

Government Briefing Note

Government of [Department of Environmental Protection] Briefing Note for the Minister of Environment

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: Proposal for Enhanced Plastic Recycling Initiatives

Purpose:

- To seek approval for the implementation of new plastic recycling initiatives designed to increase national recycling rates and reduce landfill dependency.

Background:

- Recent reports indicate that only 30% of plastic waste in our jurisdiction is currently being recycled. The majority of plastic waste ends up in landfills or as environmental pollutants. There has been public and international pressure to improve waste management practices.

Current Status:

- Discussions with various stakeholders, including municipal waste management agencies and environmental NGOs, have been conducted. A pilot recycling program in three major cities has demonstrated a potential increase in recycling rates by up to 20% with the introduction of enhanced sorting technologies.

Considerations:

- **Pros:**
 - Reduction in environmental pollution.
 - Better compliance with international environmental standards.
 - Potential for job creation in the recycling sector.

- **Cons:**
 - Initial capital investment for upgrading recycling facilities.
 - Need for ongoing public education and engagement strategies.

Options/Recommendations:

1. **Option 1:** Implement the enhanced recycling initiatives nationwide, starting with major urban areas followed by a phased rollout to other regions over two years.
2. **Option 2:** Conduct a further one-year pilot in additional cities to gather more comprehensive data before a full rollout.
3. **Recommendation:** Proceed with Option 1 to capitalize on current stakeholder enthusiasm and public demand for improved recycling measures.

Conclusion:

- Adopting Option 1 will likely increase national recycling rates to over 50% within the next five years, aligning with our environmental goals and international obligations. The proposed measures will position us as a leader in sustainable waste management.

Attachments:

- Detailed Proposal Document
- Pilot Program Results Summary
- Stakeholder Feedback Report