, safe and pleasant physical and natural environment in all human settlements, to promote socio-cultural, economic and physical well-being of all sections of the population. It comprises a number of key and complementary activities, including legal and institutional framework, SWM infrastructure, sustainable SWM financing, O&M strategies, awareness creation and communications. Other activities include the provision and maintenance of sanitary facilities & equipment, the provision of services, community engagement, regulation and legislation supported by clearly mandated institutions, adequate funding and research and development.

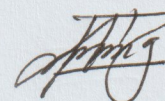
### 1.3.0 Institutional Mandates and Legal Framework

#### **Institutional Mandates**

Effective solid waste management depends upon an appropriate distribution of responsibilities, authority and revenues between national, provincial and local governments. In metropolitan areas, where Solid Waste Management tasks extend across several local government units, inter-municipal cooperation is essential to address issues associated with Solid Waste Management.

#### **1.3.1 National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Commission (NASHC)**

The National Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Commission of Liberia, roles and responsibilities are to promote and regulate the development, management of water, sanitation and hygiene services and serves as the principal government entity on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) throughout the Republic of Liberia. The NASHC specifically, among other things - a) develops, promotes and encourages a national agenda on the improvement of water, sanitation and hygiene services for the health, growth and development of the people of Liberia; (b) oversees implementation of the Act creating the NASHC and the Water Supply and Sanitation Policy; (c) builds the capacity of local





## **Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy**

communities on sanitation and hygiene as a priority for sustainable livelihood; responsible for issuance of Water Supply Sanitation (WSS) services and grants licenses to all stakeholders, in the interest of promoting private public partnership; (d) engages prospective domestic and foreign investors to invest in WASH; (e) provides standards, guidelines and recommendation to municipal and local authorities on the disposal of wastes and other hazardous substances that affect the quality of water and sanitation.

### ***1.3.2 Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)***

The MIA is responsible for mobilizing and ensuring participation of Municipal and Local Government Entities in national development and provides technical and planning support for rural / urban municipal services including support for governance relations between local government entities and among citizens and local governments through adoption and follow-up actions on standard operating procedures (SOPs) in line with the Local Government Act of 2018.

### ***1.3.3 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)***

The Environment Protection Agency was established under the Executive Branch of Government, as an autonomous body created by the Environmental Protection and Management Law and the Environmental Policy of Liberia approved on November 26, 2002. It is the principal authority in Liberia responsible for the scientific regulation of the environment and coordinates, monitor, supervise and consult with relevant stakeholders on all activities in the protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

The Environmental Protection and Management Law specify the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the coordinating and monitoring body responsible for policies and guidelines of SWM. Pursuant to section 39 of the Solid Waste Management Standards of the EPA Law, the EPA shall, in cooperation with relevant ministries, agencies, city and county governments, and in consultation with other stakeholders in the community, and after public hearings, develop and publish national guidelines for solid waste management. The Environmental Policy of Liberia commits the Government to ensure a clean and healthy environment by protecting its territory against all forms of pollution: air, water, coastal, industrial, and land.

### ***1.3.4 Ministry of Health (MOH)***

The Ministry of Health is mandated through its environmental and Occupational Health division to assess the environmental health of the population. This division has the power to conduct sanitation inspection and ensure compliance with the public health law. Preventive Health, occupational health and health waste management are amongst its key mandates.

### ***1.3.5 National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL)***

Following the 2014 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, the “NPHIL ACT of 2016” created the National Public Health Institute (NPHIL) of Liberia to respond to disease outbreaks and monitor incidents of public health significance. The institution is set apart by the NPHIL Act as a corporate body with perpetual existence tasked with working with other agencies to enhance people’s health.

### ***1.3.6 Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)***

The responsibilities of the Ministry of Mines and Energy is to provide guidance for geotechnical investigations of engineered landfill sites, oversees the development and management of natural resources particularly the resources central to water and sanitation sectors and to conduct scientific and technical investigations required for environmental assessments. The Ministry implements its water and sanitation responsibilities through two divisions which are under the department of Minerals and the Environment – The Liberian Geological Surveys (LGS) responsible for Geologic



## **Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy**

aspects of natural resources, appraisals, development and environmental protection. Geotechnical investigations and evaluation of Urban Sanitation are conducted by the LGS while the Liberia Hydrological Services responsibility is for developing hydrological potentials and supporting national hydrologic research and planning studies. The ministry also supports the Municipal and Local Government Entities in providing access to land in consultation with the Land Commission.

### **1.3.7 Liberia Land Authority (LLA)**

The Liberia Land Authority (LLA) is a product of the policy, legal and institutional reform of the land sector of Liberia led by the Erstwhile Land Commission. The LLA, established by an Act of the National Legislature on October 6, 2016, as an autonomous agency of the Government with operational independence, subsumes land functions that were performed by several agencies of the Government, including the key land administration agencies.

### **1.3.8 Ministry of Public Works (MPW)**

The Ministry of Public Works is responsible to provide guidance for the designs and construction of public infrastructures, supporting the administration of urban and rural planning as well as provision of technical and engineering services to all government ministries, agencies and departments. The functions of the ministry of public work is central to the development of waste management infrastructure such as the development and construction of transfer stations, sanitation parks, waste recovery facilities and engineered landfill disposal sites.

### **1.3.9 Municipal and Local Government Entities**

The responsibilities of the municipal city corporation cover environmental sanitation primarily in the areas of street sweeping, collection and disposal of solid waste and beautification. The municipalities carry out distinct functions with respect to environmental sanitation, as follows: Waste management (covering collection and sanitary disposal of solid wastes, including solid wastes. Municipal and Local Government Entities by statutory mandate have the sole responsible to ensure clean and sanitary environmental conditions in the territories under their jurisdictions and to ensure the proper collection and disposal of garbage within the limits of the cities, so as to enhance not only the beautification and orderliness of cities, but also for conducive sanitation and health environment, food safety and water condition for residents in accordance with Municipal Regulation on Public Health and Environmental Safety Law.

## **1.4 Responsibilities**

### **1.4.1 Individual Responsibilities**

Each person, business, or organization is responsible for the following:

- ✓ Maintaining the cleanliness of the area they occupy, including the roads, drains, and access ways;
- ✓ Temporarily storing waste on the property and disposing of it off-site as may be instructed by the appropriate authority;
- ✓ Making sure that their actions don't pollute the environment or have any other negative effects on it;
- ✓ Taking precautions to stop the breeding of pests and disease vectors on the property they occupy and in the immediate vicinity;
- ✓ Using a solid waste container or an authorized public restroom when necessary to dispose of all waste they produce in public areas;
- ✓ Participating in all communal environmental sanitation exercises organized by the community or its representatives.



## **Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy**

Where individuals, establishments or institutions fail to discharge these responsibilities, the requisite authorities shall take any necessary remedial action at the expense of those in default. The necessary authorities shall also assume responsibility for the maintenance of specified public areas in a sanitary condition and charge fees for the use of such areas.

### **1.4.2 Community Programs**

Every community shall:

- ✓ Establish community environmental sanitation norms in line with this national solid waste management policy;
- ✓ Undertake community sanitation and hygiene education to create awareness of National solid waste management policy;
- ✓ Maintain a clean, safe and pleasant physical environment in their settlement;
- ✓ Take the necessary steps to develop appropriate environmental sanitation infrastructure such as domestic and public toilets and waste disposal sites;
- ✓ Prevent soil, water and air pollution.

**CBOs/Local NGOs and INGOs shall:**

- ✓ Assist communities in community mobilization;
- ✓ Assist the Municipality, Township, Borough and communities in the planning, funding and development of community sanitation infrastructure for the safe disposal of solid wastes and the prevention of soil, water and air pollution.

### **Household and Community Level Responsibilities**

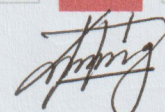
Improper waste disposal by one individual affects all community members; mosquitoes that breed in one place may bite people in another; contamination of foodstuffs will affect all who consume them, not just the seller. Ensuring good sanitation is therefore, the responsibility of all citizens, communities, private sector enterprises, NGOs and institutions of Government. All these actors have an essential part to play in maintaining a high standard of environmental sanitation, so that domestic and commercial activities have no prejudicial effect on the health or the living and working environment of others.

### **1.4.3 Services to be provided by the Private Sector**

Where possible, solid waste and sanitation services shall be provided by the private sector on full cost recovery basis, under franchise, concession agreements or through contracting.

The following services may be undertaken by the private sector:

- ✓ Provision and management of seepage tankers, on a fully commercial basis subject to licensing and the setting of maximum tariffs by the Municipalities;
- ✓ Construction, rehabilitation and management of all public baths and toilets, subject to the supervision and setting of maximum tariffs by the Municipalities;
- ✓ Solid waste collection from individual institutional or domestic customers, subject to the supervision and setting of maximum tariffs by the Municipalities;
- ✓ Solid waste collection from communal containers under contract to the Municipalities, or community groups or as part of a franchise covering both high and low income areas;
- ✓ Cleansing of designated areas and facilities (streets, drains, markets, lorry, parks, etc.) and maintenance of drains, under the agreements covering solid waste collection;
- ✓ Provision and management of composting, recycling and disposal facilities, transfer stations and bulk waste transfer to disposal under contract, franchise, or other arrangements;
- ✓ Pest control for public areas, under contract with the Municipalities, or for individual customers, subject to licensing by the Municipalities;





## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

- ✓ Operation and maintenance of sewerage collection and treatment systems by contract, franchise or concession, supervised by the Municipalities;
- ✓ Provision and management of abattoirs and meat shops subject to regulation by the Municipalities;
- ✓ Management of cemeteries and crematoria, regulated by the Municipalities in accordance with the City Ordinance.

### 1.5 Legal Framework

The act creating the EPA, the Environmental Protection and Management Law and the Environmental policy of Liberia approved on November 26, 2002 are the key documents that have legal disposition to issues relating to the solid waste sector. While the act creating the EPA deals with the institutional aspect of the EPA and relations to other institutions, the Environmental Protection and Management Law and the Environmental policy outline more substantive issue of the sector.

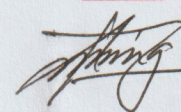
The Environmental Protection and Management Law specify the EPA role as the coordinating and monitoring body responsible for setting policies and guidelines on Solid Waste Management. Section 39 on Solid Waste Management Standards, provide guidelines for the EPA in consultation with partners to develop and publish national guidelines for solid waste management. Such guidelines shall include strategies and incentives for reducing, recycling, reusing waste. Other relevant section to the solid waste sector such as Section 62 and Section 64 reflect on the Prohibition of Solid Waste Pollution and Application for Solid and Hazardous Waste Disposal License respectively. The Environment Policy addresses cross-sectoral environmental management issues and sets out environmental priority program areas for sustainable management along with policy strategy measures for the Waste Management and Sanitation sector.

### 1.6 Policy Framework and Formulation Process

#### Policy Framework

The Monrovia City Corporation Solid Waste Letter of Sector Policy is the foundation of the policy framework. Linkages between the environment, public health, good local governance, public and private sector participation, gender and transparency issues highlighted by the overarching policy statement are key issues which impinge on the needs of the solid waste sector to be addressed in a sustainable and mutually supportive manner. The overarching Solid Waste Policy Statement sets out the Government of Liberia vision which recognize safe collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste generated by all population groups are essential for the development of sound public health and improvement of the quality of life, and should be performed in a gender sensitive, environmentally and socially satisfactory manner using the most economical means available.

The guiding principles of the Solid Waste Letter of Sector Policy reflects on key issues relating to: access for all to solid waste services, cost recovery mechanisms and financial sustainability, private sector participation for efficiency gains in service provision, gender, environmental and conservation dimensions of waste services, waste minimization through recycling, reuse and resource recovery, safe handling of hazardous waste, as well as issues relating to good governance and downstream regulations of hazardous waste management.





## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

### Formulation Process

In 2009 a consultative process was adopted in the policy formulation process to ensure key stakeholders and partners are adequately represented in the policy formulation. The following consultations were undertaken to identify and assess the range of issues and problems relating to the management of solid waste in the country. (i) City consultations in Tubmanburg, Kakata, Gbarnga, Buchanan and Bentol. (ii) Consultation workshop with Service Providers and CBO's. (iii) Validation workshop with key stakeholders including citizens, businesses, government agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations and political leaders. The process facilitated the identification of challenges facing the SWM sector and development of the first draft policies goals, objectives and strategies to provide sustainable solutions to Liberia's solid waste management needs.

Following five years of progress in the solid waste management sector, Monrovia City Corporation continues to play a lead role in performing waste collection and disposal services, development of the first sanitary landfill and transfer stations in Monrovia. The Monrovia City Corporation under the direction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs engaged in the planning process to organize a national consultative forum to review the first draft policy and refine the policy goals, objectives and strategies consistent with the sector goals of Liberia's medium term economic growth and development strategy (2012 to 2017) the Agenda for Transformation (AfT).

The review and validation process included: (i) national consultations with stakeholders in the solid waste management, (ii) assessments of the solid waste management system in regional cities of Tubmanburg, Buchanan, Kakata, Gbarnga, Zwedru and Ganta to update situation analysis through focus groups on specific situation in the selected Counties and (iii) a national validation conference in the City of Bentol, at William R. Tolbert Jr. Youth Enlightenment and Empowerment Center, on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Thus in alignment with the AfT, the revised Solid Waste Management Policy was drafted which was validated twice. The draft was not finalized when the Unity Party (UP) lost the 2017 Presidential and General Elections.

The Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) government developed the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). Under the PAPD, the Government of Liberia expressed the desire to validate the National Solid Waste Policy but given budgetary constraints, the finalization of the document was delayed until 2023 when the CDC Government was voted out.

With coming in of the UP government, sanitation and hygiene took a center stage again when Sanitation was specifically mentioned as a pillar of the new government ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. To move ahead with the document, the Monrovia City Corporation and the Paynesville City Corporation working with stakeholders and technicians expanded the draft solid waste management policy to include other forms of wastes and titled it the National Waste Management Policy of Liberia.

To ensure that the sanitation portion of the AAID becomes effective, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MOFDP) mandated the Environmental Protection Agency as the National Designated Authority to fast-track the finalization of the National Solid Waste Policy.

The EPA called for a technical working group of the all the sectors involved with sanitation work. At the technical working sections, the technicians agreed with the recommendation of the EPA Senior Management Team recommendation of finalizing the Solid Waste Management Policy as a quick intervention. The group agreed to work on the broad National Waste Management Policy as a later date. A small technical working group was established to finalize the document for a final validation.



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

The National Solid Waste Management Policy was finally validated on October 17, 2024 with stakeholders.

### 2.0 Overarching Solid Waste Management Policy Statement

The Government of Liberia recognizes that the generation, safe collection, storage, treatment and disposal of solid waste generated by all population groups are essential for the development of sound public health and improvement of the quality of life. The solid waste management process should be performed in a gender sensitive, environmentally and socially satisfactory manner using the most economical means available.

### 3.0 Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles provides the foundation of the policy goals reflecting on Government of Liberia recognition that solid waste management is an integral part of good governance and is one of the most visible community services influencing local perception of governance. Therefore local governance authorities are required to prioritize solid waste management and ensure that a well-organized solid waste management system is established at their respective Municipal and Local Government Entities consistent with the ten thematic areas of the Policy.

1. Access to Solid Waste Management Services
2. Transparent and Accountable Solid Waste Management System
3. Cost Effective Mechanisms for Financial Sustainability
4. Public and Private Participation
5. Gender Sensitivity and Mainstreaming
6. Solid Waste Utilization, Control and Regulation
7. Plastics waste management
8. Solid Waste management infrastructure
9. Domestic resource mobilization
10. Research and Development
11. Occupational Safety and Health
12. Environmental Sensitivity
13. Awareness and Public Education

### 4.0 Policy Goals, Objectives and Strategies

In response to the issues and challenges that threaten to undermine the good governance and performance of the Solid Waste Management sector the following policy goals and objectives have been set out with identified strategies that align to Liberia specific needs.

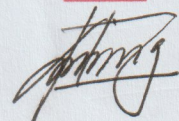
#### 4.1 Access to Solid Waste Management Services

**Policy Goal 1:** Ensure all people shall have access to appropriate solid waste services at affordable cost and at all times.

**Objectives:** To ensure that all municipal solid waste generated in Human Settlements are collected, transported, treated and/or disposed in a safe manner to protect public health and the environment at sustainable cost.

**Strategy:**

- Ensure that at least minimum level of acceptable service is provided to all community residents and establishments.





## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

- Plastics waste must be separation at source
- Ensure that waste separation at source is incentivized
- Ensure appropriate in-house capacity to manage and oversight service provision.

### 4.2 Transparent and Accountable Solid Waste Management System

**Policy Goal 2:** Ensure solid waste management is conducted in a transparent and accountable manner as an integral part of good governance.

**Objectives:** Conduct solid waste management service in a transparent and accountable manner and minimize opportunity for unwarranted interference with service providers and customers.

**Strategy:**

- Put in place essential conditions for successful private sector involvement including, competitive bidding, technical and organizational capacity, regulatory instruments, coordinating, monitoring and control systems, with community participation being the primary essential condition.
- Ensure that feedback from local citizens and the communities informs planning and design of Solid Wastes Management service delivery.
- Ensure that citizens and communities are informed of Solid Wastes Management services to which they are entitled, so as to enable them hold their local government accountable.
- Synchronize registration and legal requirement for waste related entities.

### 4.3 Cost Recovery Mechanisms for Financial Sustainability

**Policy Goal 3:** Ensure that solid waste management shall establish appropriate cost recovery mechanisms for long term financial sustainability.

**Objectives:**

- To establish cost recovery mechanisms through a range of revenue sources, including fees and taxes on plastics importation and production.
- Strengthen existing financial strategies and practices that will enable institutions, especially the City Corporations to provide comprehensive solid waste management services in their localities.
- Keep collection and disposal tariff at affordable rates.
- Ensure solid waste management financial sustainability through the establishment and application of appropriate user charges and resource and cost recovery measures such as the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR).

**Strategy:**

- Establish tariffs which establish a fair distribution of cost according to the waste stream generation.



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

- Setup effective financial management system and accounts for solid waste revenues to ensure that reliable cash flow remains available to meet service needs.
- Conduct annual comparison on refuse rates and rate-setting methods for comparable cities to determine City's relationship to countywide averages.
- Identify additional revenue sources and, where possible, increase revenues from solid waste programs, services, and facilities without jeopardizing program goals and customer service quality.

### 4.4. Public and Private Participation

#### **Policy Goal 4: Ensure solid waste management incorporates public, private and people participation**

##### **Objectives:**

- Sensitize the public to environmental issues, occupational health and safety issues, waste minimization opportunities, and the values of recycling, reuse and resources recovery in a socially inclusive manner.
- Ensure that all government institutions must align with enforcing reduction of single used plastics

##### **Strategy:**

- Ensure participatory planning and operations which enable continuous feedback from those involved in receiving and providing service.
- Put in place community based SWM Models to address environmental problems.
- Support user participation through documentation, practical guidance and tools to improve user cooperation and establish low cost for community managed collection services in slums areas.
- Support service providers through practical guidelines and tools for establishing satisfactory working relationships with other actors and related changes in the legal and regulatory framework.
- Ensure awareness-building campaigns and educational measures to positively influence approaches towards the functional elements of a waste management system, especially safe methods of solid waste treatment and disposal.
- Ensure that all residents maintain clean environment by preventing unsightly accumulations of discarded materials and illegal dumping of solid waste.



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

### 4.5 Gender Sensitivity and Mainstreaming

**Policy Goal 5:** Ensure solid waste management is conducted in a gender sensitive manner.

**Objectives:**

- Planning and operations of Solid Waste Management activities should consider gender, children and cultural aspects of the local population.

**Strategy:**

- Develop programs to promote gender considerations in all aspects of SWM process.
- Ensure but men and women have equal access to training and employment opportunities in the delivery of SWM services.
- Encourage participation of local population in planning and implementation of solid waste management services to ensure cultural aspects do not encourage child labor, exploitation and abuse in the SWM process.

### 4.6 Waste Minimization, Control and Regulation

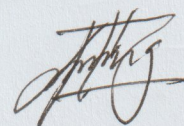
**Policy Goal 6:** Encourage decreasing waste generation through recycling and reuse, control and regulate generation of waste materials.

**Objectives:**

- Maximize diversion of solid waste from disposal by use of demand management techniques, providing and promoting recycling programs, and encouraging recycling.
- Encourage the development of markets for recyclable materials, including the provision of incentives for increased industrial demand of materials.
- Reduce the generation of plastic waste in the country.
- Control and regulate importation of general and hazardous waste materials into the country.

**Strategy:**

- Develop programs to provide incentives for waste minimization, recycling, reuse, and resource recovery at the source, or as near to the source as possible.
- Facilitate the provision of recycling collection services to residential, commercial, and industrial customers in a cost-effective way.
- Provide comprehensive public education and promotion programs to encourage residents and businesses to participate in recycling programs.
- Establish solid waste disposal targets on incremental basis in the most cost-effective manner.





## **Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy**

- Encourage and facilitate private sector solid waste reduction programs.
- Establish database to compile and analyze information regarding waste recycling and disposal amounts, program costs, and customer satisfaction to evaluate progress by communities, especially Cities toward achieving waste reduction goals.
- Develop programs to encourage the reduction and use of domestic black plastic polyethylene bags and other related products that are non-biodegradable.
- Establish a mechanism to control and regulate the importation of used equipment and items such as end of life electrical and electronic materials meant to be used in the country.
- Develop programs to discourage the open burning and burying of household and communities wastes.
- Develop programs to discourage the disposal of households and communities in Wet Lands.

### **4.7 Hazardous Solid Wastes**

**Policy Goal 7: Comply with national and international standards and regulatory instruments on Hazardous solid wastes.**

#### **Objectives:**

- To ensure that hazardous solid wastes are governed separately by special practices and standards for waste treatment and provisions coded into other hazardous waste related regulations.

#### **Strategy:**

- Employ systems to track and document hazardous waste such as e-waste, medical waste and industrial waste to ensure that significant quantities are not mixed with other waste but are taken to secured facilities for hazardous waste treatment and disposal; and where such facilities do not exists special arrangements such as separate cells should be created at final disposal sites or landfills to accommodate hazardous waste until said secured facilities can be developed.
- Establish monitoring system to ensure separate transport, treatment and disposal of medical, e-waste, construction/demolition wastes, and industrial waste from general municipal solid waste.

### **4.8 Occupational Health and Safety in solid waste Management**

**Policy Goal 8: Ensure standards for occupational health and safety are instituted for all workplaces in keeping with national and international laws.**

#### **Objectives:**

- Ensure solid waste management service providers train and equip their workers with requisite PPEs and preventive skills on occupational hazards.



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

- Mandate that workers have access to preventive health care and vaccinations for work-related diseases
- Mandate compliance with national labor laws and international best practice to prevent exploitation and abuse.

### Strategies:

- Mandate occupational health and safety (OH&S) management programs in the SWM system and sensitization campaigns on occupational health issues targeting private and public service providers.
- Establish coordination and monitoring mechanisms to register services providers and ascertain compliance
- Conduct monitoring of SWM work sites to prevent exploitation, abuse and compliance.

### 4.9 Environmental Sensitivity

**Policy Goal No 9: Ensure solid waste management is conducted in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner to protect public health, natural resources, the environment in general and global climate change.**

#### Objectives:

- Foster environmentally appropriate technologies for management of disposal sites and transfer facilities.

#### Strategy:

- Ensure that environmental and social impact assessments, as required by the Environmental Protection Agency are conducted and enforced in all cases of expected adverse effects.
- Ensure that the NPHIL continuously monitor disposal sites to detect any health implications
- Ensure that consultations, and social mitigation and risk analysis are conducted to identify and prevent any adverse impact to vulnerable populations.
- Develop procedures for resettlement activities related to solid waste management to abide by the highest standard for mitigation measures as agreed with the impacted population prior to start of said activities.
- Reduce greenhouse gases and black carbon emissions from solid waste collection and disposal sites.

### 4.10 Awareness and Public Education

**Policy Goal No 10: Ensure that accurate information and awareness is provided to the public in a timely and efficient manner.**

#### Objectives:

- Promote cooperation through general awareness-building and information campaigns for behavioral change.
- Ensure community participation at all levels of planning and design of solid waste management outreach programs, training and public sensitization activities.



# Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

## Strategy:

- Develop program in consultation with Ministry of Health for sensitization campaign on SWM related occupational health targeting private and public services providers and workers.
- Develop program for communication, research and development, curricular review to incorporate solid waste management in education system.
- Develop community based programs to raise awareness and educate the community on solid waste management issues and solutions to enhance public health and sanitation.
- Develop appropriate feedback mechanism.

## 5.0 Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

### 5.1 Special Consideration for Policy Implementation

The following Planning, Institutional Framework, and Governance Framework: Social, Financial, Economic, Technical and Environmental Considerations are key elements in the implementation of the policy:

#### Planning Consideration

- Decentralization of responsibility for SWM requires a corresponding distribution of power and capacities. Municipal and Local Government Entities should ensure organizational structures, staffing plans and job descriptions of staff are revised or put in place where they do not exist. Capacity-building measures for SWM should give primary attention to strategic planning and financial management.
- Municipal and Local Government Entities shall routinely undertake city-wide strategic planning to design and integrate solid waste management systems that are responsive to their demographic and economic settings. Such planning shall be done in coordination and consideration of broader issues of city, community-based management planning, environmental etc.

### 5.2 Institutional Implementation Framework

- The existence of laws and policies is crucial to allow the Government of Liberia to properly implement solid waste management. This National Solid Waste Management Policy, the available environmental laws together with standard operating procedures shall guide the implementation of solid waste management in Liberia. Roles and responsibilities have been identified for each level of government. The planning phase should ensure that the local government has the authority and resources to implement solid waste management.

### 5.3 Social Aspects

- Solid waste management include the patterns of waste generation and handling of households, markets, and wastes from other generators. Community-based waste management and the social conditions of waste workers should be give special attention in terms of decreasing waste generation from source, safety and health issues.



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

- Waste generation patterns are determined by people's attitudes as well as their socio-economic characteristics. Cooperation should be promoted through general awareness-building programs as well as focused SWM information campaigns, behavioral change and communication, research and development, curricular review to incorporate solid waste management in education system.
- Attitudes towards waste may be positively influenced in many low-income residential areas. Community-based solid waste management is the most feasible solution. There should be effective links between community-based activities and the municipal system.

### 6.0 Financial Consideration

Solid Waste Management concern budgeting and cost accounting, capital investment, cost recovery and cost reduction:

- To promote practical methods of budgeting, cost accounting, financial monitoring and financial evaluation within institutional development programs.
- Financing capital investment for solid waste management systems to include local budget resources, loans from financial intermediaries and special central government loans or grants and partnering with private entities.
- The main options for financing solid waste management costs are user charges, local taxes and inter-governmental transfers. To achieve equitable service access, central government should provide some degree of cross-subsidization and/or financing out of general revenues.
- Solid Waste Management fee collection performance is often poor. Improvement can be achieved by attaching solid waste fees to the billing for another service, such as water supply, city rates etc.

### 6.1 Economic Consideration

- Solid Waste Management has direct impact on economic activities. The economic effectiveness of Solid Waste Management systems depends upon the life-cycle costs of facilities and equipment and the long-term economic impact of services provided. Economic evaluation should be given priority in strategic planning and investment programming for Solid Waste Management.

### 6.2 Technical Aspects

These are concerned with the planning, implementation and maintenance of solid waste management facilities, equipment, collection and transfer systems, waste recovery, separation of hazardous waste and final disposal. The following require special attention:

- Technical facilities and equipment must be designed and selected with careful regard to their operating characteristics, performance, and maintenance requirements and expected life-cycle costs. In addition, the geological factors, projected waste generation rate, climate change effects and transport distances should be considered in siting and design considerations. Close attention should be paid to preventive maintenance, repair and spare parts availability.



## **Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy**

- The design of transfer facilities and equipment must match the characteristics of local collection systems and the capacity of existing disposal facilities. Local collection systems should be designed with active participation of the communities concerned.
- Informal waste recovery and scavenging may be rendered more productive through support measures and appropriate technical design of the waste management systems.
- Public sector involvement in waste recovery and/or leasing of waste recovery rights to private sector enterprises may be considered.
- To minimize their environmental impact, landfills must be carefully sited, correctly designed and well operated.
- Sources of hazardous waste materials must be identified, registered and targeted for appropriate management.

### **7.0 Environmental Protection**

Management of solid waste has the potential for environmental contamination, climate change and human health risks. Environmental protection should be prioritized in strategic planning for solid waste management to reduce greenhouse gases and black carbon emissions from landfilling and combustion activities. Human health and environmental risks should be minimized by monitoring compliance with national standards and establishing control and monitoring mechanisms for leachate, greenhouse gases, black carbon emissions, etc. In addition, planning should ensure resilience from climate change effects such as floods, extreme weather, emerging diseases associated with the higher generation of home-based infectious waste materials, etc.

### **8.0 Role of Implementing Institutions**

#### **8.1 Central Government**

- Ensure that effective policy guidance are put in place.
- Provide adequate budgetary support to Municipal and Local Government Entities.
- Facilitate formulation and enforcement of city ordinances.
- Ensure future secondary and final disposal sites are identify and developed.
- Ensure market are designed with adequate waste management facilities.
- Delineate and depoliticize Liberia Market Association (LMA) and encourage cooperation between the LMA and City Corporations.
- Provide special funding mechanism to support private sector and SME's to start up SWM services.
- Empower local authorities to implement solid waste management programs.

#### **8.2 Local Government**

- Adequately enforce laws and ordinances.
- Make the SWM system effective through internal educators and capacity building.
- Ensure regular awareness campaigns and public education on solid waste management issues.
- Supervise and contract out waste management to private sector.
- Ensure that service providers are protected.
- Establish local waste holding sites for communities in small urban towns and rural settings in consultation with relevant line ministries and Agencies.



## **Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy**

### ***8.3 City Corporations, Municipal and Local Government Entities***

City Corporations shall implement their statutory mandates to ensure the proper collection and disposal of garbage within their limits. Cities shall enforce their responsibilities that covers environmental sanitation primarily in the areas of street sweeping, collection and disposal of solid waste and beautification. Some of this responsibilities may be outsourced to enable the Cities concentrate on enforcement roles.

Municipal and Local Government Entities shall implement their mandates to ensure clean and sanitary environmental conditions in the territory under their jurisdictions as granted by existing laws, public health and environmental safety law. The Municipal and Local Government Entities should therefore be responsible for cleaning, waste collection and disposal.

### ***8.4 Environmental Protection Agency***

The Environmental Protection and Management Law specify the Environmental Protection Agency role as the coordinating and monitoring body responsible for policies and guidelines of Solid Waste Management. Pursuant to section 39 of the Solid Waste Management Standards of the EPA Law, the EPA shall, in cooperation with relevant ministries, agencies, city and county governments, and in consultation with other stakeholders in the community, and after public hearings, develop and publish national guidelines for solid waste management.

### ***8.5 Ministry of Health***

The Ministry of Health role in accordance with the Public health law shall through its environmental and occupational health division assess the environmental health of the population, conduct sanitation inspection and ensure compliance with the relevant provision of the Law to ensure compliance with preventive health and occupational health in waste management.

### ***8.6 National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL)***

The NPHIL role is to monitor incidents of public health significance including diseases and other health conditions arising from SWM activities.

### ***8.7 Ministry of Mines and Energy***

The Ministry of Mines and Energy shall provide guidance for geotechnical investigations of engineered landfill sites, oversee the development and management of natural resources particularly the water resources central to water and sanitation sector and to conduct scientific and technical investigations required for environmental assessments. The ministry shall provide support to Municipal and Local Government Entities in providing access to land in consultation with the Land Commission.

### ***8.8 Liberia Land Authority (LLA)***

The Liberia Land Authority role is to manage public land and clarify questions relating to land ownership, especially where solid wastes disposal sites are created including landfills and other types of land use activities

### ***8.9 Ministry of Public Works***

The Ministry of Public Works shall be responsible to provide guidance for the design and construction of solid waste management facilities as well as provision of technical and engineering services to Municipal and Local Government Entities. The functions of the ministry of public works is central to the development of solid waste management infrastructure such as the development and construction of transfer stations and engineered landfill disposal sites.



### **8.10 Communities and Households**

- Participate effectively in local programs on solid waste management.
- Replicate training and sensitization programs on solid waste management in schools and markets.
- Promote solid waste management programs through the electronic and print media.

### **8.11 Civil Society Groups**

- Encourage and sensitize the public on need for payment of fees for solid waste management services.
- Conduct monitoring, evaluation and reporting on performance of solid waste management services.
- General awareness and public education on the dangers of environmental degradation to human health and security.

### **8.12 The Private Sector**

Private sector involvement in waste management generally increases effectiveness and labour productivity and generate employment by expanding service coverage. The contribution from informal waste collection workers is also significant for improvement in delivery services through appropriate organizational setup. The role of the private sector shall include the following:

- Provide support for collection and disposal services to waste generators,
- Provide support in management of solid waste facilities,
- Provide support for infrastructure development, and
- Work with the Municipal and Local Government Entities on specific arrangements in their locality to provide support for collection and disposal services.

## **9.0 Policy Implementation Plan**

To ensure effective implementation of the national solid waste management policy of Liberia, a National Solid Waste Management Policy Advisory Board shall be established to provide oversight and guidance in implementation of the national solid waste management policy. The Board shall comprise of representatives of the following:

- a) National water, Sanitation, Hygiene Commission
- b) Ministry of Internal Affairs,
- c) Ministry of Finance and Development Planning,
- d) Environmental Protection Agency,
- e) Ministry of Public Works,
- f) Ministry of Health,
- g) The National Public Health Institute
- h) The Superintendent Council,
- i) City Mayors,
- j) Civil Society Organization and
- k) Service Providers.



## Liberia National Solid Waste Management Policy

The National Solid Waste Management Policy Advisory Board shall undertake the following:

- Provide strategic planning and oversight for coordination, supervision, enforcement mechanisms, monitoring, evaluation and reporting performance on the implementation of the national solid waste management policy;
- Establish a technical secretariat to develop and implement programs and projects consistent with government development policies to foster achievement of the national solid waste management policy goals, objectives and strategies;
- Provide technical and operational guidelines for the technical secretariat of the national solid waste management policy; and
- Solicit funding support for implementation of programs and projects of the technical secretariat of the national solid waste management policy.

The National Solid Waste Management Policy of Liberia shall be subject to review and amendments within two years period. The review process shall focus on performance and challenges in implementation of the policy.

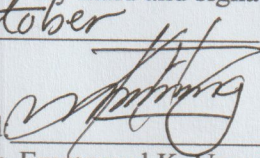
### 10.0 Amendment

The NSWMP Policy shall be reviewed every five years unless condition(s) necessitate revision earlier than five years as determined by the Executive Director of the EPA.

### 11.0 Effective Date

The NSWMP shall become effective as of the date of publication.

Done under my hand and signature, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October A. D. 2024 in the City of Monrovia, County of Montserrado.

Approved   
Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo  
Executive Director/CEO  
Environmental Protection Agency