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CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN



**BUILDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CAPACITY FOR IMPROVED SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**



PHOTO: CIUDADES LIMPIAS FOR CLEAN CITIES BLUE OCEAN

THE CHALLENGE

Every minute, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of plastic flows into the ocean. Most of that plastic comes from land-based sources in communities that are not able to sustain adequate solid waste management systems. Around the world, local governments play a critical role providing on-the-ground services to control waste, but they often lack the institutional capacity—the knowledge and skills, or the infrastructure and financial resources—to plan, build, and operate effective waste management systems.

Effective waste services require strong, empowered local governments with dedicated revenue sources and sufficient capacity to design and operate local waste systems. Currently, there are few tools and resources available to help governments determine what is needed to sustain a sound waste management system.

OUR APPROACH

USAID's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean program supports local governments with the technical assistance and resources needed to develop and implement locally-led solid waste management systems that effectively manage waste in their cities, and prevent plastic from entering the ocean. Clean Cities, Blue Ocean works in ten countries and more than 25 cities across Asia, the Pacific Islands, Latin America, and the Caribbean to ensure that partner communities have a clear understanding of their capacity and an improved ability to provide waste management services.

SOLID WASTE CAPACITY INDEX FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Clean Cities, Blue Ocean created the *Solid Waste Capacity Index for Local Governments (SCIL)* assessment tool for local governments to self-assess their strengths and weaknesses—resulting in a set of scores that are used to develop a tangible plan to improve the areas that need it most.

AT A GLANCE





The **Solid Waste Capacity Index for Local Governments (SCIL) assessment tool** enables local governments to assess their current capacity to develop effective waste management systems.

The SCIL assesses **six key elements** required to establish and maintain an effective and inclusive waste management system:



The assessment is completed through a **few basic steps**, conducted by a designated SCIL Implementation Group— comprised of local government staff representing multiple agencies. By answering a series of “yes” or “no” questions on each component, and by gathering the relevant documentation to verify responses to the questions, the tool provides local governments with a capacity rating or SCIL “score.” The score allows governments to measure their initial status with respect to capacity, and, with repeated assessments, their progress over time. From this, the group analyzes the data and develops a roadmap that includes recommendations in the six key capacity areas. The results are written into a formal report that is presented to the local government’s decision-makers for approval.

In addition to pinpointing capacity gaps, the **SCIL process has resulted in numerous related benefits:**

-  **Creates a guide to build capacity:** Completing the SCIL process builds capacity and serves as a communication tool that empowers staff, making them more aware of their roles in waste management and facilitating intra- and inter-agency relationships.
-  **Enhances solid waste management planning:** The SCIL guides local governments in their waste management planning and budgeting processes and provides a means of prioritizing their scarce resources.
-  **Increases understanding of the complexities of building circular economies:** The SCIL increases recognition that waste management and building circular economies is much more than service delivery; the tool enhances staff awareness of the importance, interconnectedness, and complexities of the six SCIL components.
-  **Builds trust and accountability of local and national governments:** The SCIL creates transparency that engenders trust in the local government and creates incentives for national governments to become involved in and learn the SCIL process—to support other communities and cities’ develop comprehensive waste management plans.

Access the SCIL Toolkit and other program tools at urban-links.org/ccbo.

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