

Source: Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management & Meteorology,
Environment and Conservation Division

Geography Student Field Work Report: Waste Disposal System

1. What is Waste?

Waste is anything that is regarded as not having any value or use to any person that is responsible for it anymore. Wastes can be solid or liquid wastes. Solid waste is another word for rubbish or something that we do not want anymore or throw it away.

2. Is there any waste disposal system? Is yes, can you discuss it, if no why not?

The current practice is burning of wastes, storage in waste bins for collection, burying of wastes at the back yard or in the community, disposal of organics in the flower bed or under banana trees, disposal in rivers, streams or sea, dumping along road side or bush.

There is no proper waste disposal system in place. However, some individuals or companies are collecting scrap metals and aluminum cans for export to oversea countries.

The proper waste disposal system is separation of different types of wastes into organic wastes for composting, inorganics that can be recycled to be recycle and those that cannot have any use to store in waste bins for collection and final disposal at Ranadi dumpsite(proper and legal dumpsite).

3. How do you (the Ministry of Environment) clarify or categorize waste?

There are two types of waste categories; organics (waste that can rot) and inorganics (wastes that cannot rot). There is also another waste category; recyclable wastes (those aluminum cans, scrap metals which was be made into new materials again).

There are other categories that wastes can be classified into such as plastics, leather, bottles, wood, etc.

4. Which waste cause negative impact to the people and the environment?

Medical wastes, hazardous wastes and other solid or liquid wastes is harmful to people and the environment if not properly stored and disposed.

For instances, organic wastes produces bad odour that can cause health nuisance to people close by. Broken bottles not properly disposed well can cut people's leg or feet. Sharps or syringe from the hospital or clinics if not properly disposed can cut people's leg or can transmit diseases of affected person to another.

5. Is there any method that residents use to dispose of their waste?

Most residents in Honiara or around the country normally just dispose their waste in the river, sea, streams, bush, along the roads or in waste bins. *Note: Think about how you or your family members at home , school or in the community dispose your wastes/ rubbish.*

During the 2009 census, information was collected with respect to how households manage their rubbish disposal. The census recorded 7 different means of rubbish disposal in the Solomon Islands: Government waste collection, taken to a central place for disposal; Bury; Burning; River/stream; Sea; Backyard; or others means of waste disposal.

In the Solomon Islands, 60% of all households used their backyard as a means for waste disposal, followed by disposing it into the sea (19%), burning it (8%), and 5% of all households had their rubbish collected by the Government waste collection (Fig.123). However, this service was only available by any significance in Honiara, where 36% of households used the Government waste collection to dispose of their rubbish.

In most provinces the majority of households disposed their waste in their backyard. Exceptions were households in Rennell-Bellona where 63% burned their waste, and Temotu and Central where a large proportion disposed their rubbish in the sea (Solomon Islands Census Statistics, 2009).

6. Which authority is responsible for the improvement of this system?

At the national level, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) is responsible for waste management operations through the Environmental Health Division (EHD). In Honiara, the Honiara City Council Environmental Health Division is responsible for the management of wastes. This is also similar to the rest of the provinces in which health officials seconded from the Environment Health Division of the MHMS are also directly involved in the management of wastes.

The Environment and Conservation Division in the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology is mostly responsible for the waste regulatory and policy issues. It therefore works closely with the Environment Health Division and other stakeholders in coordinating the development of the waste strategies, policies and regulations.

There is no institutional arrangement with rural areas outside of the provincial towns and therefore this is a gap that needs to be addressed.

NB: Read the National Solid waste management strategy.

7. What contributions does the Ministry of Environment provide to ensure that there is proper waste disposal?

The Ministry of Environment with its other major stakeholders such as the Honiara City Council, Ministry of Health & Medical Services amongst others are trying to ensure proper waste management in Honiara and in the country.

A number of projects implemented with the focus on waste management includes the J-PRISM Project (Check out www.sprep.org and brochure provided) and the Mataniko Clean Up and Rehabilitation Program.

8. Is the Ministry of Environment responsible for the waste disposal ? If yes explain, if not why?

The Ministry of Environment is not responsible for waste disposal. However, the Honiara City Council in Honiara, for instance is responsible for management of the Ranadi dumpsite where all wastes from residents, commercial sector or industries dump their wastes. The Ministry of Environment through the J-PRISM project works closely with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Honiara City Council to ensure proper waste disposal.

9. What ways or measures does the Ministry of Environment do to ensure to protect the people and environments of the safe disposal of the waste?

There are existing legislations (Acts, regulations) and by laws that are made purposely as some measures put in place to ensure that the people and our environment is safe and clean. Some of the existing legislations relating to waste management includes those provided in the folder given.

In the past, the Honiara City Council have enforced the Honiara Litter Ordinance which includes fines for littering around Honiara City. This has been working for a while, however, due to non-enforcement, this by-law was not in placed.

10. Is the system really helping the Honiara Town?

These measures will help keep Honiara City Clean if there is more awareness raising and enforcements of these existing regulations and Acts.

11. Is there any method or way by which the Ministry of Environment can improve the system?

Proper waste management system can be practicable or effective if there is more enforcement and awareness raising.

Promotion and practice of Three Rs Concept (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)