

Waste Management in Brunei Darussalam

Waste management remains one of the key environmental priorities for Brunei Darussalam as we continue progressing towards sustainable development and circular economy.

Based on the latest consolidated data in 2025, Brunei Darussalam generated approximately:

Total Waste Generated (MT)	349,013.26
Recycling Rate (%)	23.29
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) per capita	1.19 kg/person/day

Landfill disposal contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane, a gas that is significantly more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat in the atmosphere. Based on the latest report in 2018, waste disposal emits about 0.23 MT CO₂e of methane gas to the atmosphere every year, accounting to about 2.2% of Brunei's total greenhouse gas emissions.

The data above reflects ongoing consumption and economic activity. As the economic and population growth continue to increase, waste management is increasingly getting complex and remains a significant environmental challenge.

How is our waste managed?

Brunei Darussalam's waste management, for both general and hazardous waste, is under the purview of the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (DEPR), Ministry of Development, and is governed by legislation, policies and guidelines set forth by the Department.

DEPR administratively regulates the waste management sector including waste generators and collectors, recycling companies and disposal facilities. The operational activities of waste management involve enforcement actions and providing infrastructure for the collection and disposal of wastes generated from the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.

Collection of waste includes:

- **Private Collection** or door-to-door collection which is done by registered waste collectors that are listed under JASTRe.
- **Waste Collection Centres** provided by the Government across the country. The daily waste collection at these centres are carried out and managed by contractors appointed by the Department.

While the nation is strongly encouraged to practice 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to deal with their waste, most of the remaining waste which comprises of the non-recyclables and non-reusables are still disposed of at the Sungai Paku Engineered Landfill (SPEL) - the country's

main landfill which currently accommodates more than 90% of the total waste. The landfill together with the Sungai Akar Transfer station, which acts as a transfer point for waste generated from the Brunei-Muara District before going to SPEL, are managed by JASTRe.

Below illustrates Brunei Darussalam’s solid waste management system:

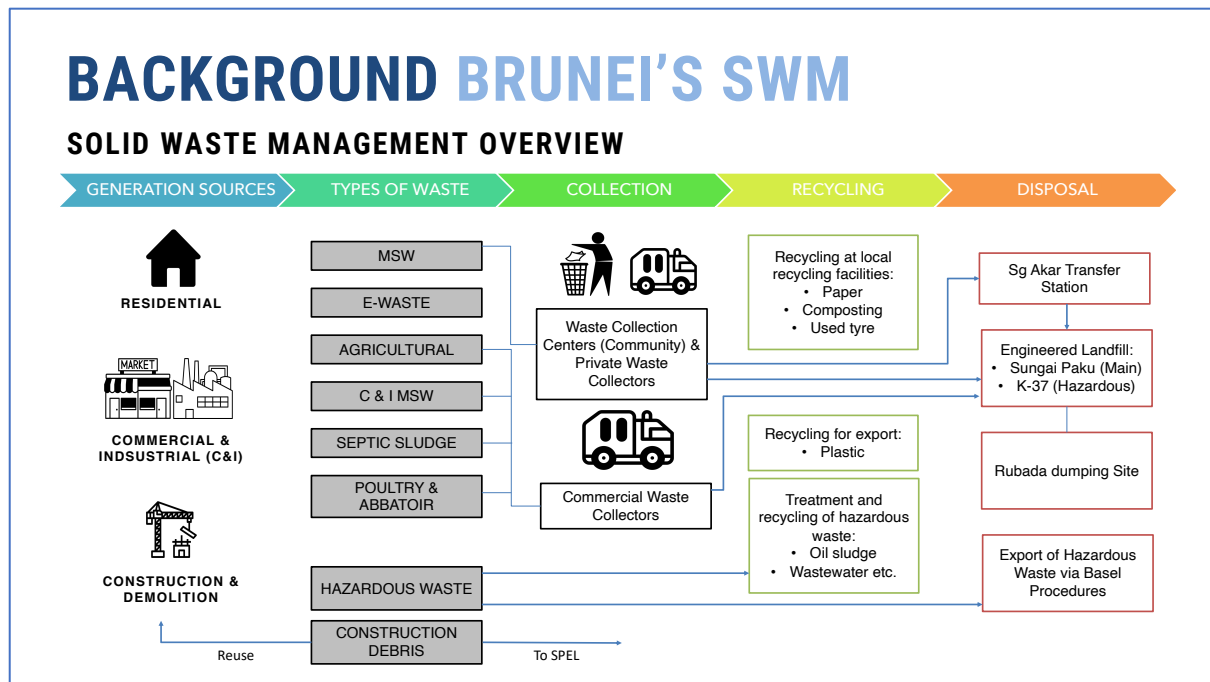


Figure 1 Overview of Brunei Darussalam's Solid Waste Management System

Top 4 composition of wastes we should know

There are many different types of waste generated in Brunei from across the different sectors bringing with them unique challenges in how they are collected, handled and disposed of. From domestic waste to agricultural waste, commercial and industrial waste, more often than not, these wastes are mostly disposed rather than recycled.

Municipal solid waste which includes waste from domestic, agricultural and commercial sector, has become a major concern over the past years as the amount of waste generated has increased tremendously. The top four composition of municipal solid waste disposed at the Sungai Paku Engineered landfill, based on the waste composition study conducted in 2025, is mainly made up of food waste which accounts for 28% of the total waste disposed, followed by plastic waste then paper and textile which accounts for 26%, 12% and 12% respectively.



Figure 2 Waste Composition based on 2025 study.

Sungai Paku Engineerd Landfill (SPEL)

Of the 349,013 MT generated in 2025, a total of 231,475 MT of waste was disposed at Brunei’s main landfill located at Kampong Sungai Paku in Mukim Telisai, Tutong District.

Spanning over 104 hectares of land, the Sungai Paku Engineered landfill receives waste at a daily rate of roughly 650 MT per day. These wastes are sent here and are then buried within four excavated areas known as landfill cells. It is estimated that the landfill cells will reach its full capacity by 2030. However, with the increasing trend of waste growth, this target is expected to come sooner rather than later.

Furthermore, the decomposition process leads to the build-up of methane gas which is a greenhouse gas that is 28 times more potent than that of carbon dioxide which contributes to climate change. At the current rate of waste generation, Brunei Darussalam’s greenhouse gas emission from the waste sector is projected to increase to 0.30 MT CO₂e by 2035.

The recycling rate increased from 22.1% in 2024 to 23.9% in 2025. Except for used tyres, all recyclables collected by recycling companies are exported for recycling due to inadequate recycling infrastructure and facilities within the country.

What actions are being taken by the Government?

Waste management remains a cross-sectoral responsibility requiring close collaboration and coordination between government agencies and other relevant stakeholders (private sectors and NGOs) as well as public support and participation is required in order to collectively and holistically address waste issues.

The Government continues to strengthen policy frameworks, infrastructure development and stakeholder engagement to enhance waste management performance and ensure a sustainable and efficient waste management system is in place. Notably, numerous initiatives and programmes have been implemented collaboratively with the primary goal to minimize waste generation in particular with the implementation of 3R initiatives, namely Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

The government has set out key targets to achieve:

- Waste generation per capita to 1kg per person per day
- Recycling rate of 30% by 2035.

To achieve this target, the government has identified key strategies namely:

1. Waste Minimization Through 3R
2. Cost Effective, Efficient And Sustainable Collection System
3. Strengthening Of Legislation And Enforcement
4. Youth Empowerment
5. Adoption Of Waste-To-Resource Technologies



Figure 3 Waste Management Strategies

How can we do our part?

Although numerous initiatives and activities have been implemented and provided by the government, there is still room for improvement for Brunei Darussalam to achieve a sustainable and efficient waste management system. However, each individual and organization has to play a role for a cleaner and greener Brunei.

As consumers in general, we all directly contribute to the waste generation in Brunei. As a start, we can start practicing the 3Rs at home where most of our waste is being generated. The

public has access to recycling bins provided by the government at the waste collection centres and information on recycling collection activities.

Below are just some of the easiest way we, as a consumer, can reduce our waste generation at home or workplace:



Small changes and small steps can bring along massive impacts to our lives and surroundings. Whether we chose to reduce our waste or actively recycle our items from our daily activities, each step is certainly one step further to saving our environment.

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