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# Supporting women in solid waste management to tackle marine debris

Center for Environment and Community Research



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# Current solid waste situation in Da Nang

- Population grew by more than 40% in 10 years (1.3 million people - 2016).
- In 2015: 335,000 tons of domestic solid waste generated – 80% are collected. On average 750 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) is collected in Da Nang per day.
- Escalating ocean plastic pollution from municipal waste and fishing boats (around 67,000 tons of solid waste has not been collected, which is a great source of plastic flowing to the sea).
- Infrastructure for collection and transportation of segregated waste is lacking.





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# Da Nang's ambitious recycling targets.

## **2008: Developing Da Nang – Environmental City: Goals to 2020:**

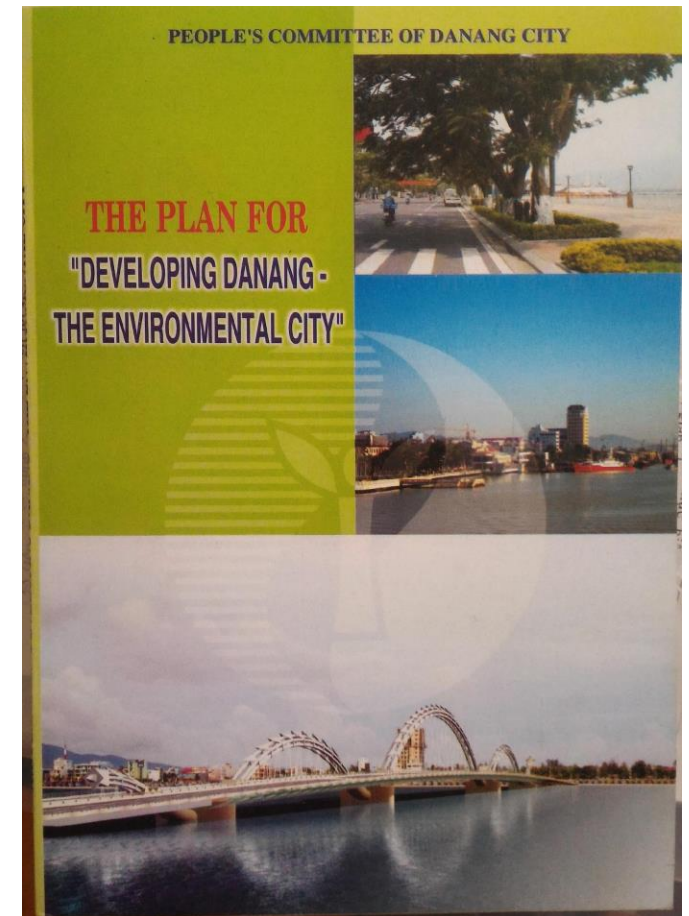
- More than **90%** of domestic solid waste is collected and effectively treated;
- Establish and develop recycled technology for reuse. Strive for **70%** of solid waste that are recycled;

## **Da Nang's solid waste management strategy to 2030, with a vision to 2050**

- **100%** collection of domestic solid waste
- **90%** recycling or reusing of domestic solid waste

ISSUE: It is forecasted that Khanh Son Landfill will be fully utilized in 2020.

Da Nang City People's Committee is considering options for a "Solid waste treatment complex", including recycling and composting facilities





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## Community-based waste segregation model by women union

- Since 2009, women's union in Son Tra and Thanh Khe district initiated a model of households waste-recycling.
- Recycleable waste will be sold to wastepickers and recycling centers to fund community activities.
- 946/1243 (76%) women's union units have implemented this model.





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# Information, Education and Communication campaign by women





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## Contribution of women to solid waste management

Educator/  
raising  
awareness

Leader/  
Initiator of  
community-  
based models

Community  
watchdog

Entrepreneur  
in waste  
sector

Employers in  
formal waste  
sector

Informal  
waste pickers

**Reduced waste to landfill, Increase resource recovery,  
Environmental cleanliness, Improved income and  
livelihood.**



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# Challenges to women in solid waste management.

- The women's union only has capacity to reach their members.

The success of the model depends on the capacity of the communities' women's union chairwomen.

Without the authorities's attention and support, the recycling activities only reach Women's union members.

=> The model is hard to scale up to city scale.

- Lack of data and research on the role and contribution of women to solid waste management

=> the role of women is under-recognised.

Ms. Tinh - chairwomen of Thuan An 4 women's union, Thanh Khe district





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# Challenges to women in informal wastepickers

- In big cities like Hanoi, there may be as many as 6000 women waste pickers and itinerant buyers.
- They play a big role in recycling since the formal waste segregation and recycling infrastructure is underdeveloped.
- Yet they have not been properly recognised by the municipal governments, thus there are a lack of policy to support and regulate informal wastepickers.





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# “Ocean Without Plastic” Project

**Ocean Without Plastic: Plastic Recycling Program for Strong Community and Green City.**

Timeline: Jan 2018 – April 2019

Donor: USAID

Project sites: Son Tra district and Thanh Khe district, Da Nang City

- **scale up the women's union model** by training local leaders and engage local authorities.
- **empower communities** to implement models of waste segregation, recycle waste and reduction of plastic bags.
- **policy recommendations and lessons-learnt**, through data collection and documentation, for better management of solid waste.



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# Promoting public participation through empowering local leaders

- Training for 350 trainers in Thanh Khe and Son Tra district was organised to raise awareness of the models: reduction of plastic bags, segregation at source, recycle plastic and organic waste.
- Forming a community steering board and carry out Information, Education, and Communication campaign directly to households.

=> Taking women's union model as the foundation, engaging local authorities scale up the model to the whole community, taking women as pioneers.

=> Waste segregation is not the duty of women, but the duty of every citizen.



# Empowering local women leaders to enhance solid waste management

- The project's technical support provides know-how to women's leaders to improve their initiated model.
- The project employs community participation method: the community leaders come up with their own implementation plan: women's union is a key members.
- The success of some pilot women's initiated models boost the confidence of women leaders and women participation => their role in the community is enhanced.



# Engaging wastepickers in formal waste models

- A considerable proportion of informal waste pickers are women.
  - Enhancing the role and participation of women in waste recycling has led to the involvement of informal wastepickers, especially women pickers in waste models - which is unprecedented
- => Thanh Khe and Son Tra's Department of Natural Resources and Environment have realized that informal sector needs to be included in the community-based waste segregation models



Ms. Ly from An Hai Bac and Ms. Tinh from Thuan An 4 working with wastepickers. In many women-run models, the leaders contract the waste collection to a local informal wastepickers





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# Lessons-learnt

- Careful of risks of reinforcing traditional gender roles.
- Participatory approach to engage local authorities, communities – both men and women in coming up with community-based models.
- Further research and data on the contribution of women needed