

Less waste, more life in our cities

Practical tips for a more sustainable and cleaner Belize.



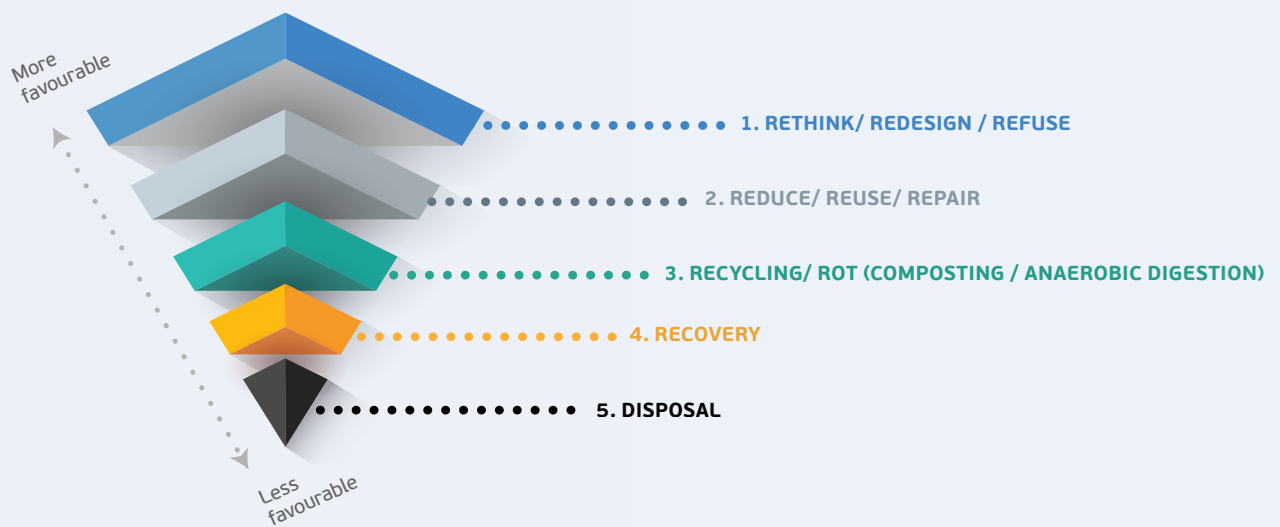
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In the framework of the project "Prevention of Plastic Waste in the Seas of Central America and the Caribbean (CARIBE CIRCULAR)", this guide has been modified from its language, design and country of origin context. In coordination with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Secretariat of Ecology and Environment (SEMA) of the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing the CARIBE CIRCULAR project to improve the framework conditions to prevent the dumping of plastic waste in the Caribbean Sea.

The project is funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

For more information, see the Circular Caribbean (2020-2023) project at
<https://www.giz.de/en/world-wide/92240.html>.
<https://www.sica.int/ccad/>
<https://qroo.gob.mx/sema/>
<https://www.bmz.de/de>
https://europa.eu/european-union/index_es

We manage waste produced in the Municipality with 5 basic steps



- 1. Rethink/Redesign/Refuse:** We make smart choices in our procurements. We remember that single-use items and materials are harmful to the environment.
- 2. Reduce/Reuse/Repair:** We reduce the consumption of products and the amount of packaging materials. We promote secondhand stores and markets, and encourage citizens to repair damaged items.
- 3. Recycling /composting/ anaerobic digestion:** We inform about what and how to recycle. We promote separate collection of bio-waste and composting, at community or home level. We inform and engage citizens in circular economy.
- 4. Recovery, including recovery of Energy:** We recover materials and energy from waste.
- 5. Disposal:** Safe disposal of waste to landfill should be the last choice, and it should be reduced to a minimum, since in the circular economy the basic principle is to keep materials and products in the economic cycle as much as possible.

By preventing waste,
we save money
and contribute
to our Belize
economy!



What can we, Municipalities do?

- Develop a **local waste prevention strategy**.
- **Inform and raise public awareness** on environmental topics.
- **Be a good example** on how to preserve natural environment by responsible consumption.
- Promote the **use of alternative resources**, as well as **repairing and reusing** materials.
- Continuously **collaborate** with institutions, private sector and citizens.
- **Clean the city's public areas** to enhance citizens' quality of life.
- Revise integral municipal waste management plan to incorporate prevention and reduction of solid waste.
- Focus on integrated municipal waste management plans, according to the type of collection (households, markets, small businesses, industries, etc.).
- Conduct annual waste characterizations to adapt municipal waste management plans to prevent, reduce and recycle as much waste as possible.
- management plans to prevent, reduce and recycle as much waste as possible.
- Incorporate in municipal ordinances, mandates that promote the prevention of plastic waste.
- Analyze the incorporation of possible sanctions for plastic waste pollution in coastal areas.

What are the benefits of waste prevention?

- Saving **resources and energy**.
- Reducing **environmental impacts**.
- Decreasing **waste management costs**.
- Ensuring compliance with **legal obligations**.



We reduce waste – by material

Single-use plastics and packaging materials

- Campaign to use **reusable bags/containers**, endorse local businesses to provide incentives to consumers e.g. charge a small amount for single use items.
- Campaign to use **ceramic cups and glass bottles**, instead of plastic ones in **restaurants**.
- Promote consuming **tap water**, and install **water filters** on taps where needed and **coolers** for filling reusable bottles.
- Encourage choosing products with **less packaging materials** and **reuse** old glass, metal or plastic containers.
- Support the operation of **stores that sell local products**, and/or bulk without packaging, e.g. through reduced service fees, financial subsidies, tax benefits or vouchers.



Paper

- Campaign with **tips to reduce the use of paper** (for schools, public services and local businesses).
- Inform how to store **municipal files and records in digital format**.
- Introduce obligatory **recycling for printed files**, when the legal retention period expires.
- Promote **double-sided printing** of documents.



Food waste

- Introduce **home composting** programmes for neighborhoods, schools, etc. with the support of volunteers and cultural organisations for technical support and operation.
- Create **urban gardens** in combination with community **composting** in public places, parks, etc.
- Campaign with **instructions for proper food storage, recipes** using leftovers, promotion of a diet with **reduced meat consumption**. Collaboration with local schools, businesses and volunteers.
- Promote the **sale of mature or unsold products** from open farmers' markets and stores at a **lower price**:
 - To local cooperatives or households for preparing **home-made sweets and sauces**.
 - To local breeders for **animal feeding**.

Green waste

- **Use a shredder** to reduce the volume and facilitate easy transport (purchased by the Municipality, in cooperation with neighboring Municipalities or at home or neighborhood level).
- **Set-up composting** in special facilities or on site for low fertility soils.
- **Provide the produced compost** to households for gardening or to public entities for landscaping, as far as possible.



Clothes and fabrics, toys, furniture, books, electrical and electronic devices

- **Promote the reuse** of the above items and its environmental, social and economic benefits through relevant initiatives and programmes.
- **Implement collection programmes**, in collaboration with other organisations, if necessary.
- **Create spots for collecting and redistributing items** for reuse by citizens, managed by the Municipality or local businesses, supported through reduced service fees or financial benefits.
- **Create spots for placing items for donation** by citizens, for free use by their fellow citizens (e.g. "the wall of compassion/ the hangers of love", discreet support of vulnerable groups).
- **Promote the repair of electrical and electronic devices** by professionals or volunteers, with the support of the Municipality.

Construction and demolition waste

- Campaign to prevent improper **disposal of debris** in the environment.
- Campaign to advise **manufacturers and contractors on the environmentally sound management of debris** and the benefits of implementing prevention measures.
- Organise competitions **for manufacturers** on the ecological design and construction of buildings.
- **Inspect the implementation** of legislative requirements for licensed construction works.

Hazardous household waste

- Inform citizens about the dangers of **using dangerous chemicals improperly**.
- Promote the **use of rechargeable batteries** to citizens and entities.
- Inform citizens about the **safe disposal of old mercury thermometers and medicines that have expired**.
- Organise the **separate collection of hazardous household waste**, e.g. paints, varnishes, solvents, medicines or cleaning products.
- Collaborate with the established **Producers Responsibility Organisations**.

We reduce waste – by site

Green points

- Use every opportunity to **promote green points** and inform citizens about their contribution in waste reduction.
- **Organise the collection of clothes**, shoes, toys, electrical and electronic devices, furniture and utensils, for reuse and repair.
- **Organise the green waste collection** and distribution of compost back to households.

Schools

- **Implement pilot programmes for schools** with indicative topics:
 - "Breakfast or lunch without packaging".
 - "Environmentally responsible supplies".
 - "Organisation of volunteer teachers" and students' groups to inform and raise public awareness".
 - "Collection of used items at school for reuse by students".
 - "Promotion of intangible gifts", such as admissions for events, subscriptions, etc.
- Organise **school competitions** for essays, paintings, photographs or videos on waste reduction.
- Organise **recycling competitions among schools** for one or more materials.
- Encourage students to **reuse or recycle school books** and support a possible state decision on their mandatory return at the end of the year.
- Handout **school documents** in digital form.
- Incorporate **messages about waste reduction on school computers' screens**.





Offices

- Display **informative posters** - in rooms or on printers - on waste reduction, reuse and recycling, with tips on issues such as:
 - Reduction of paper use.
 - Reduction of printer ink use.
 - Promotion of printer ink cartridges refill, whenever it is technically applicable.
 - Promotion of rechargeable batteries use.
 - Incorporation of messages about waste reduction on computer screens.
- Promote the **replacement of disposable items** (glasses, dishes, cutlery, etc.) with **reusable ones**.
- Promote the **reuse of packaging materials**.
- Promote **the use of less but of higher quality electrical and electronic devices** (printers, copy machines, document destroyers, etc.).
- Organise **waste prevention/recycling competitions** among office buildings with award prices in form of vouchers and honoring of teams.
- Conduct recycling, community education and cleanups.



Hotels, restaurants, grocery stores

- **Promote:**

- Application of the "**European Union Eco- label**" and "**HACCP food safety**" in the hotels and restaurants of the Municipality, ensuring reduced food waste.
- Choice of food with **reduced packaging materials**.
- Provision of **half or children's portions** at a reduced price.
- Use of **glasses and multi-use cutlery**.
- Use of **multi-use tablecloths**.
- **Composting** of food waste.

- **Support information activities for guests and customers**, such as placing or distributing information material through the reception or cash registers, advising to:

- **Not leave garbage** or cigarette butts on the beaches/ in the environment.
- Consume water and other beverages in a **glass**.
- Pack their shopping in **multi-use bags**.

- **Inform on recycling:**

- Separation at source for **packaging materials** (glass, paper, plastic, and metal).
- Separation at source for **organic waste**, if the necessary infrastructure is available.
- **Cooking oils**.
- Advise tourism companies on the treatment of food waste such as cooking oils.

- **Promote the redistribution of food** to vulnerable groups in collaboration with relevant organisations.
- Organise **waste prevention/recycling competitions** among similar businesses with an award of honor for eco-friendliness published in the local media/website.

- Promote certifications to companies that comply with their environmental policies and promote them.
- Promote corporate environmental management plans.

Special awareness actions

Organise **WASTE REDUCTION AND/OR RECYCLING FESTIVALS** on the occasion of special days (e.g. Earth Day).

Deploy **FAMOUS PERSONALITIES AS POSITIVE ROLE-MODELS**.

Implement **CREATIVE WORKSHOPS**, use **3D PRINTERS** supplied with recyclable material.

Campaign for **ACTIONS TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMALS** with special guidance hints, e.g. constructing a beach ashtray.

We inform - educate the citizen

We use...

- Articles, informational material.
- Posters, leaflets.
- Presentations, seminars by experts.

We explain...

- Why it is important to reduce waste.
- Benefits for the environment, health and the economy.
- Cost impacts for the Municipality and municipal fees for citizens.

We utilise...

- Website of the Municipality.
- Websites of local interest.
- Electronic newsletters of the Municipality.
- Local media.
- Special applications for mobile phones, to be used by the services of the Municipality and the citizens, for matters related to waste management and circular economy.

By buying local, we are not only able to reduce packaging waste – we can boost our economy!

Special international days:

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DAY:

January 26th

WORLD WATER DAY:

March 22nd

EARTH DAY:

April 22nd

WORLD RECYCLING DAY:

May 17

INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY:

May 22nd

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:

June 5

WORLD OCEANS DAY:

June 8

INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC BAG FREE DAY:

July 3rd

INTERNATIONAL MANGROVE DAY:

July 26th

INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEANUP DAY:

Third week of September

MAN AND BIOSPHERE RESERVES DAY:

November 3rd



We request information, promotional or informational material and advice from the following institutions
advice from the following institutions:

- Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico)
- National Directorate of Climate Change (DNCC) and Directorate of Environmental Management (DGA) of the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment MiAmbiente+ (Honduras)
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Guatemala)
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Dominican Republic)
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (El Salvador)
- Ministry of Environment and Energy (Costa Rica)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Sivilculture, Environment and Sustainable Development (Belize)
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources-MARENA (Nicaragua)
- MiAmbiente (Panamá)



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