

# Declaration of Antigua Barbuda

## Zero Waste Working Group 2018

Given that an intensive 2 day workshop called *Zero Waste 2025: Reduce. Replace. Revolutionize* was held February 15-16, 2018 with a cross section of civil society, Government agencies, and NGOs that discussed emerging waste technologies and practices, behavior, and conducive policies to approach Zero Waste by 2025:

- SMART collection processes
- Advanced, appropriate processing techniques for recovering materials of value (e.g. extracting gold, silver, copper, plastics, and organics)
- Appropriate waste-to-energy, waste-to-fuel, and landfill gas recovery options.
- Improved disposal methods such as volume minimization, methane capture landfills

And noting that the goal was to plan out a Zero Waste Strategy for Antigua Barbuda that lays the groundwork to:

- Establish convenient source separation programs (three bins: green for compost, blue for recycle, and black for landfill). Refer to Ministry of Health/National Solid Waste Management Authority.
- Provide generator (home, hotel, restaurant, business) and service provider incentives (tipping fees)
- Conduct extensive outreach and educational awareness (door to door canvassing, documentaries, jingles, social media, infographics)
- Adopt policies and legislation and enforce them
- Develop appropriate products and eco-friendly markets.

And highlighting success stories in the Caribbean that include:

1. Grenada – OAS project on Fish Waste to Poultry Feed.
2. Falmouth, Jamaica – Vegetable market recycle and composting – purchase carts and brooms to clean up organic waste and compost.
3. Plastic and bottle deposit-refund – Reduce plastic bottle use. Barbados is evaluating legislation to improve policies and incentives.
4. Caribbean Waste Collective – Analysis to address economies-of-scale and co-manage Caribbean wide recycle, reduce and retrofit.
5. Aruba, Dominica and Trinidad plastic bag ban - secure support of a plastic bag ban amongst retailers.
6. Antigua and Barbuda plastic bag ban (shopping plastic bags) and Styrofoam ban (expanded polystyrene food service containers) legislation

7. Antigua & Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Grenada used oil-to-energy - Countries in the region constantly receive unsolicited proposals for Waste 2 Energy technologies that can convert all of their waste to electricity, eliminate the need for landfills.
8. Antigua & Barbuda biofuels (algae, vegetable, and organic oil)
9. Antigua & Barbuda metal recycling (aluminum, brass, lead, copper, iron scrap, vehicle batteries, jewelry, art and crafts, and motors)
10. Antigua & Barbuda e-waste collection and recycle (computers, TV, microwave, smart phones)
11. Antigua & Barbuda repurposing wooden and plastic pallets (furniture and decorations)

The Antigua Barbuda Zero Waste Working Group recommends further work in successful policy initiatives and market based instruments that include:

- Deposit Refund and Monthly User Fees – Deposit refund for bottles and plastics. Grenada and Nevis have established a mechanism where solid waste management is treated like a utility where customers pay a monthly fee for service.
- Facility Tipping Fees – Belize, Aruba and Barbados are charging commercial customers fees to use transfer stations and landfills.
- Tax, Duty Credits, Levies and Deductions - Tax incentives to make alternatives to Styrofoam cost equivalent or promote duty free import of waste-to-energy technology, biogas, or solar panels and solar hot water heaters.
- Earmarked Environmental Levies – Numerous islands in the region of both a value added tax (VAT) and assess an environmental levy on products entering the country. For instance, Nevis applies an earmarked 1% environmental tax.
- National festivals and social/sporting/cultural events to have zero waste plans as part of approval applications.
- The construction sector to be encouraged to follow Zero Waste principles in managing site generated waste disposal and diversion, including use of recycled materials where appropriate in design phase as a component of building codes.

Given that Antigua & Barbuda is an accredited agency with the Green Climate Fund and is creating the SIRF (Sustainable Island Resource Fund) which has been approved by the Government of A&B (to be gazetted in March 2018). The Zero Waste Working Group recommends that a proposal to finance pilot waste management projects be submitted that will put Antigua and Barbuda on the road to Zero Waste 2025.