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**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU**

**THIKA MUNICIPALITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT**

# **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

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## Foreword

Solid waste management is a critical pillar in ensuring the health, safety, and sustainability of our rapidly growing urban communities. Thika Municipality recognizes that the challenges of waste generation, collection, recycling, and disposal require a coordinated, innovative, and inclusive approach.

This Solid Waste Management Policy provides a comprehensive framework to guide municipal authorities, private operators, community groups, and residents in achieving a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable Thika. It reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship, public health, and the well-being of all our citizens.

The successful implementation of this policy will require active participation from all stakeholders, as well as innovation, discipline, and adherence to regulatory standards. I therefore call upon our staff, private partners, community members, and development partners to fully embrace the vision outlined in this document and work collectively towards a Thika Municipality that is clean, resilient, and proud of its environment.



Gathii Kanyi  
Municipal Manager  
Thika Municipality



## Acknowledgements

The Thika Municipality Solid Waste Management Policy has been developed through the collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders committed to improving environmental sustainability, public health, and service delivery in the municipality.

The Municipality wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the following contributors:

- **The Thika Municipality Environment Department** for providing technical guidance, data, and operational insights into the current waste management system.
- **Private waste collectors and service providers** whose practical experience and cooperation informed policy measures on collection, segregation, and recycling.
- **Community representatives, youth, and women groups** for sharing perspectives on local challenges, opportunities, and participation in SWM initiatives.
- **County Government of Kiambu** for policy guidance, oversight, and support in alignment with county development priorities.
- **Development partners and the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP2)** for technical assistance, capacity building, and guidance on international best practices.
- **Technical consultants and researchers** whose expertise in solid waste management, environmental health, and policy formulation shaped the content of this document.

This policy reflects the combined commitment of all stakeholders to foster a clean, safe, and sustainable urban environment in Thika Municipality, and to implement innovative, inclusive, and environmentally responsible solid waste management practices.

## **Executive Summary**

The Thika Municipality Solid Waste Management (SWM) Policy provides a comprehensive framework to address the challenges of waste generation, collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal in a rapidly urbanizing environment. The policy is aligned with national legislation, including the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) 1999, the Sustainable Waste Management Act 2022, and the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase 2 (KUSP2), as well as international best practices such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **Purpose of the Policy**

The primary purpose of this policy is to establish a sustainable, efficient, and inclusive solid waste management system in Thika Municipality that:

- Protects public health and the environment
- Promotes resource recovery and recycling
- Improves operational efficiency and service delivery
- Strengthens institutional and human capacity
- Encourages community participation and partnerships

### **Key Challenges Addressed**

The policy responds to several challenges currently facing Thika Municipality, including:

- Accumulation of organic and mixed waste contributing to environmental pollution
- Presence of illegal dumpsites and open disposal at Kang'oki and other locations
- Insufficient collection infrastructure, including waste trucks and bins
- Limited community awareness and participation in segregation and recycling
- High operational costs and need for sustainable financing mechanisms

### **Policy Objectives**

The policy aims to:

1. Enhance efficiency in waste collection, transportation, and disposal
2. Promote segregation at source, recycling, and resource recovery
3. Strengthen monitoring, reporting, and data-driven decision-making
4. Improve environmental and public health safeguards
5. Foster Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs) for inclusive service delivery
6. Build institutional capacity, technical skills, and social inclusion for women and youth
7. Promote research, innovation, and adoption of environmentally friendly technologies

### **Key Strategies**

To achieve its objectives, the policy proposes the following strategies:

- **Waste Segregation:** Promote household, commercial, and institutional segregation using clear waste categories.
- **Collection & Transportation:** Establish collection frequency standards, optimize routes, and integrate technology to improve efficiency.
- **Recycling & Resource Recovery:** Support Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), composting, and community-based recycling programs.
- **Waste Disposal & Landfill Management:** Upgrade disposal sites, reduce open dumping, and encourage semi-aerobic landfill practices.
- **Financial Management:** Develop sustainable funding mechanisms including tariffs, user fees, and partnerships.
- **Monitoring & Reporting:** Implement digital tracking and GIS mapping to monitor performance, collection coverage, and illegal dumpsites.
- **Capacity Building:** Train municipal staff, private operators, and community groups in technical skills, health and safety, and inclusive participation.
- **Environmental & Health Protection:** Minimize pollution, manage leachate, prevent disease risks, and mitigate climate impacts.
- **Research & Innovation:** Support applied research, technology adoption, and continuous improvement in SWM practices.

### **Expected Outcomes**

By implementing this policy, Thika Municipality aims to achieve:

- Improved service delivery across all wards
- Reduction in illegal dumping and associated environmental hazards
- Increased recycling and resource recovery, contributing to a circular economy
- Enhanced public health and environmental protection
- Stronger community engagement and participation in SWM
- Operational efficiency and financial sustainability
- Innovation and long-term resilience in waste management

This policy represents a shared commitment among municipal authorities, private operators, community groups, development partners, and residents to build a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable Thika Municipality.

## **List of Acronyms**

- EMCA – Environmental Management and Coordination Act
- SWM – Solid Waste Management
- SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
- KUSP – Kenya Urban Support Program
- KUSP2 – Kenya Urban Support Program Phase 2
- MRF – Material Recovery Facility
- PPPP – Public-Private-People Partnership
- TVET – Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- CBD – Central Business District
- GIS – Geographic Information System

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# **1.0 Introduction and Background**

## **1.1 Background**

Thika Municipality, a key urban center within Kiambu County, has experienced rapid urbanization driven by population growth, industrial development, and expanding commercial activities. This growth has led to a significant increase in solid waste generation, placing pressure on existing waste management systems and infrastructure.

The Municipality currently relies on Kang'oki Dumpsite as the primary waste disposal site. However, the site requires progressive improvement to meet environmental and operational standards. In addition, the Municipality faces challenges related to the emergence of illegal dumpsites, particularly within Thika Central Business District (CBD), Kamenu Ward, and Hospital Ward.

While waste collection coverage in the Municipality is relatively high, gaps remain in efficiency, waste segregation at source, and environmentally sound disposal practices. These challenges contribute to environmental degradation, blockage of drainage systems, and potential public health risks.

## **1.2 Policy Context and Linkages**

This Policy is aligned with relevant national, regional, and international frameworks guiding environmental management and sustainable urban development, including:

- The Constitution of Kenya, 2010
- The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), 1999
- The Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022
- The National Sustainable Waste Management Strategy
- The Public Health Act
- Kenya Vision 2030
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:
  - Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
  - Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

The Policy further aligns with regulations including:

- Waste Management Regulations, 2024
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations, 2024
- Plastic Packaging Regulations, 2024

It also supports the objectives of the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase II (KUSP II), which focuses on strengthening urban institutions and enhancing service delivery in municipalities.

### **1.3 Rationale for the Policy**

The development of this Solid Waste Management Policy is informed by the need to:

- Address increasing waste generation associated with urban growth and industrialization
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of waste collection and transportation systems
- Eliminate illegal dumping and improve environmental compliance
- Promote waste segregation, recycling, and resource recovery
- Improve management and upgrading of disposal facilities
- Strengthen institutional coordination and regulatory enforcement
- Enhance revenue generation and cost recovery in waste management services
- Support climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability

### **1.4 Purpose of the Policy**

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a structured and integrated framework for the management of solid waste within Thika Municipality.

The Policy aims to guide planning, investment, regulation, and service delivery in solid waste management by:

- Improving operational efficiency
- Promoting sustainable waste management practices
- Strengthening institutional capacity
- Enhancing financial sustainability
- Supporting data-driven decision-making

Ultimately, the Policy seeks to improve environmental quality, safeguard public health, and enhance the overall livability of Thika Municipality.

## 2.0 Policy Objectives

### 2.1 Overall Objective

The overall objective of this Policy is to establish an integrated, efficient, and sustainable solid waste management system in Thika Municipality that enhances service delivery, promotes environmental protection, and ensures public health and safety.

### 2.2 Specific Objectives

The Policy shall pursue the following specific objectives:

1. **To improve solid waste collection coverage, efficiency, and reliability** through optimized collection systems, route planning, and strengthened coordination between public and private service providers.
2. **To promote waste segregation at source and enhance resource recovery** by encouraging reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting practices across households, institutions, and commercial establishments.
3. **To eliminate illegal dumping and improve environmental compliance** through enforcement mechanisms, public awareness, and monitoring systems, particularly in identified hotspots within the Municipality.
4. **To improve waste transportation and disposal systems** by upgrading existing disposal facilities, including Kang'oki Dumpsite, and promoting environmentally sound waste treatment options.
5. **To strengthen institutional capacity and governance in solid waste management** through clear definition of roles, enhanced coordination, and capacity building for municipal staff and stakeholders.
6. **To enhance financial sustainability and cost recovery in waste management services** by establishing efficient revenue collection systems, user fees, and promoting public-private-people partnerships.
7. **To promote the use of data, technology, and digital systems in waste management** for improved planning, monitoring, reporting, and decision-making.
8. **To reduce environmental pollution and mitigate climate change impacts** associated with improper waste management through sustainable practices and adoption of environmentally friendly technologies.

9. **To enhance public awareness, participation, and behavior change in waste management** through education programs, community engagement, and stakeholder collaboration.

## **3.0 Legal and Institutional Framework**

### **3.1 Legal Framework**

This Policy is anchored in the existing national and county legal framework governing environmental management and solid waste management in Kenya.

Key legal instruments include:

- The Constitution of Kenya, 2010
- The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), 1999
- The Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022
- The Public Health Act
- The County Governments Act

Relevant subsidiary legislation includes:

- Environmental Management and Coordination (Waste Management) Regulations, 2024
- Sustainable Waste Management (Extended Producer Responsibility) Regulations, 2024
- Environmental Management and Coordination (Management and Control of Plastic Packaging Materials) Regulations, 2024

This Policy shall be implemented in accordance with these legal provisions and any other applicable laws and regulations.

### **3.2 Institutional Framework**

Solid waste management in Thika Municipality shall be implemented through a coordinated institutional structure involving national and county governments, municipal authorities, private sector actors, and communities.

### **3.2.1 County Government**

The County Government of Kiambu shall:

- Provide overall policy direction and oversight
- Allocate budgetary resources for solid waste management
- Develop and enforce county-level legislation and regulations
- Support infrastructure development and investment

### **3.2.2 Thika Municipal Board**

The Thika Municipal Board shall:

- Oversee implementation of this Policy at the municipal level
- Approve operational plans and budgets related to SWM
- Monitor performance of waste management services
- Facilitate stakeholder coordination

### **3.2.3 Environment Department**

The Environment Department shall be the lead technical unit responsible for solid waste management within the Municipality.

Its roles shall include:

- Planning and coordination of SWM activities
- Supervision of waste collection and transportation services
- Management of waste disposal facilities, including Kang'oki Dumpsite
- Enforcement of waste management regulations
- Data collection, monitoring, and reporting
- Public awareness and community engagement

### **3.2.4 Private Sector Service Providers**

Private waste collection and recycling service providers shall play a complementary role in service delivery.

The Municipality shall:

- Establish a licensing and registration framework for all service providers
- Define service zones and operational standards
- Require compliance with environmental and public health regulations
- Promote formalization and integration of private collectors into the municipal system
- Establish mechanisms for monitoring performance and service quality

### **3.2.5 Community and Informal Sector**

Communities, including residents, community-based organizations (CBOs), and youth groups, shall play an active role in solid waste management.

Their roles shall include:

- Waste segregation at source
- Participation in recycling and waste reduction initiatives
- Reporting illegal dumping and non-compliance
- Engagement in community clean-up activities

The Municipality shall promote inclusion of informal waste actors in the waste management value chain through structured and regulated engagement.

### **3.2.6 National Government and Agencies**

Relevant national government agencies shall provide regulatory oversight, policy guidance, and technical support, including:

- National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
- Ministry responsible for Environment and Forestry

## **3.3 Inter-Agency Coordination**

The Municipality shall establish coordination mechanisms to ensure effective collaboration among all stakeholders involved in solid waste management.

This shall include:

- Regular multi-stakeholder forums
- Information sharing systems

- Joint planning and review processes

## **4.0 Waste Segregation at Source**

### **4.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall promote and progressively enforce segregation of waste at source as a fundamental component of an integrated solid waste management system. Waste generators shall be required to separate waste into defined categories to facilitate efficient collection, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal.

### **4.2 Waste Categories**

For the purposes of this Policy, waste shall be segregated into the following categories:

- Organic (biodegradable) waste
- Recyclable waste (plastics, paper, glass, metals)
- Hazardous waste (including healthcare and chemical waste)
- Electronic waste (e-waste)
- Construction and demolition waste

The Municipality shall adopt and promote standardized color-coding systems in line with national guidelines.

### **4.3 Phased Implementation of Waste Segregation**

Waste segregation at source shall be implemented through a phased approach:

#### **Phase I: Awareness and Pilot Implementation**

- Conduct public education and sensitization campaigns
- Introduce segregation in selected pilot areas (e.g., CBD, institutions, markets)
- Support initial infrastructure provision (bins, liners, signage)

#### **Phase II: Expansion and System Strengthening**

- Scale up segregation across residential, commercial, and institutional areas
- Strengthen collection systems for segregated waste streams
- Integrate private collectors into segregated collection systems

### **Phase III: Enforcement and Compliance**

- Enforce mandatory segregation at source
- Introduce penalties for non-compliance
- Link service provision and fee structures to compliance levels

#### **4.4 Collection Systems for Segregated Waste**

The Municipality shall establish systems to ensure that segregated waste is collected, transported, and processed separately.

This shall include:

- Designated collection days or routes for different waste streams
- Provision of appropriate waste receptacles and infrastructure
- Integration of formal and informal actors in handling segregated waste

#### **4.5 Resource Recovery and Material Recovery Facilities**

The Municipality shall promote resource recovery through recycling, composting, and reuse.

Existing practices of informal waste sorting, particularly at Kang'oki Dumpsite, shall be progressively formalized and improved to enhance efficiency, safety, and environmental compliance.

The Municipality shall:

- Support the establishment and operation of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)
- Promote waste aggregation and sorting centers
- Encourage partnerships with private sector actors in recycling and processing

#### **4.6 Incentives for Compliance**

To encourage adoption of waste segregation, the Municipality shall introduce incentive mechanisms, including:

- Reduced waste collection fees for compliant households and businesses
- Support for waste buy-back or recycling initiatives (as systems develop)

- Recognition programs for compliant institutions and communities

## **4.7 Public Awareness and Behavior Change**

The Municipality shall implement continuous public education programs to promote:

- Waste reduction at source
- Segregation practices
- Recycling and reuse
- Responsible consumption

Targeted programs shall be implemented in schools, markets, residential areas, and institutions.

## **5.0 Waste Collection and Transportation**

### **5.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall establish an efficient, reliable, and coordinated solid waste collection and transportation system that ensures timely removal of waste, maximizes service coverage, and minimizes environmental and public health risks.

### **5.2 Waste Collection Systems**

Solid waste collection within Thika Municipality shall be undertaken through a combination of municipal and private sector service delivery models.

#### **5.2.1 Municipal Collection Services**

The Environment Department shall be responsible for:

- Curbside waste collection in designated areas
- Collection and management of skip bins, particularly in commercial zones and high-traffic areas
- Transportation of collected waste to designated disposal and processing sites, including Kang'oki Dumpsite

#### **5.2.2 Private Sector Collection Services**

Private waste collectors shall provide door-to-door waste collection services, particularly within residential areas.

The Municipality shall:

- Regulate and license private collectors
- Define service areas and operational standards
- Ensure alignment of private collection systems with municipal waste management objectives
- Promote integration of private collectors into formal waste management systems

### **5.3 Collection Frequency and Service Standards**

The Municipality shall establish minimum service standards for waste collection as follows:

- **High-density and commercial areas:** Daily collection
- **Low-density residential areas:** At least once per week
- **Private sector services:** Minimum of one to two collections per week, subject to regulation

The Municipality shall periodically review and adjust these standards based on population growth, waste generation trends, and service performance.

### **5.4 Waste Transportation**

The Municipality shall ensure that all collected waste is transported in a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound manner.

This shall include:

- Use of appropriate and well-maintained waste collection vehicles
- Prevention of waste spillage during transportation
- Optimization of transportation routes to reduce fuel consumption and operational costs
- Designation of approved transportation routes to disposal and processing facilities

### **5.5 Infrastructure and Equipment**

The Municipality shall invest in and maintain adequate infrastructure and equipment to support efficient waste collection and transportation.

This shall include:

- Waste collection trucks and support vehicles
- Skip bins and communal collection points
- Waste handling equipment and protective gear

Recognizing the current shortage of waste collection vehicles, the Municipality shall prioritize:

- Expansion and modernization of the municipal fleet
- Leasing or contracting of additional collection capacity where necessary
- Improved maintenance of existing equipment

## **5.6 Route Optimization and Operational Efficiency**

The Municipality shall adopt measures to improve operational efficiency in waste collection and transportation, including:

- Development of planned collection routes and service zones
- Use of digital systems for route planning and tracking
- Monitoring of collection performance and response times

These measures shall address current inefficiencies arising from limited fleet capacity and service delays.

## **5.7 Challenges and Service Improvement Measures**

The Municipality acknowledges existing challenges affecting waste collection and transportation, including:

- Inadequate number of waste collection vehicles
- Delays and missed collections in some areas
- Route inefficiencies

To address these challenges, the Municipality shall:

- Strengthen coordination between municipal and private collectors
- Enhance resource allocation and planning
- Promote public-private-people partnerships (PPPPs)
- Implement performance monitoring systems

## **5.8 Environmental and Public Health Considerations**

Waste collection and transportation shall be carried out in a manner that minimizes environmental pollution and public health risks.

The Municipality shall:

- Ensure timely collection to prevent accumulation of waste
- Reduce incidences of illegal dumping
- Prevent blockage of drainage systems caused by uncollected waste
- Promote clean and safe urban environments

## **6.0 Recycling and Resource Recovery**

### **6.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall promote waste minimization, recycling, and resource recovery as key components of an integrated solid waste management system, with the aim of reducing the volume of waste disposed of at final disposal sites and enhancing the circular economy.

### **6.2 Waste Reduction and Minimization**

The Municipality shall promote waste reduction at source through:

- Public education on responsible consumption practices
- Promotion of reuse of materials and products
- Encouragement of environmentally sustainable packaging
- Collaboration with producers under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks

### **6.3 Recycling and Material Recovery**

The Municipality shall promote the separation, collection, and processing of recyclable materials, including plastics, paper, glass, and metals.

This shall be achieved through:

- Strengthening segregation at source
- Supporting collection systems for recyclable waste

- Promoting partnerships with private sector actors involved in recycling
- Facilitating the development of recycling value chains

## **6.4 Organic Waste Management**

Recognizing that organic waste constitutes a significant proportion (over 60%) of the total waste generated within the Municipality, priority shall be given to its management.

The Municipality shall:

- Promote composting at household, institutional, and community levels
- Support decentralized composting initiatives in markets and residential areas
- Encourage private sector participation in organic waste processing
- Explore opportunities for production of compost and biogas

These measures shall significantly reduce the volume of waste transported to disposal sites and contribute to climate change mitigation.

## **6.5 Material Recovery Facilities and Waste Processing**

The Municipality shall support the establishment, operationalization, and optimization of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for sorting and processing of waste.

Existing facilities located near Kang'oki Dumpsite shall be assessed and strengthened to improve efficiency and compliance with environmental standards.

The Municipality shall:

- Facilitate development of additional waste sorting and aggregation centers
- Promote integration of informal waste pickers into formal recovery systems
- Ensure safe and regulated operations within recovery facilities

## **6.6 Informal Sector Integration**

The Municipality recognizes the role of informal waste actors in resource recovery.

To enhance efficiency and social inclusion, the Municipality shall:

- Support formalization of waste pickers and recyclers

- Facilitate their integration into Material Recovery Facilities and collection systems
- Promote safe working conditions and access to protective equipment
- Encourage formation of cooperatives or organized groups

## **6.7 Incentives for Recycling and Recovery**

The Municipality shall promote incentives to encourage recycling and resource recovery, including:

- Support for waste buy-back initiatives (as systems develop)
- Reduced disposal costs for segregated and recyclable waste
- Promotion of market linkages for recovered materials
- Recognition of institutions and communities practicing recycling

## **6.8 Development of a Circular Economy**

The Municipality shall promote a transition towards a circular economy by:

- Encouraging reuse, repair, and recycling of materials
- Supporting innovation in waste-based enterprises
- Promoting partnerships with private sector and development partners
- Integrating waste management into broader economic development planning

## **7.0 Waste Disposal and Landfill Management**

### **7.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall ensure that all waste disposal practices are environmentally sound, socially acceptable, and compliant with national regulations, with a long-term objective of transitioning from open dumping to controlled and sanitary landfill systems.

### **7.2 Current Disposal Practices**

Solid waste generated within Thika Municipality is primarily disposed of at Kang'oki Dumpsite, which currently operates as an open dumpsite.

The site faces several operational and environmental challenges, including:

- Occurrence of frequent waste fires

- Uncontrolled waste picking and scavenging activities
- Environmental and public health risks associated with unsanitary disposal practices

These challenges necessitate urgent and progressive improvements in waste disposal systems.

### **7.3 Upgrading of Disposal Facilities**

The Municipality shall prioritize the upgrading of existing disposal facilities to meet acceptable environmental standards.

This shall include:

- Transition from open dumping to controlled disposal systems
- Implementation of improved waste compaction and covering practices
- Controlled access and site management
- Installation of basic environmental protection measures

The Municipality shall support ongoing and future initiatives aimed at upgrading the disposal site, including adoption of appropriate technologies such as semi-aerobic landfill systems.

### **7.4 Adoption of Improved Landfill Technologies**

The Municipality shall promote the adoption of cost-effective and environmentally sound landfill technologies, including the semi-aerobic landfill approach (Fukuoka method), where feasible.

Such technologies shall aim to:

- Reduce environmental pollution
- Improve waste stabilization
- Minimize risks of uncontrolled fires
- Enhance overall site management

The Municipality shall collaborate with development partners and relevant agencies to support the design and implementation of such systems.

## **7.5 Environmental Safeguards**

The Municipality shall implement measures to mitigate environmental impacts associated with waste disposal, including:

- Control and management of landfill fires
- Monitoring and management of leachate and surface runoff (where applicable)
- Prevention of air, soil, and water pollution
- Establishment of buffer zones around disposal sites

## **7.6 Management of Waste Pickers and Site Safety**

Recognizing the presence of informal waste pickers at disposal sites, the Municipality shall:

- Promote safe and controlled access to disposal sites
- Facilitate integration of waste pickers into formal waste recovery systems
- Provide awareness on occupational health and safety
- Encourage alternative livelihood opportunities within the waste value chain

## **7.7 Waste Diversion from Disposal Sites**

The Municipality shall reduce reliance on disposal sites through:

- Promotion of waste segregation at source
- Expansion of recycling and composting initiatives
- Development of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)
- Reduction of organic waste transported to disposal sites

## **7.8 Long-Term Planning**

The Municipality shall undertake long-term planning for sustainable waste disposal, including:

- Progressive rehabilitation of existing dumpsite areas
- Assessment of future waste disposal needs
- Exploration of alternative waste treatment technologies

## **8.0 Financial Management and Funding**

### **8.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall establish a sustainable and efficient financial management framework for solid waste management that ensures adequate resource mobilization, cost recovery, and accountability in service delivery.

### **8.2 Financing Mechanisms**

The Municipality shall finance solid waste management services through a combination of revenue streams, including:

- Waste collection service fees charged to households, businesses, and institutions
- Licensing fees for private waste service providers
- Tipping fees charged at disposal facilities, including Kang'oki Dumpsite
- Allocations from the County Government budget
- Grants and funding from national programs, including the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP II)
- Support from development partners

### **8.3 Cost Recovery and Financial Sustainability**

The Municipality shall progressively strengthen cost recovery mechanisms to ensure long-term financial sustainability of solid waste management services.

This shall include:

- Regular review and adjustment of waste management tariffs
- Expansion of the revenue base through improved service coverage
- Linking service provision to payment compliance
- Enhancing efficiency in revenue collection systems

The Municipality shall ensure that cost recovery measures are implemented in a manner that is equitable and considers affordability for low-income households.

## **8.4 Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs)**

The Municipality shall promote Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs) as a key strategy for financing and delivering waste management services.

This shall include:

- Engagement of private sector actors in waste collection, recycling, and processing
- Collaboration with community groups and youth organizations
- Leveraging private investment in infrastructure and service delivery
- Structured contracting and performance-based agreements

## **8.5 Expenditure Management and Efficiency**

Recognizing the high operational costs associated with solid waste management, the Municipality shall implement measures to enhance efficiency in resource utilization.

This shall include:

- Optimization of waste collection routes and operations
- Investment in appropriate and cost-effective technologies
- Preventive maintenance of waste management equipment
- Reduction of inefficiencies associated with fleet shortages and service delays

## **8.6 Revenue Enhancement Measures**

The Municipality shall implement measures to improve revenue generation and collection efficiency, including:

- Strengthening enforcement of payment for waste services
- Improving compliance among waste generators and service providers
- Digitization of billing and revenue collection systems
- Introduction of incentives and penalties to encourage timely payments

## **8.7 Financial Planning and Budgeting**

The Municipality shall establish structured financial planning and budgeting processes for solid waste management.

This shall include:

- Preparation of annual SWM budgets aligned with municipal priorities
- Integration of SWM financing into broader municipal planning frameworks
- Monitoring and reporting on financial performance
- Periodic financial reviews to inform policy adjustments

## **8.8 Resource Mobilization**

The Municipality shall actively pursue additional sources of funding to support solid waste management, including:

- National government programs and conditional grants
- Development partner support (e.g., infrastructure and technical assistance)
- Climate financing opportunities linked to waste reduction and methane mitigation
- Innovative financing mechanisms where applicable

## **9.0 Education, Public Awareness and Community Participation**

### **9.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall promote public awareness, education, and active community participation as essential components of effective and sustainable solid waste management.

The Policy shall prioritize behavior change and voluntary compliance, supported by targeted enforcement measures where necessary.

### **9.2 Public Education and Awareness Programs**

The Municipality shall design and implement continuous public education and awareness programs aimed at promoting responsible waste management practices.

These programs shall focus on:

- Waste reduction at source
- Segregation of waste at source
- Recycling and reuse practices
- Proper waste disposal

- Payment for waste management services

Awareness initiatives shall utilize multiple channels, including community meetings, media platforms, schools, and digital communication tools.

### **9.3 Community Participation**

The Municipality shall promote active involvement of communities in solid waste management through:

- Participation in waste segregation and recycling initiatives
- Reporting of illegal dumping and non-compliance
- Engagement in clean-up activities
- Collaboration with community-based organizations (CBOs) and resident associations

### **9.4 Clean-Up Programs**

The Municipality shall support and strengthen organized clean-up initiatives as part of community engagement.

In particular:

- Monthly clean-up exercises conducted on the last Saturday of each month shall be sustained and enhanced
- Participation of residents, businesses, and institutions shall be encouraged
- Clean-up activities shall be linked to awareness campaigns and behavior change messaging

### **9.5 Incentives for Behavior Change**

The Municipality shall promote incentive-based approaches to encourage positive waste management practices.

This shall include:

- Recognition and award programs for compliant communities, institutions, and businesses
- Reduced waste collection fees for households and entities practicing segregation

- Support for community-led recycling and environmental initiatives

## **9.6 Enforcement Measures**

While prioritizing voluntary compliance, the Municipality shall implement enforcement measures to address non-compliance.

This shall include:

- Penalties for illegal dumping
- Enforcement of waste segregation requirements (as phased in)
- Action against non-compliant waste service providers

Enforcement shall be applied in a fair, transparent, and consistent manner.

## **9.7 Stakeholder Engagement**

The Municipality shall promote collaboration with key stakeholders, including:

- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Youth and women groups
- Private sector actors
- Educational institutions
- Civil society organizations

These partnerships shall support awareness creation, service delivery, and innovation in solid waste management.

## **9.8 Behavior Change Communication**

The Municipality shall develop targeted behavior change communication strategies to influence attitudes and practices related to waste management.

These strategies shall:

- Address cultural and social factors influencing waste behavior
- Promote long-term mindset shifts toward environmental responsibility
- Utilize local champions and influencers to drive change

## **10.0 Monitoring and Reporting**

### **10.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall establish a robust monitoring and reporting framework to ensure effective implementation, accountability, and continuous improvement of solid waste management services.

This framework shall support evidence-based decision-making, enhance service delivery, and enable transparent reporting to stakeholders, including residents, municipal authorities, and national agencies.

### **10.2 Monitoring System**

The Municipality shall implement a comprehensive monitoring system that integrates both **digital tracking** and **geospatial mapping (GIS)** to capture real-time information on solid waste management operations.

The monitoring system shall track:

- Waste volumes collected by zone and type
- Collection coverage and frequency
- Revenue collection and fee compliance
- Operational efficiency of collection fleets (truck utilization, route completion)
- Recycling and diversion rates
- Occurrences and clearance of illegal dumpsites

The system shall include inputs from both municipal services and licensed private collectors to ensure complete and accurate data.

### **10.3 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

The Municipality shall adopt performance indicators to evaluate effectiveness of SWM services, including but not limited to:

- **Collection coverage (%)** – proportion of households, institutions, and businesses served
- **Waste recovery and recycling rates (%)**

- **Frequency of collection by zone**
- **Number of illegal dumpsites identified, reported, and cleared**
- **Operational efficiency** – average route completion, fuel consumption, and truck utilization
- **Revenue performance** – percentage of expected fees collected

KPIs shall be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changes in population, service expansion, and emerging waste management challenges.

## 10.4 GIS Integration

The Municipality shall integrate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into the monitoring framework to:

- Map collection routes and service zones
- Identify illegal dumpsites and track their clearance
- Monitor performance of municipal and private service providers
- Plan and optimize future collection infrastructure

GIS data shall support both operational decision-making and public transparency.

## 10.5 Reporting Framework

The Municipality shall implement structured reporting mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability:

- **Monthly operational reports** – internal performance review and immediate corrective actions
- **Quarterly stakeholder reports** – shared with community representatives, private service providers, and other stakeholders
- **Annual consolidated reports** – submitted to county authorities, national agencies, and development partners (e.g., KUSP)

Reports shall include performance against KPIs, financial summaries, environmental compliance, and progress in behavior change programs.

## **10.6 Data-Driven Decision Making**

The Municipality shall leverage monitoring and reporting data to:

- Optimize collection routes and resource allocation
- Identify and address service gaps or inefficiencies
- Inform policy adjustments, enforcement actions, and public awareness programs
- Guide investment and funding priorities

## **10.7 Continuous Improvement**

Monitoring and reporting shall be linked to continuous improvement processes by:

- Periodically reviewing operational and financial performance
- Incorporating feedback from residents, service providers, and other stakeholders
- Updating performance targets and KPIs to reflect evolving needs and best practices

## **10.8 Compliance and Accountability**

All municipal and licensed private collectors shall be required to provide timely and accurate data to the Municipality.

Non-compliance with reporting requirements shall be addressed through:

- Corrective guidance and training
- Performance-linked penalties or contractual action

This ensures accountability, transparency, and alignment with policy objectives.

## **11.0 Capacity Building and Human Resources**

### **11.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall invest in the development of human resources, institutional capacity, and technical skills required for effective and sustainable solid waste management.

This shall ensure that personnel at all levels—municipal staff, private collectors, community-based actors, and youth/women groups—are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and tools to deliver efficient, safe, and environmentally sound waste management services.

## 11.2 Institutional Capacity

The Municipality shall strengthen institutional structures to support SWM operations by:

- Establishing and adequately staffing dedicated solid waste management units within the Environment Department
- Defining clear roles and responsibilities for municipal staff, private sector partners, and community actors
- Promoting coordination and collaboration between municipal authorities, neighboring counties, and national agencies for large-scale investments (e.g., landfill upgrades, MRFs)
- Integrating data management, planning, and operational oversight into the municipal SWM structure

## 11.3 Training and Skills Development

The Municipality shall ensure continuous training and skills development for all actors involved in SWM:

- **Municipal staff:** Training in waste collection planning, data management, monitoring, recycling, and environmental compliance
- **Private collectors and contractors:** Capacity building on safe handling, segregation, and reporting requirements
- **Community-based organizations, youth, and women groups:** Training in waste collection, recycling, composting, and community mobilization

Training programs shall leverage partnerships with:

- Local universities and technical institutions (TVETs) for applied research and skill development
- Development partners and NGOs with SWM expertise
- Industry experts to introduce innovative technologies and best practices

## 11.4 Health, Safety, and Welfare

The Municipality shall ensure safe and healthy working conditions for all SWM personnel:

- Provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) for municipal and private staff, as well as community actors engaged in waste management
- Implementation of occupational health and safety standards and protocols
- Periodic health screening and awareness programs
- Promotion of safe waste handling practices to minimize risks of injuries, infections, or exposure to hazardous materials

## **11.5 Inclusion and Social Development**

The Municipality shall promote social inclusion and livelihood opportunities in SWM by:

- Encouraging participation of women and youth in all aspects of waste management, including collection, recycling, composting, and MRF operations
- Supporting formation of cooperatives or organized groups to enhance economic opportunities
- Linking skills development to income-generation and entrepreneurship initiatives
- Promoting gender equity and youth empowerment in municipal decision-making structures

## **11.6 Partnerships for Capacity Enhancement**

The Municipality shall foster partnerships to strengthen capacity in SWM:

- Collaboration with universities, research institutions, and technical colleges for applied research and training programs
- Engagement with private sector and NGOs to deliver specialized training, technology transfer, and mentorship
- Networking with national and international agencies to access expertise, funding, and innovative solutions

## **11.7 Continuous Improvement and Knowledge Management**

The Municipality shall institutionalize mechanisms for continuous learning:

- Regular assessment of skills and capacity gaps
- Updating training programs to reflect emerging technologies, regulations, and best practices

- Documentation of lessons learned, innovations, and operational experiences to inform policy and operational adjustments

## **12.0 Environmental and Health Impact**

### **12.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall ensure that solid waste management practices minimize adverse impacts on the environment and public health.

This Policy shall integrate environmentally sustainable technologies, risk mitigation measures, and public health safeguards throughout the waste management value chain—from generation, collection, transport, recycling, and disposal.

### **12.2 Environmental Protection**

The Municipality shall implement measures to reduce the environmental impacts of solid waste:

- Prevention of air, water, and soil pollution from unmanaged waste
- Management of leachate and runoff from disposal sites, including Kang'oki Dumpsite
- Adoption of environmentally friendly waste treatment technologies, including composting, recycling, and biogas production
- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded waste disposal sites
- Promotion of tree planting and green buffers around disposal and processing facilities

### **12.3 Public Health Safeguards**

The Municipality shall protect public health by:

- Ensuring timely waste collection to prevent accumulation and vector breeding (mosquitoes, rodents, flies)
- Reducing exposure to hazardous, biomedical, and e-waste materials
- Enforcing safe handling, segregation, and disposal protocols
- Educating communities on health risks related to improper waste disposal and unsanitary practices
- Addressing risks from open dumpsite fires, scavenging, and odor nuisance

## **12.4 Climate Change Mitigation**

The Municipality shall integrate climate considerations into SWM practices:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from uncontrolled decomposition of organic waste at disposal sites
- Promoting diversion of organic waste for composting or biogas production
- Supporting low-carbon technologies in waste collection, transport, and processing
- Enhancing municipal resilience to climate-related risks such as flooding and drainage blockages

## **12.5 Risk Management**

The Municipality shall adopt a proactive approach to managing environmental and health risks:

- Regular monitoring of waste-related pollution and hazards
- Identification and mapping of high-risk areas (illegal dumpsites, flood-prone zones)
- Development of emergency response protocols for fires, hazardous waste spills, or disease outbreaks linked to waste
- Collaboration with public health authorities, environmental agencies, and emergency services

## **12.6 Integration with Other Policy Measures**

Environmental and health safeguards shall be integrated with:

- Waste segregation and recycling initiatives (Chapters 4 & 6)
- Waste collection and transportation efficiency (Chapter 5)
- Capacity building and training (Chapter 11)
- Monitoring and reporting systems (Chapter 10)

This ensures a holistic, risk-informed approach to solid waste management across the municipality.

## **12.7 Community Engagement**

The Municipality shall actively involve communities in environmental and health protection by:

- Educating residents on environmental impacts and health risks of poor waste management
- Encouraging community reporting of illegal dumping and unsanitary practices
- Supporting local initiatives that reduce waste and promote environmental stewardship

## **13:0 Public-Private-People Partnerships (Pppps)**

### **13.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall promote Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs) as a strategic mechanism to enhance efficiency, innovation, and sustainability in solid waste management.

Such partnerships shall facilitate collaboration among municipal authorities, private service providers, community groups, and other stakeholders, ensuring quality service delivery while maintaining environmental compliance and social inclusion.

### **13.2 Objectives of PPPPs**

The PPPP framework shall aim to:

- Enhance operational efficiency in waste collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal
- Encourage private sector investment in infrastructure and service provision
- Promote community participation and social responsibility
- Foster innovation in waste management technologies and processes
- Ensure transparency, accountability, and equitable service delivery

### **13.3 Roles and Responsibilities**

The Municipality shall define clear roles for all stakeholders:

- **Municipal Authorities:** Policy oversight, licensing, monitoring, enforcement, and support for capacity building
- **Private Sector:** Service provision, investment in collection/recycling infrastructure, compliance with operational standards
- **Community/People Groups:** Participation in awareness campaigns, waste segregation, reporting of illegal dumpsites, and informal recycling integration

### **13.4 Framework for Engagement**

The Municipality shall establish transparent mechanisms for PPPP engagement:

- Competitive bidding and contract management processes for outsourcing of SWM services
- Service-level agreements defining performance standards, reporting requirements, and compliance measures
- Incentives for private and community actors that achieve environmental and operational targets
- Periodic review of partnership performance to inform policy updates

### **13.5 Inclusion and Social Development**

PPPPs shall support social inclusion by:

- Integrating youth and women groups into collection, recycling, and resource recovery initiatives
- Supporting cooperative models for informal waste pickers and recyclers
- Promoting local entrepreneurship and income-generation opportunities within the SWM value chain

### **13.6 Innovation and Technology**

The Municipality shall encourage PPPPs to adopt innovative solutions:

- Advanced waste processing technologies (MRFs, composting, biogas)
- Digital tracking, GIS mapping, and monitoring systems
- Environmentally sustainable collection and disposal methods

### **13.7 Accountability and Oversight**

The Municipality shall maintain oversight of PPPPs to ensure:

- Compliance with environmental and safety standards
- Transparent reporting and financial management
- Performance evaluation linked to incentives and corrective actions

## **13.8 Continuous Improvement**

PPPPs shall be periodically evaluated to:

- Identify gaps and opportunities for operational efficiency
- Introduce innovative service delivery models
- Strengthen partnerships with development partners, national agencies, and local communities

## **14.0 Research and Innovation**

### **14.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality shall promote research, innovation, and the adoption of new technologies in solid waste management to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and value creation.

This Policy recognizes that continuous improvement, knowledge generation, and innovation are critical for achieving a modern, resilient, and circular SWM system.

### **14.2 Objectives**

The objectives of the research and innovation framework are to:

- Identify innovative solutions for waste collection, segregation, recycling, and disposal
- Improve operational efficiency and reduce environmental impacts
- Enhance the Municipality's capacity to adopt and implement emerging SWM technologies
- Promote local entrepreneurship and private sector innovation in waste management

### **14.3 Research and Development**

The Municipality shall:

- Collaborate with universities, technical institutions (TVETs), and research organizations to conduct applied research in SWM
- Support studies on waste composition, recycling potential, and organic waste utilization
- Promote assessment of environmental and health impacts of SWM practices
- Facilitate piloting of new technologies and operational models within the municipality

## 14.4 Innovation and Technology Adoption

The Municipality shall:

- Encourage development and deployment of innovative technologies such as:
  - Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)
  - Composting and biogas systems
  - Smart collection, routing, and monitoring technologies (digital/GIS-based)
  - Waste-to-energy solutions where feasible
- Support partnerships with private sector actors and development partners to introduce these technologies
- Evaluate cost-effectiveness, scalability, and environmental sustainability before full-scale adoption

## 14.5 Partnerships for Innovation

The Municipality shall foster partnerships to drive innovation in SWM:

- **Local institutions:** TVETs, universities, and research centers for applied research and capacity building
- **Private sector:** Technology providers and service innovators for pilot projects and infrastructure investment
- **International partners:** Introduction of advanced technologies and exchange of best practices

## 14.6 Continuous Improvement

The Municipality shall institutionalize mechanisms for learning and adaptation:

- Periodic assessment of operational practices and technology effectiveness
- Incorporation of lessons learned into policy updates and planning
- Encouragement of pilot projects, innovation hubs, and community-driven solutions

## 14.7 Knowledge Sharing

The Municipality shall promote dissemination of research findings and innovative practices:

- Sharing results with municipal staff, private operators, community groups, and stakeholders
- Publication of studies and reports to guide decision-making
- Integration of findings into training and public awareness programs

## **15.0 Conclusion**

### **15.1 Policy Statement**

The Municipality of Thika reaffirms its commitment to establishing a sustainable, efficient, and inclusive solid waste management system that protects public health, safeguards the environment, and enhances the quality of urban life.

This Policy provides a comprehensive framework for planning, implementing, and monitoring all aspects of solid waste management, in alignment with national legislation, Vision 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase 2 (KUSP2).

### **15.2 Key Commitments**

The Municipality shall:

- Ensure effective waste segregation, collection, recycling, and disposal through municipal, private, and community collaboration
- Promote environmental protection, public health, and climate resilience through sustainable waste management practices
- Strengthen institutional and human capacity for SWM, including training, inclusion of women and youth, and safety measures
- Utilize technology, research, and innovation to improve operational efficiency and service delivery
- Mobilize financial resources, enforce compliance, and maintain transparency and accountability in all SWM operations
- Engage communities through awareness, behavior change initiatives, clean-up programs, and participatory governance

### 15.3 Call to Action

The successful implementation of this Policy requires active participation from:

- Municipal authorities, for planning, oversight, and enforcement
- Private sector operators, for efficient service provision and investment
- Community groups, youth, and women, for participation, reporting, and behavior change
- Development partners and national agencies, for technical and financial support

### 15.4 Policy Review

To remain responsive to evolving urban challenges, technological advancements, and emerging waste management practices, this Policy shall be reviewed every **3–5 years**.

Reviews shall consider:

- Performance of municipal and private operators
- Emerging environmental and public health risks
- Advances in technology, recycling, and resource recovery
- Feedback from communities, stakeholders, and development partners

### 15.5 Closing Statement

This Policy provides a blueprint for achieving **sustainable solid waste management in Thika Municipality**, fostering a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient urban environment.

The Municipality calls upon all stakeholders—government, private sector, communities, and citizens—to actively support and adhere to this Policy in the pursuit of a **clean, safe, and sustainable Thika**.