



Plastic Management and Issues in Thailand

Department of Local Administration, 7th March 2019

Background of Plastic Issues in Thailand



Plastic waste is one of big challenges for Thailand's national development.

- Thailand generates 2 million tons of plastic waste per year, but only 500,000 tons of plastic waste return to recycle process.
- Plastic waste causes environmental pollution in Thailand, for example, many fresh water animals and marine animals died due to eating plastic bag.

Ministry of Interior's Solution for Plastic Waste



“Clean Provinces” Plan

The plan has been launching since 2016 as an action plan for holistic waste management, including plastic waste.

3Rs Promotion

MOI convinces local government organizations and people to reduce volume of plastic waste by using Reduce-Reuse-Recycle or 3Rs process at the household and community level.

Waste to Energy

MOI supports “Waste to Energy” technologies as a solution of waste and plastic waste management for local government organizations .

“Clean Provinces” Plan and 3Rs Promotion

Ministry of Interior’s launches the action plan for holistic waste mangement in every province.

- According to the plan in 2019, MOI sets goals for plastic waste reduction and recycling through 3Rs promotion at the household and local community level.
- Reduce process: MOI supports ‘No Plastic’ campaign and eco-friendly lifestyle for local people and local community through local government organizations.
- Reuse process: MOI convinces people to use reusable plastic materials, such as reusable plastic bottles, and containers.
- Recycle process: MOI supports waste segregation and recycle activities at the household and local community level by building a recycle point in all communities.



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Waste to Energy Technologies

Ministry of Interior supports waste to energy technologies as solution for sanitary waste disposal.

- MOI encourages local government organizations to dispose municipal waste by using “Waste to Energy” technologies.
- “Waste to Energy” projects of local government organizations can be supported by private sector through public-private partnership (PPP).
- MOI realizes that some types of plastic waste can be disposed by WtE technologies, so WtE may be one of way outs for sanitary waste disposal of plastic waste.



Best Practice of Plastic Waste Management



Success of “No Plastic Bag” Campaign in Lamphun Province

- Lamphun has been launching “No Plastic Bag” campaign in all local shops, all local fresh markets, and all modern hyper-markets since 2016, as part of Lamphun’s provincial plan for holistic waste management.
- Great Cooperation of public sector, private sector, and local people leads into successful outcome of plastic waste reduction.

Best Practice of Plastic Waste Management



Recycle Bank and Local Insurance Fund at Bangbuathong Subdistrict Administrative Organization

- Bangbuathong SAO has been launching “Recycle Bank for Local Insurance Fund” project since July 2018 with 2,532 members and 24 recycle points.
- Recycle bank convinces local people to recycle their stuff by transferring benefit of recycle points into insurance fund of all members.
- Waste segregation and recycling tend to increase rapidly due to the success of this project.

Challenges of Plastic Waste Management in Future



People Awareness

Success of plastic waste management depends on public participation and awareness of Thai citizens on plastic waste reduction and waste segregation.

Policy Instruments

Thailand needs to promote some obvious policies on plastic waste management such as enhancing people's eco-friendly lifestyle, strengthening circular economy enterprises, and 3Rs promotion.

Circular Economy

Circular economy should be the biggest issue of the decade on plastic waste management, and all involved sectors should play an important role together on circular economy promotion.

Ministry of Interior's Role on Circular Economy Promotion

Ministry of Interior supports local government organizations on holistic waste management and circular economy promotion.

- Circular Economy seems to be a new concept for Thailand as well as local government organizations on waste management, but this concept tends to be one of way outs for Thailand's plastic waste management.
- Ministry of Interior works together with involved partners to promote an importance of circular economy in Thailand, especially on making plastics circular.
- Ministry of Interior's currently supports circular economy by strengthening waste segregation as well as recycling at the household level and community level.



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Thank You

Department of Local Administration, 7th March 2019

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