



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI



MUNICIPALITY OF NYERI

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY



February, 2026

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI
MUNICIPAL MANAGER
MUNICIPALITY OF NYERI
P.O. Box 1112-10100, NYERI.

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ACRONYMS

EMCA :	Environmental Management and Coordination Act CAP 387
EIA :	Environmental Impact Assessment
NLC :	National Land Commission
CBD :	Central Business District
RFP :	Request for Proposal
3Rs :	Reduce, Recycle, Reuse
7Rs :	Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Repurpose, Reuse, Recycle, Rot
ISWM :	Integrated Solid Waste Management
EOI :	Expressions of Interest
UNEP :	United Nation Environmental Programme
UN :	United Nations
CSO :	Civil Society Organizations
NGOs :	Non-Governmental Organizations
CSR :	Corporate Social Responsibility
GIS :	Geographic Information System
PPP :	Public Private Partnership
MEAL:	Monitoring and Evaluation Accountability Learning

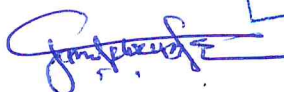
FOREWORD

Solid waste management stands as one of the most critical development imperatives facing municipalities within Kenya, and Nyeri Municipality is no exception. As our urban areas experience rapid expansion, coupled with growing economic activity and population increases, the quantities of waste generated continue to surge exponentially. The challenge of managing this waste sustainably has profound implications that extend far beyond mere sanitation concerns it profoundly impacts public health, environmental integrity, economic productivity, and the quality of life of our residents.

The genesis of solid waste is an inevitable consequence of human civilization and economic advancement. From the ordinary yet persistent byproducts of household consumption to the substantial residues of industrial production, agricultural operations, commercial transactions, and construction endeavors, waste generation pervades every segment of our municipal community. Yet herein lies both our challenge and our opportunity: the way we manage this waste determines not only the immediate environmental quality of our neighborhoods but also the trajectory of public health outcomes, the preservation of our natural heritage, and the economic vitality of our municipality.

The formulation of this comprehensive Solid Waste Management Policy represents a deliberate and strategic commitment by the Nyeri Municipal Board to establish a coherent, accountable governance framework that transcends ad hoc responses to waste accumulation. This policy is anchored in consultative engagement with a broad spectrum of stakeholders from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), community-based organizations, private waste management enterprises and residents of our wards. This inclusive approach ensures that the measures outlined herein reflect the nuanced understanding of local conditions, the aspirations of our people, and the imperatives of National and global commitments to environmental sustainability.

Our policy embodies a paradigm shift from viewing waste as merely refuse to be discarded toward conceptualizing it as a resource to be strategically managed, recovered, and transformed. Through the integration of the three Rs; reduce, reuse, and recycle, we aspire to foster a circular economy mindset that minimizes waste at source, maximizes



resource recovery, and generates economic opportunities for our informal sector workers, youth groups, and community enterprises.

The policy framework encompasses integrated solid waste management principles spanning prevention, segregation at source, efficient collection and transportation, environmentally sound treatment and disposal, and the essential dimension of financing mechanisms that render services both sustainable and equitable. We recognize that effective solid waste management demands coordinated action across multiple functional elements, institutional mandates, and stakeholder responsibilities. The Nyeri Municipal Board commits to providing the legislative, administrative, and financial scaffolding necessary to translate these policy aspirations into tangible outcomes.

This policy is positioned within the broader context of constitutional imperatives enshrined in our national governance architecture. Article 42 of the Constitution guarantees every Kenyan the inalienable right to a clean and healthy environment, while Article 43 mandates access to the highest attainable standard of health and reasonable sanitation standards. These constitutional provisions are not merely aspirational declarations but binding obligations that demand our decisive action and unwavering commitment.

As we confront the pressing reality that projected waste volumes may increase by 2030, this policy provides the strategic roadmap for anticipating and managing this escalation through institutional strengthening, infrastructure development, resource mobilization, and behavioral transformation. The implementation of this policy will necessitate sustained investment in collecting vehicles and transfer infrastructure, capacity development of our workforce, formulation of supportive legislation and cultivation of public participation and environmental consciousness among our residents.

We acknowledge the complexity inherent in this undertaking and the necessity for adaptive management informed by monitoring, evaluation and continued learning. This policy shall serve as a living document, subject to periodic review and refinement as we accumulate implementation experience and respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The Nyeri Municipal Board extends its gratitude to all stakeholders whose contributions have enriched the policy development process. We call upon every resident, business

enterprise, civil society organization and development partner to embrace the principles and measures outlined herein, recognizing that sustainable solid waste management is a collective responsibility that cannot be delegated to government alone.

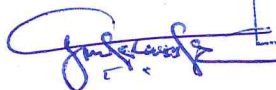
It is with considerable resolve and measured optimism that we present this policy as the foundation upon which the Municipality of Nyeri shall construct a more sustainable, healthier, and economically vibrant future for all our communities.

Jeremiah.W. Ichaura

Chairman, Nyeri Municipal Board

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The successful development and formulation of the Nyeri Municipality Solid Waste Management Policy would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts, expertise, and collaborative spirit of numerous individuals and organizations who generously contributed their time, knowledge, and resources to this important initiative.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the County Executive and all County Executive Committee Members whose strategic guidance and political commitment have been instrumental in creating an enabling environment for comprehensive waste management policy development.

I acknowledge the invaluable guidance and strategic direction provided by the Chairman and Members of the Nyeri Municipal Board, whose leadership has ensured that this policy remains aligned with our municipal vision and responsive to the real-world challenges confronting our communities. Their oversight has been crucial in maintaining the coherence and applicability of the policy throughout the consultative and drafting phases.

The successful completion of this policy document reflects the dedicated engagement of National government institutions, particularly the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), whose technical expertise and regulatory frameworks have informed the policy's alignment with environmental standards and conservation imperatives. The collaboration with County Government departments encompassing public health, public works, trade, water, climate change and environment has ensured that this policy integrates seamlessly with broader county-level governance structures and development initiatives.

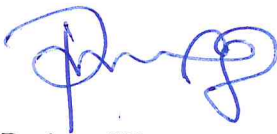
I extend particular recognition to the private sector stakeholders, who generously contributed their operational insights and perspectives. Their ground-level experience has enriched the policy with practical wisdom and feasibility considerations that render it implementable within the realities of our municipal context.

The participation of civil society organizations, community-based groups and youth associations has ensured that voices from the margins of our communities are prominently featured in this policy framework.

We also acknowledge the financial and logistical support provided by development partners and the County Government of Nyeri, which enabled the conduct of stakeholder consultations and policy documentation processes.

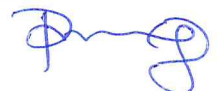
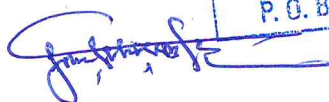
This policy acknowledges the constitutional framework that mandates equitable access to environmental protection and sustainable resource management. The integration of National strategic frameworks demonstrates our commitment to positioning Nyeri Municipality within the broader trajectory of National environmental stewardship while maintaining our focus on local priorities and municipal capacity.

Finally, this policy is dedicated to all residents of Nyeri Municipality who deserve a clean, healthy, and sustainable living environment. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the vision articulated in this policy of a municipality where solid waste is managed sustainably, where public health is protected, and where environmental degradation is reversed becomes a lived reality.



Perister Kigwa

Municipal Manager, Municipality of Nyeri



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Solid waste management remains one of the development challenges globally, nationally, Countywide and at the municipality level. Solid waste is inevitable due to ordinary human activities such as industrial production, consumption at household level, construction and commercial processes among others. However, managing solid waste has health, environmental, social and economic implications. Consequently, public interventions in solid waste management coupled with engagement with private actors are required in order to achieve optimal results.

To comprehensively address solid waste management, a framework setting the policy direction to be pursued by the Municipal board, County Government and other stakeholders is essential. The policy provides the guided framework for solid waste management in the municipality. The policy shall guide the municipality solid waste management actors providing effective, efficient and sustainable services while utilizing solid waste as an economic resource

The Solid waste management policy consists of six chapters as follows.

Chapter one gives the background information on solid waste management, challenges and what the policy aims to achieve. It also gives the policy development process, geographical location and size, administrative structure, demographic context, social and economic context.

Chapter two discusses the situational analysis of waste production, most common forms of solid waste generated in the municipality is the organic waste which is mainly generated at household level and agricultural produce/food markets, hotels and restaurants. Inorganic waste such as e-waste, glass bottles, plastics, construction waste and junk are also produced but in low quantities. Public and private health facilities generate biomedical waste.

These chapters also outline the solid waste management conceptual framework, waste streams and sources, functional elements of solid waste management system, integrated solid waste management and policy principles.

Chapter three highlights the policy and legislative framework for municipal solid waste management. It also highlights the laws and policies that relate to solid waste management at County level. These consists of Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and various Statutes, Sessional papers and Sectoral plans. These includes; Environment Management & Coordination Act (cap 387), National Environment Policy, 2013, Kenya vision 2030, National Solid Waste Management Strategy, 2015, Global Policy related to Solid Waste Management, County Government Act, 2012, Public Finance Management Act, (Cap 412c), Urban Areas & Cities Act, 2011, Physical Planning Act No.6 of 1996 and Legal Notice No.137 on Transfer of functions to County Government, 2013.

Chapter four describes the policy framework consisting of the core policy measures to be pursued. In addition, the chapter lay out the policy rationale, goal, objectives, vision, mission and guiding principles.

Chapter five illustrates how the policy will be designed to provide feedback to stakeholders to ensure accountability, transparency, facilitate appropriate decisions on future implementation and review of the policy to ensure that the input delivery, work schedules and target outputs are progressing according to the plan.

The chapter outlines the implementation framework to be followed in implementing Municipal Integrated Development Plan, these includes Institutions responsible for the actualization of the plan, resource requirement and mobilization



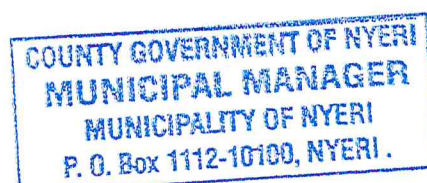
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. Nyeri", written over a horizontal line.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Solid waste management remains one of the major development challenges globally, nationally, countywide and at the municipality level. Solid waste is inevitable due to ordinary human activities such as industrial production, consumption at household level, construction and commercial processes among others. However, managing solid waste has health, environmental, social and economic implications. Consequently, public interventions in solid waste management coupled with engagement with private actors are required in order to achieve optimal results.

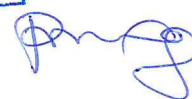
This policy provides for the guiding framework on solid waste management in the Municipality of Nyeri. The policy shall guide the municipality solid waste management actors providing effective, efficient and sustainable services while utilizing solid waste as an economic resource.

1.2. Policy development process

This policy was developed through a consultative process. The key policy actors in solid waste management in the municipality were engaged during the preparation process. Specifically, National and County governments departments involved in solid waste management, which included National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), County departments in charge of public health, public works and trade were consulted. In addition, private actors in solid waste management such as solid waste collectors and transporters, resident associations, waste sorters and recyclers participated in the process.

1.3. Geographic location and size

Nyeri municipality is located in the central highlands of Kenya, about 160 km North of Nairobi. It lies between the eastern base of Aberdare Ranges and the western slopes of Mt Kenya. It is between 00°17.36'S to 0028.21'S and 36°50.62'E to 37°05.7'E at an altitude between 1600 and 1900 meters above sea level. The highest point is Nyeri Hill, and the lowest point is Marua Trading Center. It covers an area of 170.2sq.km that includes the Chaka sublocation and the five municipality wards, namely, Kiganjo/Mathari, Kamakwa/Mukaro, Rware, Ruring'u, and Gatitu/Muruguru.



1.4. Administrative structure

The National Government is represented in the Municipality of Nyeri through ministries and state corporations. Most national government ministries' offices are established in the Municipality of Nyeri. In addition, several parastatals and service departments have offices in the municipality.

The Municipality hosts the headquarters of the County Government of Nyeri. The County Government comprises the County Executive and the County Assembly both of which have offices within the Municipality. The executive arm comprises various County Executive Committee Members (CECM) who head different county departments, and the chief officers manage the day-to-day administrative affairs of each department. The County Government has Ten (10) departments, all of which have offices within the Municipality.

The Municipality consists of five wards namely: Rware, Kiganjo/Mathari, Gatitu/Muruguru, Ruring'u and Kamakwa/Mukaro each ward is represented by a member of the County Assembly and Chaka Sub-location.

1.5 Demographic context

Urban Population

Nyeri town has the highest population among the urban areas in the county. The Nyeri Municipality is comprised of the Nyeri Town and its environs cutting across five whole wards and Chaka sublocation in Thigu River ward. There is need for proper planning of the urban centers and enhancement of service delivery especially solid waste management, provision of water and sewer services.

To curb the concentration of development in Nyeri Town, effort should be directed towards establishment of farm produce processing plants and cottage industries in other urban centers. This would ease population pressure arising from migration to the Municipality.

Population Projections

Table 1: Municipality Population Projection by Area and Sex (2024-2029)

Ward/Area	2024			2026			2029		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Kiganjo/ Mathari	15,091	14,008	29,114	15,354	14,327	29,700	15,749	14,794	30,543
Rware	15,286	14,170	29,471	15,552	14,492	30,064	15,953	14,964	30,917
Gatitu/ Muruguru	14,590	16,067	30,651	14,844	16,433	31,269	15,226	16,969	32,195
Ruringú	13,969	15,674	29,636	14,212	16,031	30,233	14,578	16,553	31,131
Kamakwa/ Mukaro	18,228	18,928	37,157	18,545	19,359	37,905	19,023	19,989	39,012
Chaka Sublocation	2,386	2,367	4,755	2,427	2,421	4,851	2,490	2,500	4,990
TOTAL	79,551	81,215	160,784	80,935	83,064	164,022	83,018	85,769	168,818

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2019.

The population of the Municipality is projected to rise from 160,784 in 2024 to 168,818 in 2029, indicating moderate growth over the five years. Areas like Kamakwa/Mukaro and Gatitu/Muruguru are likely to experience more pressure on services and infrastructure due to their relatively higher population growth. In contrast, areas like Chaka Sublocation may see more manageable growth levels.

Table 2: Municipality Population Density Projection by Area (2024-2029)

Ward/ Area	2024			2026			2029		
	Pop	Size (per Km ²)	Density (per Km ²)	pop	Size	Density (per Km ²)	Pop	Size	Density (per Km ²)
Kiganjo/ Mathari	29,114	76.5	381	29,700	76.5	388	30,569	76.5	400
Rware	29,471	7.5	3,929	30,064	7.5	4,009	30,943	7.5	4,126

Gatitu/ Muruguru	30,651	44.1	695	31,269	44.1	709	32,183	44.1	730
Ruringú	29,636	14.5	2,044	30,233	14.5	2,085	31,117	14.5	2,146
Kamakwa/ Mukaro	37,157	25.1	1,480	37,905	25.1	1,510	39,013	25.1	1,554
Chaka Sub location	4,755	3	1,486	4,851	3	1,516	4,993	3	1,560
	160,784	171	941	164,022	171	960	168,818	171	988

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2019

As indicated in Table 4 above, The total population of the municipality is projected to grow from 160,784 in 2024 to 168,818 in 2029. With a total area of 171 km², the overall population density increases from 941 people per km² in 2024 to 960 in 2026, reaching 988 by 2029.

This trend indicates that the municipality is experiencing a gradual increase in population and density. Some areas, like Rware and Ruringú, are already quite dense, suggesting potential challenges related to congestion, infrastructure, and service delivery. Less densely populated areas like Kiganjo/Mathari and Gatitu/Muruguru may still have room for expansion and development, offering opportunities for urban planning to manage growth effectively

Population of Persons Living with Disabilities

Table 3: People living with disabilities by type, sex and age in Nyeri Municipality.

Type of Disability	Male	Female	Total
Visual	278	537	815
Hearing	138	180	318
Mobility	451	761	1,212
Cognition	263	348	611
Self-Care	216	262	478
Communication	188	149	337
	1,534	2,237	3,771

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2019

1.6. Social and economic context

1.6.1. Social context

Pockets of Poverty

Nyeri County has an overall individual poverty head count rate of 26.4% and a food poverty rate of 17.5%. The occurrence of hardcore poverty in the County is 0.5%, which is relatively low compared to the national incidence of 5.7%. The areas most affected in the municipality are the informal settlements such as Majengo, Kiawara, and Witemere.

b) Education

In terms of education, a total of 34% of County residents have secondary level education. A total of 54% of County residents have primary level education. The level of education has implications to the level of uptake of the solid waste management policy measures such as information, adoption of modern solid waste management practices and investment in solid waste management.

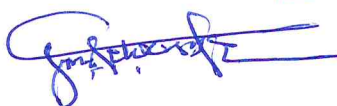
1.6.2. Economic context

The main forms of economic activities (industrial and trade) in the municipality are trade, manufacturing, tea farming, coffee farming, dairy farming, agriculture, tourism, healthcare and financial services. The economic activities that have high generation of solid waste in the municipality are trading and industrial.

1.6.3. Urbanization

The main urban areas in the County are Municipality of Nyeri, Othaya, Karatina, Narumoru, Chaka, Mukurweini and Mweiga town. The rising urbanization in the municipality results in an increase in the quantities of solid waste produced.

This has resulted in increase in demand for solid waste management services. Consequently, the municipality must strategically plan for the development of sustainable solid waste management.



CHAPTER TWO

2.0 CURRENT SITUATION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NYERI MUNICIPALITY

2.1 WASTE GENERATION IN NYERI MUNICIPALITY.

Waste generation in Nyeri municipality is mostly from the urban areas. Nyeri Central Business District, Majengo, Kamakwa, Ngangarithi, Ruringu, Gatitu, King'ong'o, Mathari, Chaka, Kiganjo, Kirichu and major residential estates generate most of the solid waste due to high population density. Nyeri municipality majors in agriculture; most of the waste in rural areas is used as compost manure. The waste in urban set up is collected and mixed up at the disposal areas without sorting. However, below is a breakdown of the major categories of solid waste generators: -

1. Retail Agri- markets
2. Hotels and restaurants
3. Wholesale and retail outlets
4. Manufacturing
5. Financial, educational institutions
6. Other offices
7. Construction waste
8. Street waste
9. Households

Waste Streams

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▪ Food, kitchen and garden waste | ▪ Scrap metals |
| ▪ Agricultural waste | ▪ Construction and demolition debris |
| ▪ Automotive waste (oil, tyres, end of life vehicles (or vehicle parts) | ▪ Medical waste |
| ▪ Paper and cardboard | ▪ Glass bottles and other related waste |
| ▪ E – waste | ▪ Sewage sludge |
| ▪ Textiles | ▪ Batteries, expired chemicals and pharmaceuticals |

The most common forms of solid waste generated in the municipality is the organic waste which is mainly generated at household level and agricultural produce/food markets, hotels and restaurants. Inorganic waste such as e-waste, plastics, glass bottles, construction waste and junk are also produced but in low quantities. Public and private health facilities generate biomedical waste. The waste characteristic is estimated to be as enumerated in the table below:

Table 4: solid waste characterization

Type of waste	Percentage
Organic	51%
Plastics	11%
Paper and paper products	9%
Glass	5%
Metals	2%
Inerts such as sand, rubble, dirt etc.	4%
E-waste	2%
Others (totally mixed waste at collection)	16%

Based on urbanization, population growth and economic development, it is projected that by year 2031, annual waste could reach 19,500 tonnes i.e. 40%rise from the current trend.

2.2 COLLECTION AND TRANSPORTATION.

Collection and transportation of solid waste generated at household, commercial, and institution level in the municipality is mainly undertaken by the government which provides the services. Some areas are served by private waste collectors who are required by law to be registered and licensed. Health waste is handled separately with major processes being microwaving and incineration

The municipality has adopted a kerbside waste collection system in CBD since 2016. The same is affected in estates surrounding Nyeri town though not so effectively due to system challenges such as inconsistency in scheduled collection due to breakdowns. In addition, skip bins have been evenly distributed throughout the municipality to enhance waste collection efficiency. In rural areas as well as some estates, there are waste collection receptacles/retention chambers

positioned at strategic points for communal collection. The vastness of some areas also pose a challenge of ineffective waste collection given the inadequate resources.

There are some areas that are not efficiently reached/fully covered currently by the collection trucks, e.g. Thunguma, due to the insufficiency in trucks as well as the rural setting of part of the area.

There is limited awareness and knowledge on the importance of a clean and healthy environment in Nyeri municipality, which has translated to poor handling of waste at the household level including lack of segregation, reuse, reduce and recycling of waste produced. A negative attitude towards waste management and failure to take individual responsibility has also contributed to practices such as littering, illegal dumping and open-air burning, which has led to environmental pollution.

Waste transportation in the municipality is largely basic i.e. open trucks, side loaders and skip loaders. The inadequacy in transportation modes has led to littering and open dumping, making waste an eyesore, particularly plastics in the environment. The municipality also faces the challenge of lack of enough waste collection trucks whereby one truck serves more than one ward within the municipality. Frequent breakdown of trucks has led to inconsistency in collection as per schedule leading to accumulation of waste in the designated areas. This greatly inhibits efficient and effective waste service delivery.

Poor infrastructure in informal settlements has led to improper waste disposal due to lack of waste collection points and inaccessibility of the areas. These places lack designated areas where waste can be disposed of awaiting collection and transportation. The indiscriminate waste disposal has led to blocking of drainages which eventually causes water pollution and poses health risks to the people and causes environmental degradation. Furthermore, access to the waste collection trucks is a challenge due to lack of structured road networks within the settlements which then leads to improper waste disposal due to long term accumulation of waste. This leads to environmental pollution, loss of natural aesthetic value and reduced environmental quality.

The municipality collects an average of 66 tons of waste daily, 1504 tons monthly using just six vehicles

2.2.1 FLEET OF VEHICLES IN THE MUNICIPALITY

The status of waste collection vehicles is as tabulated below. These figures keep changing as breakdown of vehicles is unpredictable. All the same, the department is set on repairing all the vehicles.

STATUS	NO	Remarks
ON ROAD	6	4 trucks, 2 skip loaders

Currently, for daily collection, Nyeri municipality has 2 Tippers, 2 side loaders, 2 skip loaders

2.2.2 WASTE DISPOSAL

Disposal of waste in Nyeri Municipality remains a major challenge as the municipality has not gazetted and designated proper and adequate disposal sites, nor established a modern waste management facility. There exists no sanitary land fill in the municipality, which is the minimum environment standard set for a disposal site. Currently, the Nyeri Municipality is relying on other dumping sites within the county.

2.2.3 RECYCLING

Waste recycling takes place minimally and informally. This takes place at one of the existing dumpsites within the county, in collaboration with youth groups and also by totters. This is on a very small scale and mostly on paper, plastics and tires. Only recently did one of the groups begin composting. From the waste collected, the two youth groups make briquettes, bio-oil, crushed glass, and they sell plastics.

Due to a lack of waste segregation at source, recycling then can only be to a certain level due to contamination of materials to be recycled.

2.3 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The municipality is currently operating with a workforce of seventy-two (72) people as tabulated below: -

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. Contracted staff | - 15 |
| 2. Permanent staff | - 54 |

There are (3) three Public Health officers in the municipality offering technical support in the solid waste management.



2.4 USER CHARGES

The County collects revenue from solid waste only for all business premises when acquiring business licenses, depending on the extent/size of the business. For households, only those served by NYEWASCO and sections of them pay for waste collection, a monthly fee of Ksh.150.

The private waste transporters are charged whenever they dispose waste at the County disposal points and are charged as per the size of the vehicles used. These are done in conformity to the guidelines set by NEMA.

2.5 CURRENT GUIDING REGULATIONS ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

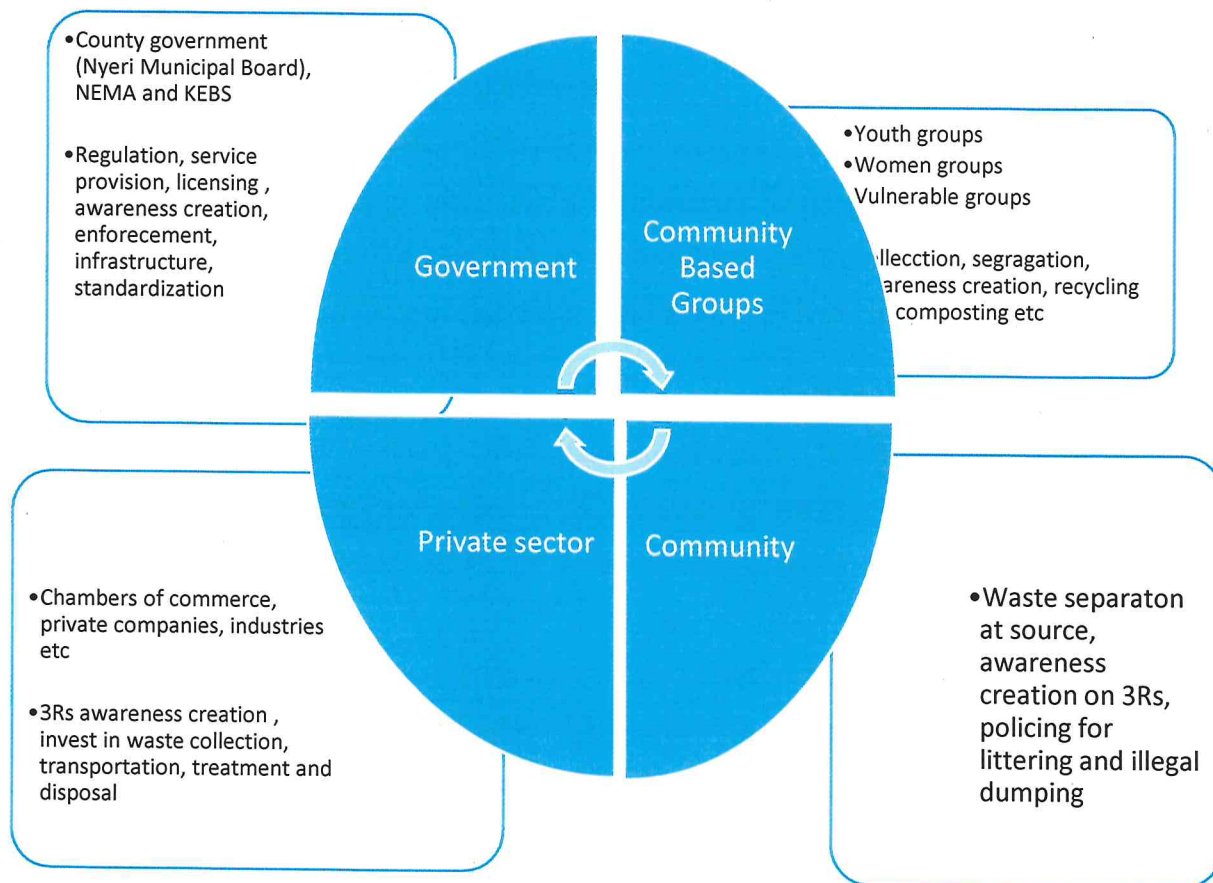
Currently there is Nyeri municipality solid waste Management Policy and Nyeri county solid management Act, 2021 used to ensure that stated procedures are fully implemented and periodically reviewed by operational services to ensure compliance.

2.6 STAKEHOLDERS IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The involvement and participation of all the stakeholders such as the Youth Waste Recyclers, Waste processors formal and informal agencies as well as non-governmental organization play a key factor for sustainable solid waste management. The Nyeri Municipal board will partner with stakeholders as service providers to address the problem of solid waste by coordinating their participation and involvement in various solid waste management activities which include creation of public awareness to enhance source reduction, handling, collection and disposal of solid waste.

They are critical partners in local solid waste management since the activities deal with the subject concerning environmental protection, health of the society, education and community service.

Stakeholders in solid waste management



CHAPTER THREE

3.0 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The policy and legislative framework for municipal solid waste management consist of the Constitution of Kenya and various Statutes, Sessional papers and Sectoral plans among others. This part highlights the laws and policies that relate to solid waste management at County level.

3.1. Constitution of Kenya

Article 10 entrenches sustainable development as one of the national values. Solid waste management is one of the key drivers of sustainable development.

Article 42 of the Constitution provides for every person a right to clean and healthy environment.

Article 43 guarantees the right to highest attainable standard of health, reasonable standards of sanitation and clean and safe water. Solid waste is a major contributor to prevalence of risk factors to communicable and non-communicable diseases and conditions. Consequently, effective, efficient and sustainable management of solid waste especially in urban areas has will drastically reduce incidences of communicable or non-communicable diseases and conditions and related health care burden as well as reduce associated public nuisance of unmanaged solid waste.

Article 69 of the Constitution provides for encouragement of public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment; establishment of systems of environmental impact assessment, environmental audit and monitoring of the environment; elimination of processes and activities that are likely to endanger the environment.

Section 2 (g) of the Fourth Schedule assigns to the County government the function of refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal.

3.2 The Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act ,1999.

The Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act, Cap 387 including subsidiary legislation is the main national statute that governs environment protection, conservation and management, which includes solid waste management. In regard to solid waste management, the Act provides among others for–

- a) development of County environment action plans which provide for environment management systems.
- b) the standards of waste including issues such as handling, storage, transportation, segregation and destruction of any waste.
- c) prohibition of handling dangerous waste.
- d) classification and management of hazardous and toxic waste.

3.3 National Environment Policy, 2013

The policy provides a governance framework for environment management. In regard to solid waste management, the policy recognizes inefficient production processes, low durability of goods and unsustainable consumption and production patterns lead to excessive waste generation. In order to address these challenges, the policy provides for development of an integrated national waste management strategy, promotion of use of economic incentives to manage waste and promotion of establishment of facilities and incentives for cleaner production waste recovery, recycling and re-use.

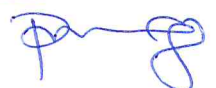
3.4 Kenya Vision 2030

The Kenya Vision 2030 lays the foundation for social and economic development in Kenya. In regard to solid waste management, Kenya Vision 2030 provides for development of solid waste management systems in at least 5 municipalities, and in the proposed economic zones, regulation on use of plastic bags, development and enforcement of mechanisms targeting pollution and solid waste management regulations, strengthening of institutional capacities of multi-sectoral planning and strengthening linkages between institutions of planning and environment management, development of national waste management system and use of market-based environment instruments for providing incentives or disincentives in solid waste management and establishment of initiative to clean the Nairobi River as well as rivers and water fronts in Kisumu, Mombasa and Nakuru.

3.5 The National Solid Waste Management Strategy, 2015

The National Solid Waste Management Strategy, 2015 is anchored on the Kenya Vision 2030. It lays the foundation for strategic management of solid waste in Kenya. The strategy provides for among others for–

- a) definitions and classification of solid waste.



- b) the national context and status on solid waste management.
- c) the common waste management practices in Kenya.
- d) the challenges facing solid waste management in Kenya.
- e) integrated solid waste management.
- f) the waste management cycle and ideal approaches applicable to Kenya.

The National Strategy sets the foundation for development and adoption of County solid waste management policies and strategies.

3.6 Global Policy Related to Solid Waste Management

The global policy related to solid waste management is mainly contained in the United Nations conventions and policies that provide framework for solid waste management, and which have implications on County solid waste management policies and laws. They include—

- a) United Nations Convention on Climate Change. Article 4 on commitments provides for promotion and cooperation in development, application and diffusion including transfer of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in sector such as waste management sectors.
- b) The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change. Article 1 (viii) provides for States' obligation to limitation or and reduction of methane emissions through recovery and use of waste management. The Protocol obligates States to formulate and implement solid waste management programmes that are intended to mitigate climate change.
- c) The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposals. However, the control of international movement of hazardous waste is a mandate of the national government.
- d) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Agenda 21-Global Programme of Action on Sustainable Development).

Chapter 7 provides for sustainable human settlements which includes provision of basic services such as waste collection, Chapter 20 provides for managing hazardous wastes and Chapter 22 provides for managing solid wastes and sewage which encourages waste minimization and increase reuse and recycling.

In addition, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) establishes a global framework and commitment for sustainable development. Specifically, key SDGs

that have direct implications on solid waste management and which shall be integrated in the County model policy shall include –

- a) Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
- b) Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- c) Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- d) Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- e) Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

3.7. Other policies and laws with implications on County solid waste management policies and laws.

There are other national policies and laws that have implications on County solid waste management (or the process and institutional frameworks for County policies and laws). These include–

- a) **County Governments Act, 2012**, which provides for the governance and management system and process in the County including development planning, decentralization, citizen participation and policy development among others.
- b) **Public Finance Management Act, 2012**, which provides for financial planning and management at the national and County levels including linkage of development planning, budgeting and public expenditure.
- c) **Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011**, which provides for integrated development planning in urban areas. The Act provides for development of urban integrated development plans for urban areas and cities which include planning for solid waste management.
- d) **Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019**, which provides for physical planning and development control in Kenya, which is mainly a County function. Integrated Solid Waste Management System requires functioning and effective spatial planning, zoning and land laws.
- e) **Legal Notice No. 137 on Transfer of Functions to County Governments, 2013**, which provides for unbundling of County functions stipulated under Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution.
- f) **Nyeri County Solid Waste Management Act, 2021**, the main aim of the Act is to provide a legal framework for the management of solid waste within Nyeri County. It establishes duties,



standards, enforcement mechanisms, and institutional roles to ensure effective solid waste collection, treatment, disposal, recycling and environmental protection.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Introduction

To comprehensively address solid waste management within the municipality, it is essential to establish a clear and coherent policy framework that guides action by the Municipality, the County Government, and other relevant stakeholders. This framework sets out the strategic policy direction to be pursued in planning, implementation, regulation, and service delivery.

4.2. Policy rationale

This policy is developed in order to:

- a) Provide for a policy mechanism for implementing the municipality functions related to solid waste management.
- b) Provide for adoption of Integrated Solid Waste Management System and processes in the municipality.
- c) Facilitate adoption and compliance with relevant international and national standards for solid waste management in the municipality.

4.3. Policy Goal

To establish a clear, coordinated, and accountable governance framework for solid waste management that promotes waste reduction, efficient service delivery, protection of public health and safety, and environmental sustainability.

4.4. Policy objectives

The policy shall pursue the following objectives:

- a) Formulate the appropriate legislation and economic instruments on solid waste management
- b) Build capacity and inculcate responsible behavior on waste management.
- c) Mobilize resources so as to develop a sustainable waste management system.
- d) To establish sustainable infrastructure and systems for waste collection and transportation.

- e) To establish environmentally sound infrastructure and systems for waste disposal and treatment.
- f) Protection of public and occupational health and the environment.
- g) Encouraging research and development in sustainable solid waste management.

4.5. Policy Principles

The following shall be the guiding principles for the solid waste management policy: -

- a) ***Proximity principle*** which implies that waste should be managed close to where it is generated.
- b) ***Self-sufficiency principle*** which implies that where possible and practical, each zone should manage its own waste.
- c) ***Polluter pays principle*** whereby those who generate waste should bear the cost of managing the waste to minimize risk to human health and the environment.
- d) ***Precautionary principle*** whereby appropriate policy measures may be taken in order to safeguard human health and environment. Even if scientific evidence is not conclusive it would be essential to adopt precautionary approach.
- e) ***Sustainable development*** which is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- f) ***Inter-generational equity*** which implies that waste should not be managed in a way that bequeaths legacy problems to subsequent generations.
- g) ***Intra-generational equity*** which implies that waste management resources and services should be equitably accessible to all citizens or residents in the same generation. All interested parties should have equitable possibilities to provide services and equitable burden-sharing in terms of waste management facilities (environmental justice).
- h) ***Participatory approach principle*** which considers consensus and all inclusion in the management of solid waste. It ensures active involvement of all stakeholders involved in solid waste management.
- i) ***Zero Waste principle***: encourages that society should aim for zero waste, designing and managing products and processes that reduce and eventually eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste, to conserve and recover waste resources rather than to burn or bury

them. It is related to the waste hierarchy, which establishes an order of preferred actions to manage waste, and the three R's: reduce reuse, recycle.

- j) **Extended producer responsibility:** encourage that producers should be given significant responsibility– financial and/or physical– for the treatment or disposal of the waste from the products they create. Beyond easing government budgets for waste management, such responsibility in principle incentivizes companies to prevent wastes at the source, promoting more environmentally friendly product design and supporting the achievement of public recycling and materials management goals.

4.6. Policy measures

The policy aims to establish a clear, coordinated, and accountable governance framework for solid waste management that promotes waste reduction, efficient service delivery, protection of public health and safety, and environment sustainability.

4.6.1. Policy Measures on Solid Waste Prevention and Reduction

The municipality shall:

- a) Promote prevention of waste generation among product users through awareness creation on behavior change, consumer choices and consumption practices to reduce excessive consumption or use and waste of diverse products.
- b) Establish partnership and collaboration with manufacturers wholesalers and retailers in adopting appropriate measures and strategies for preventing waste generation.
- c) Creation of awareness and sensitization of all relevant stakeholders on solid waste prevention and reduction
- d) Establish an inventory for all the waste streams which shall be disaggregated according to the respective sources.

4.6.2. Policy Measures on Solid waste handling at source.

In order to ensure effective and appropriate solid waste handling at the source, the municipality shall:

- a) Collaborate with relevant stakeholders in awareness creation and capacity development for waste handling at source.
- b) Ensure solid waste segregation at source and stored in appropriate receptacles in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and standards.



- c) Enforce the Building Code and development control guidelines for waste handling and storage at source.
- d) Establish measures to manage leachate from waste receptors and collection points.
- e) Prohibit indiscriminate dumping in all areas.

4.6.3. Policy Measures on Solid Waste Collection

In order to promote efficient waste collection, the municipality shall:

- a) In consultation with relevant stakeholders, designate and develop waste collection points in each zone according to the solid waste management spatial map.
- b) Install appropriate waste collection containers, receptacles and bins in strategic public places for purpose of collection of solid waste.
- c) Ensure institutions such as schools and health facilities shall place or install appropriate waste collection containers, receptacles and bins in strategic places within the facilities.
- d) Ensure solid waste collection services provided by public or private actors shall comply with the prescribed standards and operating procedures.
- e) Establish a system for collecting solid waste in informal settlements.
- f) Establish a system for registration of private solid waste collectors.
- g) Promote and facilitate establishment of intermediary community-based and special interest groups waste sorting centers which shall be integrated with the municipality solid waste management system.
- h) Initiate and develop public private partnership programmes for sustainable solid waste collection services.

4.6.4. Policy Measures on Solid Waste Transfer and Transportation

To improve solid waste transfer and transportation, the municipality shall:

- a) Register and maintain a database of solid waste transporters.
- b) Ensure solid waste transportation services shall conform to the prescribed standards.
- c) Ensure continued creation of awareness to all solid waste transporters on efficient and effective waste transportation methods and measures.
- d) Establish a system for transfer and transportation solid waste in the informal settlements.
- e) Designate specific routes and time schedule to be followed in transfer and transportation of solid waste.

4.6.5. Policy Measures on Solid Waste Separation, Processing and Transformation.

To promote sustainable and efficient separation, processing and transformation of solid waste, the municipality shall:

- a) Collaborate with relevant stakeholders and local communities to facilitate collection separation, processing and transformation of solid waste.
- b) Create awareness to the relevant stakeholders on solid waste separation, processing and transformation.
- c) Adopt appropriate economic incentives to promote private sector participation in solid waste separation, processing and transformation.
- d) Promote investment in solid waste processing and transformation and establishment of wholesale and retail outlets for sale of recycled products or recovered materials.
- e) Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop and adopt guidelines, standards and operating procedures for separation, processing and transformation applicable to each solid waste stream.

4.6.6. Policy Measures on Solid Waste Disposal

To enhance solid waste disposal, the municipality shall:

- a) Designate, gazette and develop controlled sanitary landfills in accordance with the relevant spatial plans.
- b) Ensure and facilitate solid waste treatment before final disposal.
- c) Ensure continued creation of awareness on proper solid waste disposal methods and measures.
- d) Develop a system and standard operating procedures for management of sanitary landfills.
- e) Implement and enforce relevant laws and regulations on solid waste disposal.

4.6.7. Policy Measures on Solid Waste Management Financing

To strengthen solid waste management financing, the municipality shall:

- a) Levy appropriate user fees and charges for solid waste management in accordance with the prevailing tariffs and pricing policy.
- b) Provide incentives for promoting solid waste recycling and waste material recovery.

- c) Adopt public-private partnership model of financing various processes in solid waste management.
- d) Subsidize solid waste management services to low-income areas and informal settlements in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.
- e) Progressively increase budgetary allocations for implementation of this policy and laws related to solid waste management.
- f) Mobilize resources in the form of grants and donations from development partners for financing solid waste management processes.

4.6.8. Policy Measures on Solid Waste Management in Informal Sector

To promote participation of informal sector in solid waste management, the municipality shall:

- a) Facilitate the informal groups or individuals involved in solid waste management value chain to access affordable capital for solid waste management enterprise development.
- b) Initiate capacity development programs, training, innovation workshops and bench marking for solid waste management workers and informal sector engaged in solid waste management.
- c) Facilitate and promote value addition and market linkage between the informal sector and investors in solid waste management value chain.
- d) Develop service agency agreements with the informal sector in the provision of solid waste management services.

4.6.9. Policy Measures on Solid Waste Management and land use planning

To ensure appropriate and effective zoning for solid waste management, the municipality shall:

- a) Carry out solid waste management survey using Geographical Information System (GIS).
- b) Develop the municipality solid waste management spatial plan.
- c) Designate the location of the collection points, transfer stations, composting sites, waste recovery facility and landfills in accordance with the solid waste management spatial plan.
- d) Regulate solid waste management in accordance with the solid waste management spatial plan.

4.6.10. Policy Measures on Stakeholders Engagements

To ensure inclusion and participation of stakeholders in solid waste management services, the municipality shall:

- a) Prepare a municipal solid waste management stakeholders engagement framework.
- b) Consult, inform and coordinate with relevant stakeholders on matters related to service delivery on solid waste management.

4.6.11. Policy Measures on Information and Communication

To increase awareness and change behavior on solid waste management, the municipality shall:

- a) Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop and implement information, education and communication system and strategies.
- b) Ensure that solid waste related information is available and disseminated to all stakeholders and municipal residents.
- c) Develop technology-based communication strategies on solid waste management.
- d) Establish a solid waste information management system.

4.6.12. Policy Measures on Research and development

To enhance research and development, the municipality shall:

- a) Facilitate a capacity development programme for personnel in research and development.
- b) Establish a research unit to coordinate, promote and undertake research and development related to sustainable solid waste management.
- c) Collaborate with relevant research institutions and institutes of higher learning in carrying out research and development in sustainable solid waste management.
- d) Collaborate with relevant stakeholders in dissemination of research finding.
- e) Establish a research data management system.
- f) Ensure decisions on sustainable solid waste management are informed by research evidence.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTINUED LEARNING

Inadequate solid waste management poses significant direct and indirect risks to public health and the environment. Therefore, monitoring and evaluation constitute a critical component of effective and sustainable solid waste management. The MEAL system established under this policy shall provide structured feedback to stakeholders to ensure accountability and transparency. The system shall further support evidence-based decision making for policy implementation and periodic review, and shall ensure that inputs, implementation schedules and targeted outputs are delivered in accordance with approved plans.

This policy shall be evaluated in accordance with overall municipal monitoring and evaluation framework, standards and system. The following requirements shall apply in regard to policy monitoring and evaluation–

- a) The municipality shall designate staff to be responsible for coordinating monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of this policy.
- b) The municipality shall prepare annual progress report on the implementation of this policy.
- c) The municipality shall undertake the policy review in three (3) years or as need arises.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the policy shall be undertaken through formulation of the Municipality of Nyeri solid waste management plan and Municipal Integrated Development Plan. Implementation of this policy shall also be integrated with the municipal performance management system. The annual performance contracting and targets for respective departments responsible for implementation of this policy shall be aligned to activities and programmes in the solid waste management plan to ensure coordinated approach in implementing this policy.

6.1 Legal and Administrative Reforms

The municipality shall formulate appropriate laws, guidelines, standards and frameworks to facilitate implementation of the solid waste management plan.

6.2 Collaboration with Stakeholders

The municipality shall cooperate, collaborate, consult and partner with relevant stakeholders in implementing this policy.

6.3 Staff Capacity Development

The municipality shall develop and facilitate continuous professional and capacity development for all relevant officers in various departments responsible for implementing this policy.



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. M. Mwangi'.

ANNEXTURE: IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX.

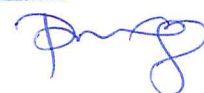
Policy Objective	Policy Strategy	Activities	Actors	Timeline	Approx. Budget	Stat
1.Develop appropriate legislation and economic instruments	-Formulate and implement legislation and economic instruments	Formulation of legislation and economic instruments. Harmonization of the existing legislation and economic instruments. Implementation of regulations and instruments formulated	-County executive -Nyeri municipal Board -County assembly - Municipality residence	2 years	5,000,000 5,000,000	
	-Ensure enforcement of waste management legislation and standards	-compliance and enforcement of waste management standards and legislations	-County executive -Nyeri municipal Board -NEMA County assembly	Continuous	10,000,000	
2.Capacity Building.	Staffing of the solid waste management department	-Recruitment of skilled and unskilled personnel	County Executive -Nyeri municipal Board County public service board	2 years	50,000,000	

	Continuous service training	-Conducting service training of personnel on waste management	County executive -Nyeri municipal Board	Continuous	1,000,000	
	Sensitize the public on integrated waste management	Hold civic education through media and Barraza's Publish educational materials Monthly clean ups	County executive -Nyeri municipal Board Community groups Private companies	Continuous	5,000,000	
3.Mobilize resources	Lobby for Increased budgetary allocation.	Preparation of procurement plan	County executive -Nyeri municipal Board County assembly	1 year	500,000	
	Promote public private partnerships in waste management	Marketing and Advertising Organizing stakeholders' forums	Private companies and corporations -Nyeri municipal Board Community groups	3 year	500,000	
	Promote and activate waste as a revenue stream	Civic education, campaigns and training	County executive Community groups	Continuous	500,000	




		Marketing of recycled and reusable	Private companies			
4. Promote and establish waste segregation and recycling systems.	Provision of equipment and transport system	-Procure bins and waste bags labeled and/or colour coded according to the type of waste	County Executive -Nyeri municipal Board	3 years	10,000,000	
		-Plan and organize collection schedules	NGOs Private companies	1 year		
	-Develop waste segregation and recycling plans	-conduct benchmarking for practices on segregation and recycling	County executive -Nyeri municipal Board	2 years	10,000,000	
		-conduct training of both staff and other stakeholders	NGOs	Continuous	1,000,000	
		-conduct an estate pilot/map sites			3,000,000	
		-Design segregation and recycling infrastructure				
	Develop promotion programs on use of recycled and recovered materials	conduct civic education -publish educational material -Organize demonstrations and Exhibitions		Continuous	1,000,000	

		of recycled products				
	-Enhance stakeholders collaboration on waste segregation and recycling	-campaigns and advertisement -stakeholder workshops -Coordinate school and institutional recycling programs	-Nyeri municipal Board		500,000 500,000	
5. Establish sustainable infrastructure and systems for waste collection and transportation	-Designate, build and operate collection points, transfer stations and disposal sites	Identification of strategic areas Construction and management of transfer stations	-County Executive -Nyeri municipal Board -NEMA	3 years	15,000,000	
	Provision of adequate and appropriate waste collection and transportation systems	Buy additional and relevant waste trucks to meet the needs Maintenance of roads to enable easy access use of GIS to map and truck waste transportation	County executive -Nyeri municipal Board	3 years	10,000,000	

	Improvement and maintenance of existing facilities and machinery	Upgrade existing waste management facilities Repair of grounded vehicles and machinery	County executive -Nyeri municipal Board NEMA	continuous	-	
6. Establish environmentally sound infrastructure and systems for waste disposal and treatment	-Acquiring land for waste management purposes.	Survey and Acquisition of a suitable land according to set regulation. -Acquiring title deeds for the disposal sites and transfer stations	County Executive -Nyeri municipal Board NEMA NLC	3year	20,000,000	
	-Conduct public participation and sensitization on waste disposal as a land use activity	-Call for public participation before acquiring sites -Hold civic education forums -Hold baraza meetings with the communities	County Executive -Nyeri municipal Board County Environment Committee NEMA County Assembly NLC	1 year	1,500,000	

	-Conduct environmental Assessments and audits on the disposal and transfer sites	To procure services of a lead expert licensed by NEMA for a) EIA on proposed disposal site b) Audit on existing sites c)EIA on proposed transfer stations	NEMA, County Executive -Nyeri municipal Board	1 year	1,500,000	
	Establishment of waste treatment and disposal facilities	-Develop a sanitary landfill -Put up an incinerator -Put up pyrolysis machinery -Set up recycling plant	County executive -Nyeri municipal Board Public private partnerships Private investors NEMA	4 years	500,000,000	
	-Increase security and surveillance in waste disposal sites	-Monitoring of activities at sites by enforcement and security officers -Fencing of the existing and proposed sites	-County Executive -Nyeri municipal Board -NEMA -Ministry of interior and coordination -County Legal Unit	1 year	10,000,000	




7. Protection of public and occupational health and the environment	-Strengthen measures to prevent pollution of land, water and air arising from solid waste collection.	-Establish waste segregation at source -Train waste collectors on safety & pollution prevention -Regular monitoring of soil, water, air quality	-County Environment Committee -Nyeri municipal Board Public private partnerships Private investors NEMA	1 year	4,000,000	
8.Encouraging research and development	-Uptake of appropriate technologies	-Benchmarking on and best practices of appropriate technologies -Establish research and development partnerships with technical institutions	-County Environment Committee -Nyeri municipal Board -Public private partnerships	2 years	3,500,000	