



Data -driven policy and institutional environments that enable a circular economy. Progress towards a more circular economy requires evidence-based national policies and regulations, an integrated and coherent policy framework across national and local levels, and stakeholder input in the policy formulation process. Examples of policies to support a more circular economy include strengthening waste collection, creating recycling and labeling standards, introducing recycled content mandates, regulating and/or phasing out single-use plastics, or introducing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), in which producers help fund and manage the collection and recycling of their plastic products.



Increased infrastructure investment and improved solid waste services. Efficient systems for collecting, aggregating, and sorting solid waste are a prerequisite for maximizing investment in recycling facilities and sanitary landfills. A local government that has a comprehensive, data-based SWM plan, good quality financial management, local regulations that are enforced, well-trained staff, and strong connections to the community has the basis for increasing coverage and improving SWM service delivery as well as attracting external investment. The local government should commit to increasing its own revenues (e.g., through taxes or fees) to support the system's operations and maintenance and look for synergies to decrease expenditures, including through collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions.



Developed markets for locally viable innovations and technologies. Robust, local markets for recycled materials support and strengthen SWM systems in developing countries. Growing markets require both clean, consistent feedstocks and secondary processors and manufacturers that are able to purchase and use these feedstocks. Hard-to-recycle materials like multi-layer and flexible plastic packaging need solutions that can be scaled appropriately on a local level, whether through alternative products or new processing technologies. Low labor costs can present opportunities to accelerate workforce and market development, especially for innovative and low-tech solutions, but must empower the most vulnerable segments of the population to be truly sustainable.



Widespread and sustained behavior change by increasing recycling and reducing demand for single-use plastics. Sustained social and behavior change (SBC) is at the core of increasing the quality and volume of materials collected for recycling and reducing the demand for single-use plastics. The effectiveness of awareness raising, education and outreach activities is dependent on a deep understanding of people's attitudes, priorities, and current behavior toward SWM and the 3Rs and what they are willing to do to change this behavior, not just one time, but on a regular basis. Any strategies for SBC must also take into account the capacity of the current SWM system, including appropriate infrastructure such as bins, collection trucks for different streams of waste, and policy regulations and incentives that reinforce the desired behavior. Youth trained in social/environmental activism can be powerful agents of change in catalyzing SBC and, especially in countries with a youth bulge, they will make or break grassroots movements and legislation efficacy.



An inclusive and equitable system that integrates all members along the solid waste management value chain. Informal sector workers are the foundation of the waste management pyramid, dominating the waste collection, sorting and recycling stages of the SWM value chain. A city's ability to create a more circular economy around SWM is a function of increased resource efficiency and material recovery, and inclusive integration of informal waste collectors (IWC), including minority groups and women. Examples of approaches to increase recovery and recycling rates with equity and empowerment include improving the welfare of IWCs by supporting safe working conditions, improving livelihoods through livable wages, and supporting women-owned recycling businesses.