



# Collaborative Action for Single-Use Plastic Prevention in Southeast Asia



## Background

The widespread use of single-use plastics (SUP) is one of the world's most urgent environmental problems with large amounts of waste sent to landfills or dumped in rivers and oceans. The production of these items from "virgin" sources is also a large source for greenhouse gas emissions. The increasing volume of plastic waste is linked to factors such as the low costs of certain raw materials, counter-productive incentive structures, limited public awareness, and the absence of feasible alternatives.

Thai and Malaysian policymakers have acknowledged that incorporating circular economy principles within the waste management hierarchy (beginning with prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, and disposal) can provide a crucial solution. However, the emphasis on prevention strategies has only recently begun to garner attention.

The modul was designed to support of Malaysia's Plastics Sustainability Roadmap (2021-2030) and Thailand's Plastic Roadmap (2018-2030), which aims at reducing or banning SUP products by replacing these with durable, repairable, and more environmentally friendly alternatives.

## Aim of the cooperation



The module aims at improving the enabling conditions to reduce single-use plastics and packaging waste in Thailand and Malaysia. In Malaysia, the module provides additional policy advice on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems.

The module contributes directly to the Sustainable Development Goal to ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns (SDG 12), especially Target 12.5 "By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse".

## What we do

As a partner of the Export Initiative Environmental Protection, GIZ is implementing the global project "Environmental Protection Worldwide" on behalf of BMUV.

**Policy Advice:** We provide policy recommendations to our local partners on best practices to avoid single-use plastics.

In Thailand, together with our partner the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), we develop measures to avoid single-use plastics through local reusable and/or deposit systems at the city level, especially in schools, public events, or festivals.

In addition, we support the development of a precondition study for establishing the deposit systems for PET bottles at the city level. We also support the development of recommendations for the use and maintenance of public refill stations.

In Malaysia, together with Oeko-Institut, we help establishing a legal framework for existing minimum design standards for various products (e.g., plastic packaging). We also provide technical support to the Ministry of Local Government Development (KPKT) in the development of a legal framework for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems.

**Pilot Projects:** We design and implement pilot projects aiming at single use plastic reduction with local municipalities, businesses, and industry pioneers.

**Knowledge Management:** We analyse and collect lessons learnt and disseminate good practices to relevant institutions. We also develop technical guidelines with local partners and share those with relevant stakeholders.

**Available communities of practices on the GreenTech Knowledge Hub:**



**EPR for  
Packaging**



**Single-Use Plastic  
Prevention**

Register here: <https://greentechknowledgehub.de/>

## Expected results

- In Thailand, we support our partner BMA to implement effective measures to avoid single-use plastics through local reusable and/ or deposit systems at the community level, especially in schools and public events or festivals, as well as to develop a precondition study for establishing the deposit systems at the city level. We also support the development of recommendations for the use and maintenance of refill systems.

- In Malaysia, we provide technical support to the EPR system operator (Malaysian Recycling Alliance -MAREA) in their piloting of an EPR scheme.

## Project and Cooperation Partners

Thailand:

- Bangkok Metropolitan Administration

Malaysia:

- Ministry of Housing and Local Government Development
- Oeko-Institut e.V.



## Imprint

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<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/122858.html>  
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