

A large pile of garbage, including plastic bags, food waste, and other debris, is shown under a blue sky with white clouds. The text "WASTE DISPOSAL IN THAILAND" is overlaid in large white letters.

WASTE DISPOSAL IN THAILAND

IMPROVING WASTE DISPOSAL MANAGEMENT TO BE ZERO WASTE

INTRODUCTION

Due to an increase in population, we as humans depend on many things from our environment to satisfy our various needs. In the process of our development, we generate and produce a lot of things that are actually of no use, and we simply discard them. For example, we often buy packet foods, plastic bottles, and canned foods. However, after the use of these, we throw them away because they can no longer be of any use to us, unwanted, or worthless. Such objects are called wastes. We can classify waste into 5 main types: organic waste, hazardous waste, liquid waste, solid waste, and recycled waste. This wastes can be as small as a pencil to as large as an old vehicle. We normally get rid of the wastes; generated at home by keeping our bins outside the house, but is that the end of it? In reality, wastes undergo a series of many processes beginning with collection, segregation, transportation, and disposal. However, the problem, that we can see every day, is that wastes are accumulated. Moreover, we can not dispose of them quickly as we generate them. Then, they lead to many problems in our country.



Thailand, using statistics, is 6th ranking out of the world in terms of 'Plastic waste'. Unfortunately, Thailand has been suffering from ineffective government operations in waste management for many years. And the following consequences are affecting many sectors such as the economic sector, environment sector, and public health sector. It can be said that waste is uncontrolled by the waste management organization and also the regulations from the government. The concern is more serious, as an increasing quantity of waste negatively impacts people in the country. Failing to address this problem will lead to the creation of long-term environmental and public health disasters influencing national economics in an entirely destructive way. Therefore, our group has recognized this problem and wants to give solutions or recommendations.

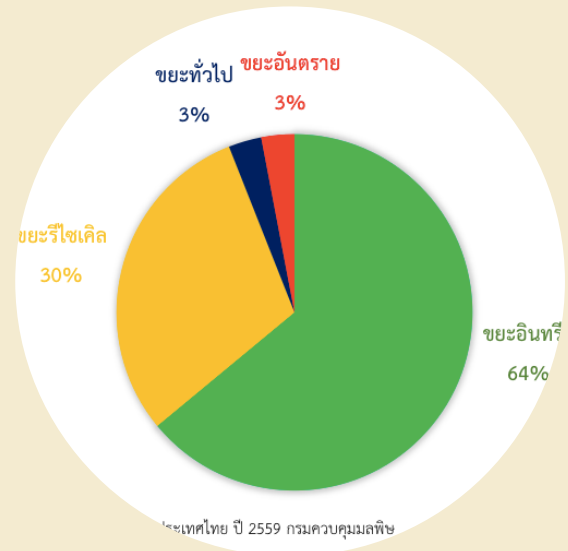
OUTLINE

1. Causes related to waste problem in Thailand
2. Problems and impacts of wastes in Thailand
3. Assess policies and recommendations
4. SDGs
5. Provide conclusions about the policies

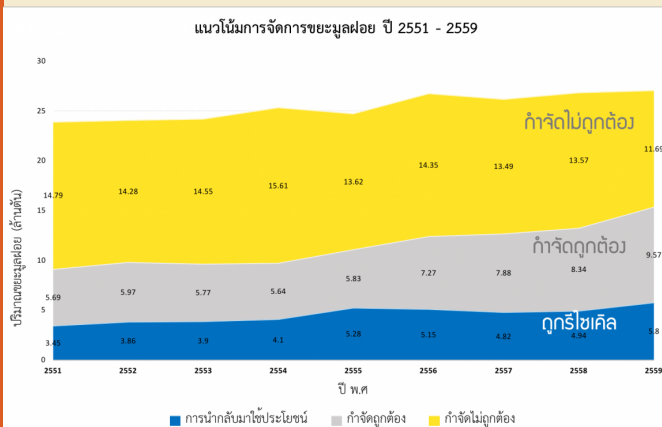


CAUSE

Nowadays, in Thailand, we are still confronted with the waste problem in our country. People generate 27.06 million tons of waste per year or around 74,130 tons per day and accumulate waste around 10 million tons per year. Moreover, Thailand can manage and recycle effectively only 26.34 percent while the rest 73.26 percent, ineffectively managed. This led to the question of why Thailand cannot manage waste properly and reach zero waste soon. Many root causes will answer why waste still keeps increasing, and the waste problem remains.



There are 5 main causes of waste issues in Thailand: lack of awareness, ineffectively waste management, government regulations or policies, import waste, and Covid 19. To begin with, around 92.3 percent of people lack awareness and information even though they know that waste can cause negative effects that can impact their life such as sickness that come from pollution and climate change that waste is one of the factors of these to happen. Next, ineffectively waste management because there are obstacles to doing so which is a budget constraint.



Consequently, there is plenty of waste that is dumped in landfills. The waste is incinerated in open air or incinerators that cannot filter the smoke, and are unmanaged. In addition, consumers' and producers' behavior can cause more waste and lead to ineffective management due to overcapacity. For example, nowadays, the firm wants to generate higher income. So, they use a marketing strategy that sells goods at a lower price and lower quality. They are trying to launch new collections as soon as possible, which leads to a change in consumers' behavior all the time, such as Fast fashion is the clothes trend that buyers commonly wear only a few times and will leave as waste and buy new collections instead. So, this causes an increasing amount of waste.





Few people do waste separation, because the system of waste separation is not enough. When there are no regulations people will be less aware of this step. By not doing so, it causes the plastic to mix up with waste. The waste disposal plant cannot recycle plastic because sorting plastic from waste can generate higher costs to the plant. So, they avoid recycling and cause the plastic to remain as waste. Last but not least, recently, China banned importing waste and plastic to recycle that come from America, Japan, and Korea. So, these countries export waste to southwest Asia instead, including Thailand. Thailand imports plastic scrap around 55,590 tons per year and highest in 2562 that imports around 552,912 tons per year. Now, some regulations limit the amount of importing waste, but still, have smuggling importing waste at the port of Laem Chabang and leftover waste that accumulates over the past from importing. Moreover, Loophole in NCPO No4/2559 aims to build an incentive for people to build more recycling plants as much as possible, but this gives adverse effects instead of having more plants for recycling plastic in our country. Turned out there, it is more of importing waste because foreigners use this regulations loophole to build a recycling plant to recycle their own country's waste and. Lastly, Covid-19 causes an increase in plastic waste by around 60 percent in Thailand because of food delivery. There is a change in behavior that people cannot go outside to eat at restaurants because they are afraid of covid 19. So, they order food delivery instead. Food delivery comes with a lot of plastic food packages which cause more plastic waste in Thailand.

EFFECT

Currently, in Thailand, the amount of waste is growing continuously every year because of human threats. Even though previously they strived to reduce but not work. This problem, which cannot be solved, leads to many effects which cause negative impacts on the health of humans, animals, the environment, and surrounding natural resources. In addition, the breeding place of bacteria, microorganisms that breed in the humidity waste can be the carrier of diseases that affect nearby people and animals. It is also the food source of rats, flies, and cockroaches that make an annoyance and be able to get infected as well. The negative effect of wastes not only affects people and the environment but also affects the overall economy of the country as well because it needs to spend a lot of money to counter the effects that happen. Next, these are the kinds of pollution and the negative effects which are caused by waste.

Air pollution



contamination of smokes and gases which come from burning fossil fuels, vehicles, etc. It is extremely harmful to our respiratory system for long-term accumulation. It may result in negative healthiness such as heart disease, lung cancer, and emphysema.

Land pollution



the deposition of solid and liquid waste on land, which contaminates soil and groundwater one kind of threat to the ecosystem. This can lead to the loss of some types of plant and animal life.

Beach pollution



plastic bags, bottles, nets that visitors or fishers throw to the beach and this may affect marine life or the marine environment.

Soil contaminations



It will happen when hazardous wastes are spilled into the soil. It also occurs when pollutants settle on the soil, for example, chemicals or industrial smokestacks.

WARNING!

POLICIES

Waste in Thailand has been worsening year by year. People have been dumping waste for around 10 million tons per year which means that the waste will continue increasing and increasing. So, Thailand has a significantly large amount of plastic waste. Everybody uses it, from poor to rich. Due to a large amount of waste, Thailand spread the trash into the ocean. It causes air pollution and many more externalities. However, Thailand has taken this problem into action and launched policies that will help achieve zero waste.

3 R's policy

Thailand has implemented the policy of reuse, reduce, and recycle or 3 R's in 2016-2021; it was most effective in Japan. This policy aims to engage people by promoting awareness through social media as well as teaching why we need to reuse, reduce, and recycle.

Ban imports waste

The civil society Thailand Organization has also strictly banned plastic scrap imports from other countries. This will lower the waste coming from other countries, and the country can now focus on the waste generated by itself. But, Thailand also has worse recycling facilities.

Government intervention

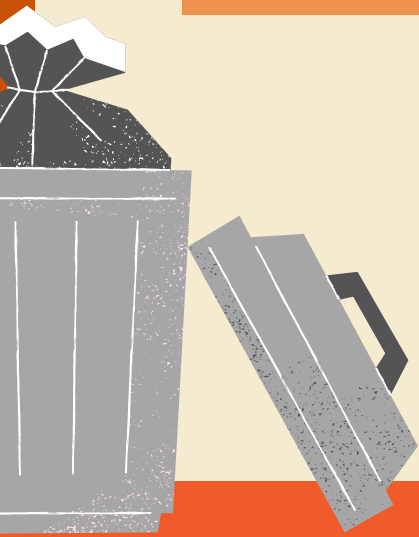
The government could implement a policy for businesses to invest in this field by giving subsidies. However, there are many challenges to this 3 R's policy. To make this policy work, people need to understand and participate. The government needs to use the right strategies for each group of people (ranging from age). Even though they use the right strategies, it is no guarantee that people will do it.



Example: CP ALL

How does a firm react to the non-plastic slogan?

The largest corporation in Thailand or what people know as 7-ELEVEN. Whenever we purchase something from the 7-ELEVEN one or more pieces, we will also receive a plastic bag. The amount of plastic given away by one business alone is already a huge sum of waste. After many criticisms toward CP all for the plastic, the CP came out and announced all their plastics will be reused, reduced, and recycled in 2025.



Waste-To-Energy

This is a policy where Thailand imports waste from other countries and uses those waste to generate energy. However, Thailand has planned to ban this policy in 2021.

The Refund Machine: Reverse Vending Fun Machine

This technology is an automated waste recycling machine, turning recycled waste into money in various forms. Users can bring PET bottles, clear plastics, or cans to drop at the dispensers, and the checker to account for the money or collect points to exchange for other fun. Although, this is available in many department stores. But, it is still not well known in society. Recommendation? So, we have to promote this machine because it is an easy way to increase the people's inspiration who just want to recycle plastic waste.



Recommendation

The long-term solution we think will be a way to solve this problem is "Increased education and social pressure to do the right things". By educating and consistently telling people to do the right thing will be the ultimate goal in this waste disposal crisis.

SDGs

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



SDGs 12

Responsible consumption and production for waste disposal

Driving sustainable production and consumption patterns, it is vital to sustainable development based on economic growth that recognizes social and environmental costs, by promoting the efficient use of natural resources. Modification of production and service models of companies, organizations, as well as people's thinking and behaviors. For example, according to goal 12.3, reducing global food waste by half at retail and consumer levels and reducing food loss throughout the production and supply chain including post-harvest losses by 2030. Also, SDGs 12.5, reduce waste by prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling.

SDGs 14

Ensure sustainable to life under water

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



Thailand has faced significant challenges in the sustainable use and management of marine and coastal resources. Especially in the prevention and reduction of marine pollution. This involves many sectors and must address the problem at the source through effective management of waste and pollution originating on the land. To reduce the amount of marine debris and the phenomenon of eutrophication which affects marine fauna and marine ecosystem balance. For example, goal 14.1, prevent and significantly reduce all types of marine pollution especially from activities on land including marine debris and nutrient pollution by 2025.

CONCLUSION

Waste disposal management in Thailand is an important issue that needs to be solved by the corroborations from every organization. As it has caused many effects and impacts to our society and people's well being. Thailand and many other countries have recognized this problem and have been setting "road to zero waste" as their ultimate goal. Government intervention is one of the main factor that will be able to help achieve this goal. Not only the government that needs to cooperate, but also people. People need to truly acknowledge this problem and participate in this matter.

