



REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
 COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF  
 NYANDARUA



2026

OL'KALOU MUNICIPALITY  
 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
 POLICY



## **FOREWORD**

Waste management is no longer a peripheral administrative concern, but a critical intersection of environmental stewardship, public health, and sustainable urban development. The Ol'Kalou Municipal Solid Waste Management Policy represents a pivotal moment in our community's journey towards a more responsible and forward-thinking approach to managing our environmental resources.

The policy's holistic approach recognizes that effective waste management requires more than infrastructure and technology. It demands a cultural shift—engaging every resident, business, and institution in a collective effort to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Our strategic objectives are designed to transform waste management from a municipal service into a community-wide movement.

We are particularly proud of the policy's emphasis on phased implementation, stakeholder collaboration, and continuous learning. By establishing clear roles, developing robust monitoring mechanisms, and remaining adaptable, we ensure that our waste management strategies can evolve with our community's needs and technological advancements.

This policy is not an endpoint, but a beginning. It represents our pledge to current and future generations of Ol'Kalou residents—a commitment to creating a cleaner, more sustainable urban environment that we can be proud to call home.



**Priscillah Mwirigi**

**Ol'kalou municipal Board - Chairperson**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

On behalf of the Ol'Kalou Municipal Board, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to the development of the Ol'Kalou Municipal Solid Waste Management Policy.

We are especially grateful to the County Executive Committee and staff, under the leadership of H.E. Governor Dr. Moses Kiarie Badilisha, for their unwavering support, strategic guidance, and commitment to advancing sustainable solid waste management as a devolved function in Nyandarua County.

We also acknowledge the invaluable leadership of Ms. Josphine Muiru, Chief Officer for Urban Development, whose guidance was instrumental throughout the policy formulation process. We commend the technical contributions from the Municipal Manager serving Ol'kalou municipality, Director of Physical Planning Racheal Mugo, County Public Health Officer Isaac Chege and Director of Legal Services Beatrice Macharia, whose insights, oversight, and expertise shaped this comprehensive framework for integrated solid waste management.

Finally, we appreciate all County and Municipal staff who actively participated in consultations, provided critical data on waste generation, collection, and disposal, and shared perspectives that informed the policy's structure, principles, measures, and monitoring mechanisms.

It is our hope that this policy will serve as a practical, actionable tool for embedding accountability, environmental stewardship, public health protection, resource recovery, and climate resilience into the Municipality's daily solid waste operations—empowering our teams to minimize waste generation, enhance segregation and recycling, improve collection and safe disposal, anticipate emerging challenges, seize circular economy opportunities, and uphold the highest standards of sustainable public service delivery.



**Eric Igogo**  
**Municipal Manager, Ol'kalou Municipality**

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- i. **CBO** – Community-Based Organization
- ii. **CIDP** – County Integrated Development Plan
- iii. **CSO** – Civil Society Organization
- iv. **EPR** – Extended Producer Responsibility
- v. **FBO** – Faith-Based Organization
- vi. **GHG** – Greenhouse Gas
- vii. **ISWM** – Integrated Solid Waste Management
- viii. **MRF** – Material Recovery Facility
- ix. **NEMA** – National Environment Management Authority
- x. **NGO** – Non-Governmental Organization
- xi. **OHS / OSHA** – Occupational Health and Safety / Occupational Safety and Health Act
- xii. **PPP** – Public-Private Partnership
- xiii. **SDGs** – Sustainable Development Goals
- xiv. **SWM** – Solid Waste Management

## DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

- i. **Circular Economy:** An economic model where materials are continuously reused, repaired, recycled, or repurposed to minimize waste and resource extraction.
- ii. **Hazardous Waste:** Waste that poses risks to human health or the environment, such as biomedical waste, e-waste, or chemical residues.
- iii. **Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM):** A comprehensive approach that promotes waste reduction, segregation, collection, recycling, treatment, and environmentally sound disposal.
- iv. **Material Recovery Facility (MRF):** A specialized facility where collected waste is sorted, processed, and prepared for recycling or recovery.
- v. **Polluter Pays Principle:** The principle that those who generate waste should bear the cost of managing it responsibly.
- vi. **Public Participation:** The involvement of citizens, communities, and stakeholders in decision-making processes regarding SWM planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- vii. **Solid Waste:** Any discarded material, whether generated from households, businesses, institutions, or industries, that is no longer useful in its current form.
- viii. **The Municipality:** Refers to “the Ol’ kalou Municipality.”
- ix. **Waste Segregation at Source:** The practice of separating waste at the point of generation into categories such as organic, recyclable, and hazardous.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Solid Waste Management Policy provides a strategic framework for Ol' Kalou Municipality to address the growing challenges associated with waste generation and management. Anchored on the principles of inclusivity, accountability, circular economy, and climate resilience, the policy articulates a vision of a clean, healthy, and sustainable urban environment supported by integrated and efficient waste management systems.

The policy prioritizes waste minimization at source through application of the 7Rs principles, promotion of household and institutional waste segregation, and expansion of efficient waste collection and transportation services. It further emphasizes the promotion of recycling, composting, and material recovery enterprises, safe disposal through environmentally sound treatment facilities and sanitary landfills, and strengthened management of hazardous, biomedical, and electronic waste streams. Continuous community education, public awareness, and stakeholder participation are central to achieving sustained behavior change and compliance.

Implementation of the policy will be supported through diversified resource mobilization mechanisms, including public–private partnerships, county government allocations, donor support, and innovative financing approaches. The policy establishes measurable outcomes through defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) linked to a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Learning (MERL) framework, ensuring accountability, learning, and adaptive management through periodic reviews.

By adopting this policy, Ol' Kalou Municipality affirms its commitment to protecting public health, enhancing environmental sustainability, creating green employment opportunities, and contributing to national and global sustainable development goals.

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## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Solid waste management remains one of the development challenges globally, nationally, and at the municipalities. 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 to achieve optimal results. This policy provides the guiding framework for solid waste management in the municipality. The policy shall guide the municipal solid waste management actors in providing effective, efficient, and sustainable services while utilizing solid waste as an economic resource.

### **1.2 Location and Situation**

OI Kalou Municipality is located within OI Kalou sub-county, one of the five (5) sub-counties in Nyandarua County. It is located 15km west of Aberdare range and approximately 40km to East of Nakuru City and about 160km from Nairobi, the capital city. As such, it is the seat of the county headquarters, the county government and other national government agencies. Other key installations and landmarks include JM Kariuki County Referral Hospital, Lake OI Bolossat Regionally, the town is located approximately 160km from Nairobi County. Natural structuring elements such as River Malewa define the municipality's eastern boundaries whereas River Mukuyu defines the southern boundary. Lake OI Bolossat outlines its north-eastern tip. The municipality covers an area of 364.7 km<sup>2</sup> which include three whole wards of Rurii, Kaimbaga and Karau; and Tumaini and Ndemi centres in Kanjuiri Ridge and Wanjohi wards respectively. In terms of population, the municipality has 67,500 people.

**Table 1: Administrative Wards within OI Kalou Municipality**

<b>Sub-County</b>	<b>Consitutency</b>	<b>Ward</b>
OI'kalou	OI'kalou	Karau
		Kaimbaga
		Rurii

	Kanjuiri
	Wanjohi

### **1.3 Climate**

Ol Kalou Municipality experiences a cool highland climate with the following characteristics:

Rainfall: 700–1,500 mm annually, with long rains from March to May and short rains from October to December.

Temperature: Ranges between 10–22 °C, with cooler nights due to the high altitude.

Implications for Solid Waste Management: The high rainfall and predominantly organic waste composition necessitate covered waste transport systems, well-drained transfer points, and storm-water-controlled landfills to prevent leachate and ensure effective waste management.

### **1.4 Population**

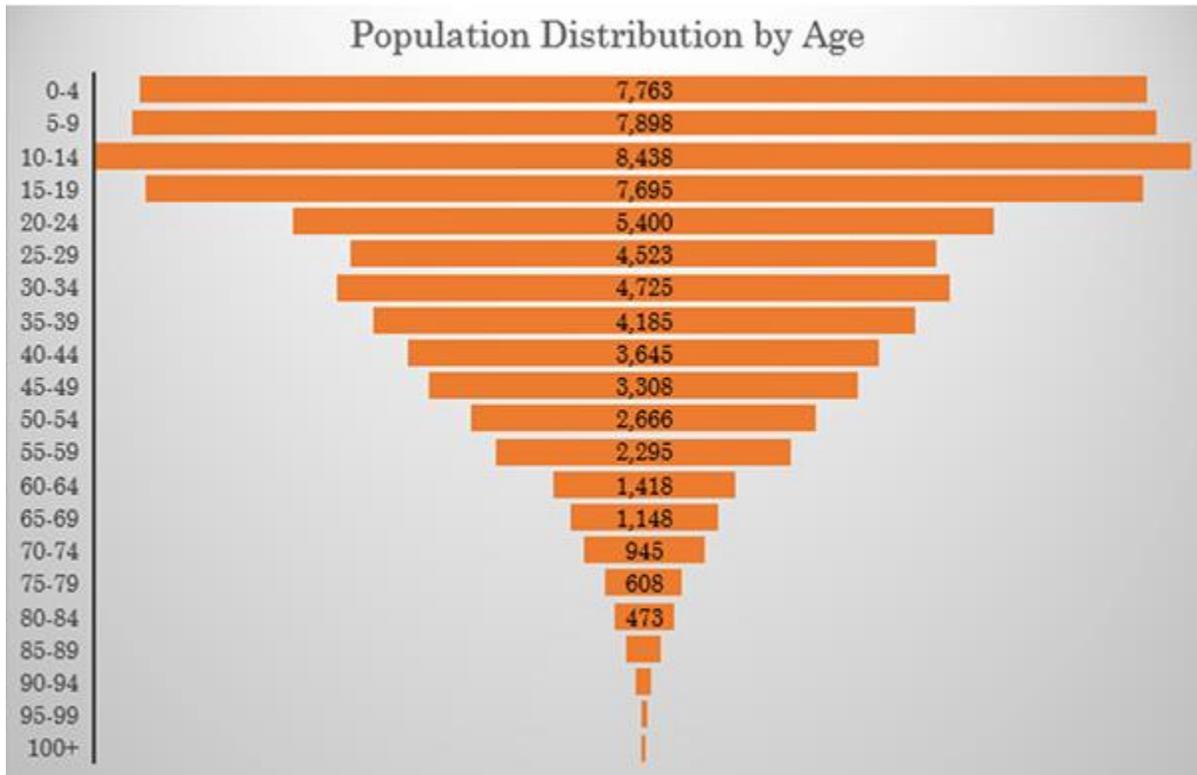
#### **1.4.1 Population Distribution in Ol Kalou Municipality**

Ol' Kalou Municipality is the most populated urban area in the County. Consequently, there is eminent demand for services compared to other urban areas in the County. For this reason, there is a need for proper planning and enhancement of service delivery especially in solid waste management, provision of water and sewer services. According to the County records the population of Ol' Kalou Municipality was estimated at 67,500 in 2020 with 49% (33,075) males and 51% (34,425) females

#### **1.4.2 Population Distribution by Age**

According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, 47% of the population is below the age of 19 years with the highest population being between the ages of 10-14. This indicates a youthful population. Figure 1 below captures distribution of the age in the county:

**Figure 1.. Population structure**



**1.4.3 Population Density**

Population density is a measure of the number of people per unit of area. Below is the population density of the Ol Kalou Municipality as of 2019 and the projected density of years 2025 and 2030.

**Table 2: Population Density**

Area Sq Km	2025 Projections		2030 Projection	
	Population	Density persons per sq km	Population	Density persons per Sq Km

333.5	82,124	246	99,916	300
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### **1.5 Economic Activities and Growth Drivers**

The main economic activities within Ol Kalou Municipality include Agriculture, retail and wholesale, financial institutions, quarrying, educational establishments. Agricultural land covers the biggest proportion of the municipality land mass with agricultural activities mainly done on Karau, Kaimbaga and Rurii wards. Ol Kalou Municipality is endowed with part of the only highland lake in Kenya, lake Ol Bolossat rich in biodiversity supporting local ecotourism and a critical ecosystem for downstream economies and livelihoods. The Lake continues to face impacts of unsustainable anthropogenic activities and climate hazards which affect its functionality.

### **1.6 Solid Waste Management Situation**

Ol Kalou Municipality generates approximately 14 tonnes of solid waste daily, with a per capita production of 0.65 kg per day. The waste is primarily agricultural and biodegradable (75%), but non-biodegradable waste, including plastics, e-waste, and biomedical waste, is increasing due to population growth and urbanization. Current waste management faces several challenges:

- i. Limited segregation at source, with informal recyclers recovering most recyclables.
- ii. Collection services cover 75% of waste, primarily in urban and peri-urban areas, leaving rural areas underserved.
- iii. The municipality lacks a sanitary landfill and a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).
- iv. Open dumping and burning are prevalent, posing public health and environmental risks.
- v. Enforcement of waste management regulations is weak, compounded by community misconceptions that waste management is solely the municipality's responsibility.

Opportunities exist to establish zoned waste transfer points, develop Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for recycling and composting, and expand Social and Behaviour Change

Communication (SBCC) campaigns to promote segregation at source and regulatory compliance.

### 1.7 Waste Generation by Ward

Waste generation estimates are based on an average of 0.65 kg/person/day, distributed across the five wards of Ol'Kalou Municipality:

**Table 3: Population and Waste Estimates**

<b>Ward Name</b>	<b>Estimated Population</b>	<b>Estimated Waste (Tonnes/Day)</b>
Karau	26,068	10.2
Kaimbaga	22,070	10.2
Kanjuiri	1,706	4.1
Rurii	27,124	10.2
Wanjohi	1,534	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,495</b>	<b>38.6</b>

*Note:* Population is evenly distributed for estimation purposes; actual ward-level data may vary slightly.

### 1.8 Human Resources

The municipality currently relies on a limited workforce for waste management, including county government cleaners, supervisors, drivers, and informal recyclers. As waste management infrastructure (e.g., transfer points and MRFs) develops, staffing requirements will increase. The municipality will need to recruit skilled and unskilled personnel and provide training to enhance capacity for integrated solid waste management (ISWM).

### 1.9 Rationale and Justification for Policy Development

The formulation of a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Policy for Ol Kalou Municipality is critical for the following reasons:

- i. Rapid Urbanization: Increased population density and rural-urban migration have led to growing waste volumes that exceed current management capacity.

- ii. Public Health Risks: Poor waste handling practices, such as open dumping and burning, contravene the Public Health Act, Cap 242, and pose significant health risks.
- iii. Regulatory Compliance: The absence of a sanitary landfill and MRFs undermines compliance with the Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022, and the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), 1999.
- iv. Economic Opportunities: Untapped potential in waste-to-resource initiatives (e.g., composting, recycling, waste-to-energy) can create jobs and support economic development.
- v. Community Engagement: Behaviour change interventions are needed to promote segregation at source, payment of waste service fees, and community responsibility for waste management.

Developing and implementing this policy will ensure sustainable waste management, protect environmental quality, safeguard public health, and harness socio-economic opportunities for the benefit of all residents of Ol Kalou Municipality.

### **1.10 Situational Analysis of Solid Waste in Ol' Kalou Municipality**

Ol' Kalou Municipality generates approximately 14 tonnes of solid waste daily, with 75% managed at the municipal level and 25% unattended. About 15% of residents live in urban and peri-urban centers, producing 2.1 tonnes of waste daily. The waste, primarily agricultural and biodegradable, is increasingly diverse due to population growth, rural-urban migration, and potential industrial and technological advancements, leading to higher volumes of non-biodegradable waste like plastics, e-waste, and biomedical waste.

Challenges include poor physical planning, inadequate infrastructure, limited human resources, and insufficient funding. Community misconceptions that waste management is solely the municipality's responsibility further hinder progress. Despite these challenges, Ol Kalou has implemented measures to enhance solid waste management, prioritizing the principles of Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair Recycle and Recover (7Rs) to minimize waste and promote resource efficiency through waste segregation at the source. Regular public sensitization is vital to shift perceptions and improve stakeholder collaboration.



**Figure 2: 7Rs of Sustainability**

**1.11 Link to County, National, and International Frameworks**

As a devolved function under the Constitution of Kenya 2010, solid waste management in Ol Kalou aligns with county-level strategies, including unified budgeting and evaluation frameworks to ensure transparency and accountability. Nationally, Kenya’s transition to a circular economy is supported by legislation such as the 2017 ban on single-use plastic bags, the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations 2021, and the Sustainable Waste Management Act 2022, which promote resource efficiency and waste reduction. At the county level, Ol Kalou’s strategies emphasize governance, social inclusion, and environmental protection. Internationally, the municipality adopts frameworks from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat, which prioritize waste reduction, reuse, recycling, resource recovery, incineration, and landfilling as a last resort. These frameworks guide the implementation of Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) systems, ensuring alignment with global sustainability goals and Kenya Vision 2030 for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future.

**CHAPTER TWO: POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Solid Waste Management in Kenya is governed by a multi-layered policy and legal framework that integrates international, national, and county-level policy and legislation. This chapter outlines the key policies and legal framework influencing SWM in the Kenya’s urban areas.

## **2.1. International and Regional Conventions and Treaties**

Solid waste management is increasingly recognized as a global development and environmental priority. As such, at the global context, the SWM concern is guided by international conventions, frameworks, and agreements, which Kenya has signed and ratified, making them binding on both the national and county levels of government. As a semi-autonomous County entity, the Municipality is bound to implement these obligations through delegated county functions.

They include: -

### **2.1.1. Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)**

Kenya participated in the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro where the Rio Declaration was adopted. Though not legally binding, it sets foundational principles for sustainable development, including the precautionary principle, the polluter-pays principle, and public participation in environmental governance. These principles now inform Kenya's constitutional and legislative framework, and by extension, the Municipality's waste management practices.

### **2.1.2. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992)**

Kenya signed the Convention in 1992 and ratified it on 30 August 1994. The UNFCCC obliges Kenya to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including those from the waste sector (methane from landfills, carbon dioxide from burning, and nitrous oxide from treatment plants). The Municipality, as part of Kenya's devolved system, is bound to adopt waste management practices that contribute to national climate commitments under the Convention.

### **2.1.3. Kyoto Protocol (1997)**

Kenya signed the Protocol on 25 April 1997 and ratified it on 25 February 2005. The Protocol introduced legally binding emission reduction targets and mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which allowed waste-to-energy, landfill gas capture, and composting projects to generate carbon credits. The Municipality is expected to design waste projects that can contribute to such emission reduction mechanisms and attract climate financing.

#### **2.1.4. Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015)**

Kenya signed the Agreement on 22 April 2016 and ratified it on 28 December 2016. The Agreement commits parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including from waste management (landfills, open burning). The Municipality is bound to align its waste management practices with Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), by promoting waste minimization, recycling, and climate-smart disposal methods.

#### **2.1.5. Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989)**

Kenya signed the Convention on 22 March 1989 and ratified it on 1 June 2000. The Convention obliges Kenya to control import, export, and disposal of hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner. At the devolved government level, the Municipality is responsible for ensuring environmentally sound management of hazardous and special waste streams within its jurisdiction, in line with national commitments.

#### **2.1.6. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015 – 2030)**

Adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, Kenya committed to achieving the SDGs, particularly Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production). These goals provide a framework for integrated waste management at municipal level. As a devolved entity, The Municipality contributes to Kenya's reporting and implementation of the SDGs through its waste management systems.

#### **2.1.7. African Union Agenda 2063 (2015)**

Kenya is a member of the African Union and therefore a party to Agenda 2063, adopted in January 2015. Aspiration 1 emphasizes environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies, encouraging circular economy approaches, including recycling and waste-to-energy. The Municipality, as part of a county within Kenya, must integrate these aspirations into its urban development and waste management initiatives and align its policies with Agenda 2063 through sustainable waste management initiatives.

These global commitments require local governments, including municipality to adopt sustainable, climate-sensitive, and inclusive waste management systems.

#### **Policy statement:**

*The Municipality shall:*

*Align its solid waste management practices with Kenya's international obligations and global sustainable development commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, by promoting waste minimization, environmentally sound disposal, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; fostering circular economy approaches such as recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy while ensuring inclusivity and resilience in urban waste systems; and applying international principles such as the precautionary principle, the polluter-pays principle, and participatory governance to translate global environmental standards into effective local action.*

## **2.2. National Policies and Legislation**

Kenya's national framework for solid waste management is comprehensive, grounded in constitutional principles, legislative mandates, planning standards, and progressive national policy. These frameworks provide both direction and enforceable obligations and include: -

### **2.2.1. The Constitution of Kenya (2010)**

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) guarantees the right to a clean and healthy environment under Article 42, and the right to sanitation under the right to health under Article 43. Article 69 imposes a duty on both the State and citizens to safeguard the environment. Crucially, the Fourth Schedule designates refuse removal, refuse dumps, and solid waste disposal as exclusive functions of county governments, functions that Ol' kalou Municipality are mandated to administer under delegated authority.

### **2.2.2. Legal Notice No. 137 of 2013**

This was issued by the Transition Authority and gave legal effect to devolution of functions under the fourth schedule of the GoK by breaking down SWM functions into actionable tasks, such as waste collection, transport, treatment, and disposal. It thus laid a firm constitutional and operational foundation for local-level SWM governance.

### **2.2.3. Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA, 1999, as amended)**

The Act aims to create a structured, environmentally sound system for waste management that minimizes health risks, reduces environmental pollution, and promotes sustainability in

Kenya. Under the Act, counties must regulate SWM through licensing, environmentally sound practices, and penalties for violations.

**Key EMCA 1999 provisions on solid waste management include:**

- a) Adoption of an integrated approach promoting waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and safe disposal.
- b) Licensing and regulation of waste handlers, transporters, treatment, and disposal facilities by NEMA.
- c) Prohibition of illegal dumping, with emphasis on designated sites and sanitary landfills.
- d) Promotion of public participation and awareness in waste management.
- e) Application of the polluter-pays principle, making waste generators responsible for costs and impacts.
- f) Enforcement measures including fines and penalties for non-compliance.

**2.2.4. Waste Management Regulations (Legal Notice No. 178 of 2024)**

These Regulations, issued under the EMCA1999, strengthen Kenya’s legal framework on solid waste. They provide detailed standards on waste storage, segregation at source, collection, transportation, treatment, and final disposal, and classify waste streams including biomedical, industrial, hazardous, and radioactive waste. These regulations place binding obligations on counties and Municipality to ensure waste is managed in an environmentally sound and health-conscious manner, with clear penalties for non-compliance.

**2.2.5. Public Health Act (Cap. 242)**

The Act gives local authorities the mandate to enforce sanitation and hygiene standards. This ensures that waste facilities, collections, and dumpsites do not pose health risks, especially during outbreaks.

**2.2.6. Physical and Land Use Planning Act (2019)**

The Act requires that the Municipality prepare local physical and land use development plans consistent with broader county and national spatial strategies. These must include

zoned areas for waste infrastructure, protective buffer zones, and ensure compliance with development control standards. Additionally, County governments also may develop specific subject plans, such as SWM plans for markets or industrial zones, aligned with national spatial and planning guidelines.

### **2.2.7. Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022 (No. 31)**

The Act, represents a landmark reform in Kenya's waste governance framework. It establishes the National Waste Management Council which provides policy direction and coordination and the National Sustainable Waste Management Authority which serves as the implementing and enforcement agency. The Act anchors modern principles of segregation at source, extended producer responsibility (EPR), circular economy, zero-waste, public participation, and incentives for recycling and recovery.

For devolved governments, the Act places clear obligations on counties and Municipality, including:

- a) Enacting local waste management legislation and by-laws within one year.
- b) Developing infrastructure for material recovery, recycling, and sanitary landfills.
- c) Promoting segregation at source, managing waste within county boundaries (unless otherwise agreed), and submitting regular reports to the national Authority.

### **2.2.8. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations (2024)**

The Regulations were enacted under the Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022 (No. 31) to operationalize the principle that producers are accountable for the full lifecycle of their products and packaging. The Regulations establish clear obligations for producers, importers, and brand owners to ensure environmentally sound management of waste arising from their products.

Key provisions include:

- a) EPR Schemes: Producers must establish or join collective EPR schemes registered with the National Sustainable Waste Management Authority, covering collection, segregation, transport, recycling, and safe disposal.

- b) Take-Back Mechanisms: Producers are obligated to put in place take-back and buy-back systems for products such as plastics, electronics (e-waste), tires, and batteries.
- c) Circular Economy Measures: The Regulations promote product redesign, eco-labeling, use of recyclable materials, and investment in recycling infrastructure to reduce waste at source.
- d) Reporting and Compliance: Producers must submit periodic reports on quantities placed in the market, recovery rates, and waste management measures, with non-compliance attracting penalties.
- e) Support to Counties and Municipality: EPR schemes are required to collaborate with counties and Municipality by financing waste collection, recycling, and awareness campaigns, ensuring that the cost burden of waste management does not fall solely on local governments.

### **2.2.9. The County Government Act 2012**

The Act decentralizes waste management, giving counties the mandate to manage waste within their boundaries. Counties are responsible for the collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of waste, and must develop supporting policies, plans, and infrastructure.

The Act places obligations and mandates on Counties to:

- a) Integrate solid waste management into urban planning and development strategies, including zoning for landfills, recycling centers, and disposal sites.
- b) Conduct public participation in planning and implementation to ensure accountability and responsiveness to community needs.
- c) Adopt sustainable waste management practices such as recycling, waste reduction, and proper disposal, in line with EMCA 1999 to protect ecosystems and public health.
- d) Engage in public-private partnerships (PPPs) and to outsource services such as waste collection and recycling, to improve efficiency.

- e) Levy fees and charges for waste management services, with revenues ring-fenced to maintain and expand SWM systems.

#### **2.2.10. Urban Areas and Cities Act, Cap 275**

Provides for integrated development planning in urban areas. The Act provides for development of urban integrated development plans for urban areas and cities which includes planning for solid waste management

#### **2.2.11. Public Finance Management Act, Cap 412 C**

Provides for financial planning and management at the national and county levels including linkage of development planning, budgeting and public expenditure.

Key provisions for Counties and Municipality include:

- a) Empowers counties to allocate resources to Municipality for delegated functions, ensuring that funds follow functions as required by the Constitution.
- b) All revenues, including waste management fees and charges, must be paid into the County Revenue Fund and appropriated through the County Assembly.
- c) Operationalizes the principles of fiscal responsibility and transparency, requiring that counties and Municipality demonstrate efficient use of public resources in service delivery. In practice, this means that when solid waste management functions are transferred from a county department to a municipal board, the accompanying budgets, staff, and assets must also be transferred to enable effective implementation.
- d) Encourages Municipality to explore diversified financing mechanisms, including user charges, conditional grants, and partnerships with the private sector and development partners, to ensure sustainability of waste management systems.

#### **2.2.12. Occupation Safety and Health Act, Cap 514**

The Act provides for safety, health and welfare of workers and persons lawfully present at workplaces. It obligates workplaces that manipulate chemicals or toxic substances, such as the solid waste management unit, to develop a suitable system for the safe collection, recycling and disposal of chemical wastes, obsolete chemicals and empty containers of

chemicals. This ensures that the employer avoid risks to safety, health of employees and the environment.

#### **2.2.13. National Environment Policy, 2013**

The policy provides for governance framework for environment management. Regarding solid waste management, the policy recognizes inefficient production processes, low durability of goods and unsustainable consumption and production patterns lead to excessive waste generation. 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.

#### **2.2.14. Kenya Environment, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy 2016-2030.**

This policy provides a national framework for achieving universal access to adequate sanitation and a clean, healthy environment. It emphasizes expanded access to rural and urban sanitation, elimination of public health nuisances, and private sector participation in service delivery. It further promotes strong governance, sustainable financing, enabling laws and regulations, research and innovation, and effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

For counties and Municipality, the Policy requires integration of sanitation and hygiene into local development plans, investment in waste and sanitation infrastructure, and collaboration with communities and private actors to ensure public health protection and environmental sustainability.

#### **2.2.15. National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) (2018 – 2022)**

It is Kenya's first climate change action plan developed to implement the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS). The action plan encourages proper management of solid waste which contribute to improved ground water quality, local air quality and safety as well as hygienic conditions. It is also aimed at reducing emissions through mitigation and adaptation strategies.

### **2.2.16. National Waste Management Strategy (2015)**

The Strategy provides Kenya’s roadmap for transitioning to sustainable and resource-efficient waste systems. It set an ambitious target of achieving 80% waste recovery by 2030, primarily through segregation at source, recycling, composting, and energy recovery, thereby reducing reliance on landfills. The Strategy emphasizes Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM), which combines waste minimization, resource recovery, safe disposal, and stakeholder participation.

For counties and Municipality, the Strategy provides both direction and benchmarks, requiring them to develop localized waste management plans, strengthen public-private partnerships, and adopt circular economy practices that align with the national recovery target.

### **2.2.17. Vision 2030**

Vision 2030 highlights SWM as essential in urban infrastructure investments supporting sustainable urban growth. It recognizes the need for efficient and sustainable waste management systems to be established as the country develops into a newly industrialized state by 2030. It aligns solid waste management with the broader agenda of industrialization, infrastructure development, and environmental sustainability. Municipal solid waste management is an essential aspect of achieving the country's goals of sustainable urban development, environmental conservation, and improved public health. As Kenya experiences rapid urbanization, effective waste management is seen as a critical factor in transforming urban areas into clean, healthy, and livable environments.

These National policies and legislation are binding on County governments and Municipality with regard to sustainable, climate-sensitive, and inclusive waste management systems.

#### Policy Statement

*The Municipality shall:*

- 1. Operationalize the constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment by implementing its devolved mandate over refuse removal, dumps, and solid waste*

*disposal in compliance with the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and Legal Notice No. 137 of 2013.*

- 2. Align its waste management practices with national legislation and shall enforce national environmental and public health standards within its jurisdiction.*
- 3. Integrate national policy directions into its local systems to promote sustainable consumption, resource recovery, and climate-smart waste management.*

### **2.3. County and Municipal Context**

At the devolved level, Nyandarua County and the Municipality operate under the national framework but must adopt county-specific policies and systems:

#### **2.3.1. Nyandarua County Public Participation and Civic Education Act No 4**

The Act was developed in line with Article 10 of the Constitution and Section 91 of the County Governments Act which recognize public participation as a mandatory element in planning and implementation of SWM. The Municipality will be required to integrate this principle by engaging residents, business owners, CBOs, waste workers and other relevant stakeholders in decision-making processes.

#### **2.3.2 The Nyandarua County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027**

The Plan includes solid waste management as a critical priority. The county government is focusing on implementing projects that involve sorting waste at the source, improving collection systems, and using environmentally sustainable methods to manage increasing waste levels. These efforts aim to reduce pollution and improve public health. Additionally, the county is exploring waste recycling programs to create economic opportunities and promote environmental conservation as part of its broader development goals.

#### **2.3.3 The Ol'Kalou Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2020 - 2025**

The Plan aims to guide sustainable solid waste management to ensure a healthy, safe and secure environment for all. This will be achieved through the following strategies: -

- i. Awareness creation on safe waste disposal methods and reuse.

- ii. Increasing collection by provision of solid waste bins and transfer stations in the strategic areas.
- iii. Purchase of refuse trucks to facilitate transfer to these transfer stations.
- iv. Sensitization on circular economy of waste
- v. Promotion of technologies and enterprises on waste recycling and reuse
- vi. Adoption of polluter pays principle.
- vii. Licencing and regulating the small-scale private waste collectors.

#### **2.3.4. The Ol'Kalou Municipality Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027**

Provides for effective waste management which is essential for reducing pollution, conserving resources, and safeguarding public health. It also encourages investment in waste collection, recycling infrastructure, and public education campaigns to promote waste reduction and recycling behaviors among residents and businesses.

In summary, the county and municipal framework establishes the Municipality as the frontline actor in solid waste management within its area of jurisdiction, operating under delegated authority from Nyandarua County. The Municipality is therefore obligated to translate national and county policies into localized systems, by-laws, and infrastructure, ensuring efficient service delivery and accountability to residents.

#### **Policy statement**

*The Municipality shall:*

*The Municipality shall implement solid waste management as a devolved function of Nyandarua County by exercising delegated authority under the Urban Areas and Cities Act to provide efficient, transparent, and accountable services; develop and enforce by-laws consistent with county and national frameworks while ensuring active public participation and stakeholder engagement in planning, service delivery, and monitoring; and integrate solid waste management priorities into municipal planning and budgeting instruments to guarantee sustainable financing, institutional capacity, and long-term accountability.*

## **CHAPTER THREE: POLICY FRAMEWORK**

### **3.1 Introduction**

In order to comprehensively address solid waste management, a framework setting the policy direction to be pursued by the county government and other stakeholders is essential. This chapter describes the policy framework consisting of the core policy measures to be pursued. In addition, the chapter lay out the policy vision, mission and guiding principles.

### **3.2 Vision**

The strategic focus of Ol' kalou municipality is to ensure a well-planned town based on the following core areas:

- a) Sound physical planning and land management,
- b) A vibrant urban economic development,
- c) A robust revenue system,
- d) Affordable and decent housing,
- e) A clean-living environment with a functional solid and liquid waste management system.

The vision of Ol' Kalou is summarized as, "A dynamic trend-setting municipality, delivering high quality services responsive to the challenges and demands of the residents."

### **3.3 Mission**

The mission statement of this Plan is "To provide affordable, accessible high quality municipal services, with a responsive local governance. This will be done by ensuring the residents have the opportunity to contribute to municipality development"

This will be realized through:

- I. Providing affordable, accessible high-quality municipal services, with a responsive local governance. This will be done by ensuring the residents have the opportunity to contribute to municipality development.
- II. To deliver on the above vision and mission the municipality; through active community engagement has identified objectives and strategies for six (6) key result areas;

## **1. Basic service delivery and infrastructure development**

To develop and maintain world class infrastructure and utilities, stimulate urban growth based on sound planning and management and promote innovative partnerships in infrastructures investment

## **2. Local economic development**

Promote an inclusive and sustainable economic growth, strengthen sectoral policy and promote attractive investment policies

## **3. Green city, spatial and sustainable transformation**

Promote sustainable environmental practices, Strengthen implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDGs and spatially sound development

### **3.4 Policy Goal**

- a. Technological innovations
- b. Innovative urban planning and development control
- c. Ensure compliance of sectoral policies to the PFM requirements
- d. Citizen driven and value-based development
- e. Ensure timely and accurate financial reporting
- f. Strengthen the financial management system
- g. Cash flow management of revenue
- h. Favorable taxation regime

### **3.5 Policy Objectives**

The specific objectives of this policy are to:

1. To determine community needs and align them to the requirements of the constitution and other relevant laws and policies
2. To inform decision-making process of both the County and the Municipality in identifying priority projects to ensure efficient service delivery
3. Through the established mechanisms for citizen participation, define and identify eligible projects that meet the threshold as set in the Urban Development Grants (UDGs) criteria and other plans as mentioned above

4. To carry out an assessment of the current socio-cultural, economic and environmental situation in the area of jurisdiction to inform priority to Carry out prioritization of the identified needs in order of urgency, short, medium and long-term basis
5. Ensure protection and promotion of the interests and rights of minorities and marginalised groups and communities

### **3.6 Guiding Principles**

The following principles shall guide policy and practice:

#### **1. Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment**

Every resident has a constitutional right to live in a clean and healthy environment. Waste management systems and services shall be designed to progressively realize this right, with equal attention given to urban, peri-urban, and rural settings.

#### **2. Public Participation and Inclusivity**

Communities, households, businesses, and civil society organizations shall be meaningfully involved in decision-making on SWM. Platforms such as barazas, school programs, and digital platforms will be used to ensure all voices are heard, especially marginalized groups.

#### **3. Polluter Pays Principle**

Waste generators, whether households, institutions, or industries, shall bear the cost of managing the waste they produce. This includes compliance with service charges, levies, and penalties for illegal dumping or non-segregation.

#### **4. Precautionary Principle**

Where there is risk of serious or irreversible environmental damage from waste mismanagement, precautionary measures shall be taken even in the absence of full scientific certainty. This principle shall apply especially to hazardous, biomedical, and e-waste management.

## **5. Circular Economy and 7Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink, Refuse, Repair, Refill)**

Ol' kalou municipality shall transition from a linear "collect–transport–dispose" model to a circular economy approach. Resource recovery and value addition shall be prioritized through the 7Rs framework, turning waste into raw materials, energy, compost, or other usable products.

## **6. Intergovernmental and Inter-agency Collaboration**

Effective SWM requires synergy between Ol' kalou Municipality, county governments, national agencies (such as NEMA), private sector actors, and development partners. Clear roles, service-level agreements, and information-sharing mechanisms shall be established to avoid duplication and ensure accountability.

## **7. Equity and Social Inclusion (Gender, Youth, Disability)**

Waste management policies and programs shall integrate gender equity, empower youth through employment and innovation opportunities, and mainstream disability inclusion in service delivery, workplace safety, and public awareness initiatives.

## **8. Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience**

SWM systems shall contribute to climate resilience by:

- a. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through diversion of organics, recycling, and improved disposal.
- b. Adopting adaptive infrastructure to withstand flooding, drought, and other climate-related risks.
- c. Promoting green jobs and climate-smart technologies.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: THEMATIC POLICY AREAS AND STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS**

### **4.1 Waste Generation and Minimization**

**Policy Statement:** *O' kalou Municipality shall promote waste minimization at source by reducing overall waste generation and encouraging sustainable consumption practices.*

**Strategic Interventions:**

- i. Enforce the 7Rs principle (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink, Refuse, Repair and Refill) across all sectors.
- ii. Introduce incentives for industries and businesses that adopt cleaner production and packaging practices.
- iii. Develop by-laws discouraging single-use plastics and non-biodegradable packaging.
- iv. Promote home-based composting and sustainable farming practices to reduce organic waste volumes.

### **4.2 Waste Segregation at Source**

**Policy Statement:** *Waste shall be segregated at the point of generation into organic, recyclable, hazardous, and residual fractions to enhance recovery and safe disposal.*

**Strategic Interventions:**

- i. Establish mandatory household and institutional waste segregation guidelines.
- ii. Provide color-coded bins and collection receptacles to support segregation.
- iii. Train waste collectors and handlers on handling segregated waste streams.
- iv. Link segregated streams to specialized recovery, recycling, and treatment facilities.

### **4.3 Collection and Transportation of Waste**

**Policy Statement:** *OI' kalou Municipality shall ensure efficient, reliable, and environmentally sound waste collection and transportation systems.*

#### **Strategic Interventions:**

- i. Strengthen fleet capacity by acquiring modern, closed-body waste trucks.
- ii. Adopt route optimization technologies to improve efficiency and reduce fuel costs.
- iii. Expand coverage to underserved areas, including informal settlements and peri-urban zones.
- iv. Promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for cost-effective service delivery.
- v. Establish performance-based Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with private collectors.

### **4.4 Recycling, Composting, and Resource Recovery**

**Policy Statement:** *Recycling, composting, and resource recovery shall be prioritized to reduce waste volumes sent to disposal sites and create green jobs.*

#### **Strategic Interventions:**

- i. Establish and operationalize Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in OI' kalou Municipality.
- ii. Support youth and community groups to develop enterprises in recycling and composting.
- iii. Provide incentives for industries using recycled materials and producing eco-friendly products.
- iv. Introduce extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs in line with national regulations.

- v. Promote circular economy models to integrate waste as a resource.

#### **4.5 Treatment and Safe Disposal (Landfills, Incineration, Sanitary Sites)**

**Policy Statement:** *Residual waste that cannot be recycled or recovered shall be safely treated and disposed of in engineered facilities.*

**Strategic Interventions:**

- i. Identify, acquire, and gazette sanitary landfill sites in compliance with NEMA standards.
- ii. Phase out open dumping and uncontrolled burning of waste.
- iii. Invest in modern treatment technologies such as waste-to-energy, biogas digesters, and sanitary incineration.
- iv. Fence and secure dumpsites to prevent scavenging and illegal dumping.
- v. Develop environmental safeguards to protect soil, air, and water from leachate and emissions.

#### **4.6 Hazardous and Biomedical Waste Management**

**Policy Statement:** *Hazardous and biomedical waste shall be handled separately and treated with strict adherence to environmental and health standards.*

**Strategic Interventions:**

- i. Establish designated hazardous waste collection and treatment systems.
- ii. Strengthen monitoring of hospitals, laboratories, and industries to ensure compliance.
- iii. Adopt environmentally sound biomedical treatment methods (e.g., autoclaving, microwaving, incineration).
- iv. Train health and waste management personnel on handling hazardous waste.

- v. Enforce licensing and reporting requirements for all facilities handling hazardous waste.

#### **4.7 E-waste and Special Waste Streams**

**Policy Statement:** *E-waste and special waste streams shall be formally managed through regulated systems to prevent environmental pollution and promote recovery of valuable materials.*

**Strategic Interventions:**

- i. Establish e-waste collection centers and partner with certified recyclers.
- ii. Create awareness among households and institutions on safe disposal of e-waste.
- iii. Regulate construction and demolition waste through designated collection and reuse systems.
- iv. Integrate e-waste management into extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes.
- v. Develop data systems to track and report on e-waste flows.

#### **4.8 Public Awareness, Education, and Behavior Change**

**Policy Statement:** *Public awareness and education shall be central to changing behaviors and promoting sustainable waste management practices.*

**Strategic Interventions:**

- i. Institutionalize community education and awareness programs (CEAPs).
- ii. Integrate environmental education, with emphasis on SWM, into school curricula from ECD to tertiary level.
- iii. Conduct periodic awareness campaigns through barazas, media, and digital platforms.
- iv. Encourage community participation in clean-up days, recycling fairs, and competitions.

- v. Promote behavioral change communication strategies to discourage littering, illegal dumping, and open burning.

**Table 4: Thematic Policy Areas, Strategic Interventions, Outcomes, KPIs, and M&E Linkages**

<b>Thematic Area</b>	<b>Strategic Interventions</b>	<b>Strategic Outcomes (Targets/Results)</b>	<b>KPI Alignment (Monitoring Indicators)</b>
<b>4.1 Waste Generation and Minimization</b>	Promote 7Rs, incentivize cleaner production, discourage single-use plastics, promote home composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste generation per capita reduced by 15% by 2030</li> <li>• 50% of households adopt home composting by 2028</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kg of waste generated per capita per year</li> <li>• % of households practicing composting</li> <li>• # of businesses adopting 3R practices</li> </ul>
<b>4.2 Waste Segregation at Source</b>	Enforce segregation guidelines, provide color-coded bins, train collectors, link segregated streams to recovery facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70% of households and institutions practicing segregation by 2027</li> <li>• 80% of collection points equipped with segregation facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of households segregating waste</li> <li>• % of waste collected in segregated form</li> <li>• # of segregation bins distributed</li> </ul>

<p><b>4.3 Collection and Transportation of Waste</b></p>	<p>Acquire modern trucks, expand coverage, optimize routes, establish PPPs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% collection coverage in urban areas and 60% in peri-urban/informal settlements by 2028</li> <li>• 70% reduction in missed collection days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of households covered by collection services</li> <li>• # of operational collection trucks</li> <li>• Frequency of missed collection per route</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.4 Recycling, Composting, and Resource Recovery</b></p>	<p>Establish MRFs, support youth/community enterprises, incentivize industries, promote circular economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% of waste recycled/recovered by 2030</li> <li>• 5 new youth/community enterprises operational by 2027</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of total waste recycled or composted</li> <li>• # of active recycling/composting enterprises</li> <li>• Tons of recovered materials sold annually</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.5 Treatment and Safe Disposal</b></p>	<p>Identify/gazette sanitary landfills, phase out open dumping, invest in treatment technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% closure of open dumpsites by 2028</li> <li>• At least one sanitary landfill operational in each municipality by 2030</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of open dumpsites closed</li> <li>• # of sanitary landfills operational</li> <li>• % of waste disposed in compliant facilities</li> </ul>

<b>4.6 Hazardous and Biomedical Waste Management</b>	Establish hazardous waste systems, strengthen monitoring, adopt safe treatment methods, train staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of biomedical waste treated through approved methods by 2027</li> <li>• Annual compliance reporting by all health facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of biomedical waste safely treated</li> <li>• # of compliance reports submitted</li> <li>• # of staff trained on hazardous waste handling</li> </ul>
<b>4.7 E-waste and Special Waste Streams</b>	Establish e-waste centers, raise awareness, regulate construction waste, integrate EPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 formal e-waste collection centers by 2026</li> <li>• 40% of construction/demolition waste reused or recycled by 2030</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of e-waste collection centers established</li> <li>• Tons of e-waste safely collected/recycled</li> <li>• % of construction waste reused/recycled</li> </ul>
<b>4.8 Public Awareness, Education, and Behavior Change</b>	Run education campaigns, integrate SWM into school curricula, promote clean-up days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 major awareness campaigns annually</li> <li>• 80% of schools incorporate waste management into curricula by 2027</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of awareness campaigns conducted</li> <li>• % of schools with SWM in curricula</li> <li>• % of residents aware of and practicing 3Rs</li> </ul>

## **CHAPTER FIVE: INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

Solid waste management in the Municipality operates under a multi-level governance framework established by the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011), and other national and county laws, with responsibilities flowing from the National Government's policy and regulatory role to the County Government's devolved mandate and further to the Municipal Board, which oversees day-to-day service delivery, while regulatory agencies, civil society, private sector actors, and residents play complementary roles to protect public health, safeguard the environment, and promote sustainable urban development.

### **5.1. National Government Institutional Structures**

#### **5.1.1. Role of the National Government**

The National Government plays a key role in overall policy direction, sets the legislative framework and technical standards, and undertakes sector oversight.

The National Government shall:

- i. Develop national legislation, policies, and strategies on solid waste management.
- ii. Provide conditional grants and other forms of financial support to counties.
- iii. Ensure compliance with international environmental treaties and commitments.
- iv. Facilitate research, innovation, and national awareness campaigns.

#### **5.1.2 Role of The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)**

NEMA operationalizes national laws and ensure compliance with environmental laws and standards.

NEMA shall:

- i. Issue licenses and permits for waste collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal facilities.
- ii. Monitor compliance with environmental laws and taking enforcement actions against offenders.
- iii. Conduct environmental audits and impact assessments for waste-related projects.

- iv. Provide technical guidance and capacity-building support to counties and municipalities.

## **5.2 County Government Institutional Structures**

Within the national framework, the County Government assumes direct responsibility for solid waste management as a devolved function under the Constitution, translating national policies into county-specific legislation, plans, and budgets.

### **5.2.1 Role of the County Executive Committee**

The County Government through the County Executive Committee shall:

- i. Enact enabling county - level legislation and approve municipal by-laws, and frameworks for SWM.
- ii. Allocate budgetary support and mobilize external resources for waste management.
- iii. Facilitate inter-municipal collaboration and ensure alignment with the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).
- iv. Coordinate county-wide awareness campaigns and ensure equitable service provision.

To discharge this mandate effectively, the County Government works through its technical departments, which provide policy oversight, technical support, and regulatory alignment to municipalities in the implementation of solid waste management functions.

### **5.2.2 Role of County Technical Departments**

- i. Department of Water, Environment, Natural Resources, Climate Change and Tourism shall provide overall policy guidance on environmental conservation, climate change integration, and sustainable waste practices. It ensures municipal actions align with county and national environment policies.
- ii. Department of Health Services shall oversee public health and sanitation standards in waste handling, disposal sites, and waste-related disease prevention, in line with the Public Health Act.
- iii. Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development shall guide spatial planning and zoning for waste management infrastructure, including landfill

- sites, transfer stations, and recycling plants, ensuring compliance with the Physical and Land Use Planning Act (2019).
- iv. Department of Finance and Economic Development shall allocate funds to the Municipality for delegated functions, manages conditional grants, and ensures that waste management priorities are integrated into county budgets and development plans.
  - v. Department of Roads, Public Works, Energy and Transport shall provide technical expertise on the design, construction, and maintenance of waste management infrastructure such as sanitary landfills, drainage systems, and access roads to disposal sites.

These county departments play a supportive and supervisory role, ensuring that the Municipality's waste management systems are well-resourced, compliant with legal requirements, and aligned with broader county development priorities.

### **5.3 Municipality Institutional Structures**

At the municipal level, the Municipal Board acts as the primary governance body, ensuring that delegated functions, including solid waste management, are executed in line with county policies and national standards.

#### **5.3.1 Role of the Municipal Board**

The Municipal Board provides strategic guidance and oversight of solid waste management functions at the municipal level.

The Board shall: -

- i. Provide overall oversight of solid waste management within the Municipality by adopting policies, strategies, and targets that align with county and national waste management frameworks.
- ii. Budget review and approve municipal SWM plans, by-laws, and annual budgets, and ensure that adequate resources are allocated for waste management services.

- iii. Regulate solid waste management services provided by the Municipality or contracted service providers, ensuring compliance with environmental laws, public health standards, and NEMA regulations.
- iv. Facilitate effective public participation in SWM decision-making, promote community ownership of waste management initiatives, and monitor the impact of policies and programmes.
- v. Promote partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and informal actors (such as waste pickers and recyclers), and mobilize additional resources to enhance SWM services.
- vi. Safeguard public health and the environment by ensuring waste is managed sustainably and in line with constitutional principles of a clean and healthy environment.

### **5.3.2 Role of the Municipal Manager**

The Municipal Manager plays a central role in the effective implementation of solid waste management functions.

The Manager shall:

- i. Ensure that all policies, plans, and resolutions of the Board relating to solid waste management are executed efficiently and in a timely manner.
- ii. Provide leadership and supervision in the day-to-day operations of municipal waste management services, including collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal.
- iii. Act as the accounting officer for SWM, approving expenditure, authorizing payment of funds, and ensuring prudent financial management in line with the Public Finance Management Act (2012).
- iv. Oversee the staffing, performance management, and capacity building of officers within the Solid Waste Management section and other relevant units.
- v. Coordinate technical departments, contracted service providers, and stakeholders involved in SWM, and prepare regular performance and financial reports to the Board.
- vi. Ensure that municipal SWM practices comply with applicable national and county legislation, NEMA regulations, and public health standards.

### **5.3.3. Role of the Director of Public Health, Environment, Trade & Tourism**

To strengthen institutional capacity, the Municipality shall establish a Directorate in charge of Public Health, Environment, Trade and Tourism within its organogram. The Directorate shall be headed by a Director, supported by other technical officers.

The Director shall support the Manager, and provide overall leadership on environmental health and sanitation, ensuring compliance with waste management laws and standards.

### **5.3.4 Public Health Unit**

To strengthen institutional capacity, the Municipality shall establish a Unit in charge of Public Health within the Directorate of Public Health, Environment, Trade and Tourism. The Unit shall be headed by a Public Health practitioner, supported by other technical officers.

The Unit shall ensure compliance with public health standards in waste handling, collection, and disposal to protect community health.

### **5.3.5 Role of the Solid Waste Management Section**

The SWM Section shall:

- i. Lead in the planning, coordination, and operational delivery of all solid waste management services in the Municipality, including collection, transportation, treatment, recycling, and disposal.
- ii. Enforce municipal SWM by-laws and standards, monitor compliance by service providers and residents, and apply penalties in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.
- iii. Develop and implement municipal by-laws, operational guidelines, and technical standards, and establish robust data collection and management systems for monitoring waste generation, recovery, and disposal.
- iv. Promote waste minimization, recycling, recovery, and circular economy initiatives, including public education and partnerships that support climate-smart and sustainable waste practices.

- v. Oversee the development, operation, and maintenance of SWM infrastructure such as transfer stations, recycling centers, material recovery facilities, and sanitary landfills.
- vi. Provide training to municipal staff and awareness programmes for communities to encourage waste segregation at source, responsible waste handling, and active citizen participation.

### **5.3.6 Role of Other Municipality Technical Units**

The Municipality shall operationalize its mandate through other specialized technical units, each with distinct responsibilities but working collaboratively to support the solid waste management unit:

- i. Environment, Water and Natural Resources Unit shall oversee environmental conservation, waste minimization, and sustainable resource use within the Municipality.
- ii. Inspectorate and Enforcement Unit shall enforce SWM by-laws, issue penalties for illegal dumping, and ensure compliance with licensing and regulations.
- iii. Lands and Physical Planning Unit shall provide zoning and spatial planning for waste management infrastructure such as landfills, transfer stations, and recycling plants.
- iv. Building Control and Housing Unit shall ensure building approvals integrate proper waste management facilities (e.g., waste chambers and collection points).
- v. Roads and Transport Unit shall support the development and maintenance of road access for waste collection vehicles and transport of waste to disposal facilities.
- vi. Finance, Economic Planning & Accounts Unit shall manage budgeting, revenue collection (waste fees, charges), and financial accountability for SWM services.
- vii. Trade and Enterprise Development Unit shall promote circular economy initiatives, recycling enterprises, and partnerships with waste sector entrepreneurs.
- viii. Legal Unit shall draft municipal by-laws, undertake legal and compliance audits, and support dispute resolution in waste management services.
- ix. Inspectorate and Enforcement Unit shall enforce compliance with SWM by-laws and regulations and deters illegal dumping or littering.

## **5.4. Non-State Actors**

Beyond municipal structures, effective waste management also depends on partnerships with non-state actors, including civil society, private enterprises, and the informal sector, who contribute innovation, investment, and community engagement.

### **5.4.1. Role of CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, Faith-Based Organizations**

Civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and faith-based organizations play a complementary role.

The non-state actors shall:

- i. Conduct public awareness and advocacy on safe waste practices.
- ii. Mobilize communities to participate in clean-up exercises and SWM initiatives.
- iii. Support recycling, composting, and other sustainable practices at the community level.
- iv. Act as watchdogs to promote accountability and transparency in waste management.

### **5.4.2. Role of Private Sector and Informal Sector (Waste Pickers, Recyclers)**

The private sector and informal actors contribute significantly to waste recovery and recycling.

They shall:

- i. Provide waste collection, transportation, and recycling services under contracts, concessions, or PPP arrangements.
- ii. Innovate solutions, technologies, and business models to enhance waste recovery and value addition.
- iii. Create jobs and livelihoods for waste pickers, recyclers, and other informal workers.
- iv. Expand coverage and efficiency of waste services through partnerships with municipalities.

## **5.5 Role of Households and Residents**

They shall:

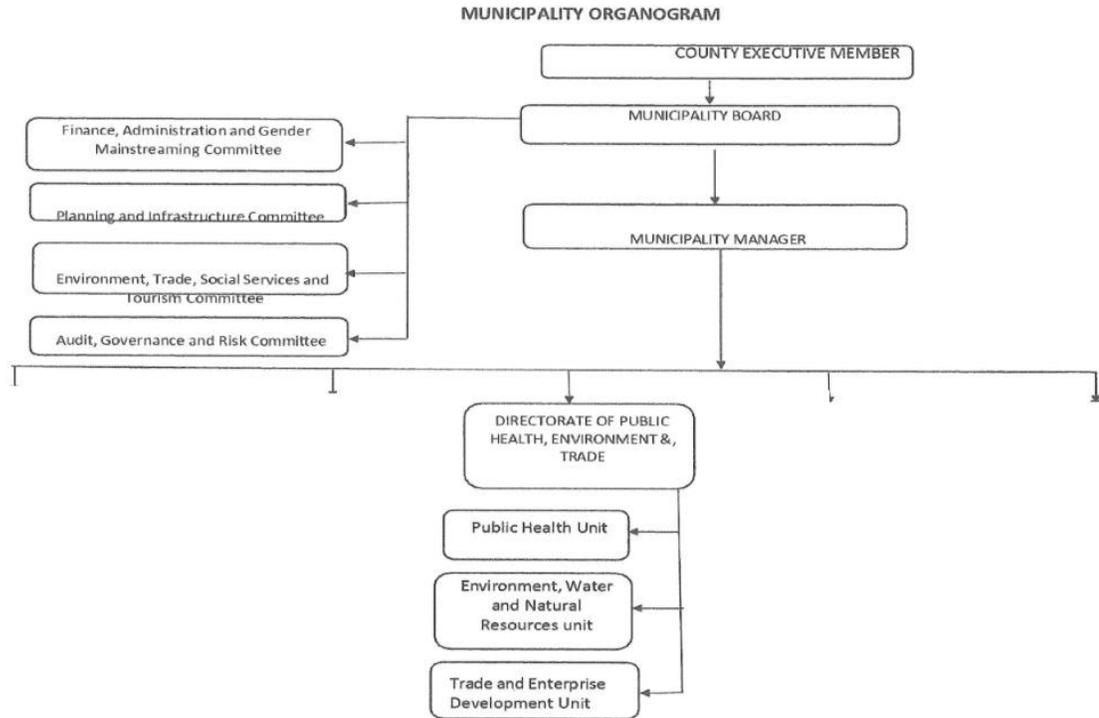
- i. Practice waste segregation at source (organic, recyclable, hazardous).

- ii. Pay service charges, levies, and fees to support SWM operations.
- iii. Participate in community clean-up activities and public consultations.
- iv. Avoid illegal dumping and open burning of waste.
- v. Act as watchdogs by reporting poor service delivery or violations of SWM regulations.

## **5.6 Organizational Structure for Solid Waste Management**

To effectively deliver solid waste management services, the Municipality has adopted an institutional structure that defines clear reporting lines, accountability mechanisms, and technical support units. The structure integrates governance (oversight by the Municipal Board), executive leadership (the Municipal Manager), technical operations (the Directorate, Unit and Section and other supporting departments) and the private sector.

The organogram below illustrates how SWM functions are embedded within the Municipality's governance and administrative framework, ensuring that responsibilities are well-coordinated across directorates, units, and support services.



**Figure 3 Organizational Structure for Solid Waste Management in the Municipality**

By embedding SWM functions across multiple levels of the Municipality, the structure promotes accountability, efficiency, innovation and private sector participation in delivering a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all residents.

**Policy statement**

*The Municipality shall ensure clear coordination and accountability across all institutional actors.*

## **CHAPTER SIX: FINANCING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

### **6.1 Public Finance Management Act Provisions**

Funding for the implementation of this policy shall be guided by the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act. This ensures accountability, transparency, and proper utilization of public resources allocated for P.P.E and casuals in Ol' kalou Municipality.

### **6.2 Municipal Revenue Sources (Service Charges, Levies, Fees)**

The Municipality shall generate revenue from waste generators through service charges, levies, and fees. These revenues will support waste minimization at source, efficient collection and transportation, and final disposal of non-recyclable or non-reusable waste.

### **6.3 County Transfers and Conditional Allocations**

The County Government of Nyandarua shall provide budgetary transfers and conditional allocations to support the Municipality's solid waste management programs, ensuring alignment with county-wide priorities.

### **6.4 Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Concessions**

Ol' kalou Municipality shall actively apply and enhance Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approaches in the implementation of solid waste management strategies. PPPs and concessions will be explored for infrastructure development, collection systems, recycling, and waste-to-energy initiatives.

### **6.5 Donor and Development Partner Support**

The Municipality shall seek funding and technical assistance from development partners and donors to strengthen solid waste management programs and introduce best practices in line with international standards.

### **6.6 Innovative Financing Mechanisms (Carbon Credits, Recycling Revenues)**

To ensure long-term sustainability, innovative financing mechanisms such as carbon credits, recycling revenues, and other green financing instruments shall be pursued. These will help integrate environmental and economic benefits into all phases of the waste management system.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

### **7.1 Gender and Youth Inclusion in SWM**

O' kalou Municipality recognizes that effective solid waste management (SWM) requires the participation of all stakeholders, including youth, women, and community-based organizations (CBOs). The Municipality shall adopt an inclusive approach to public participation by:

- i. Engaging youth and women in waste collection initiatives through the formation and registration of CBOs tasked with waste collection in zoned areas.
- ii. Encouraging the participation of women and youth groups in recycling and recovery activities to create employment opportunities.
- iii. Promoting equal representation of women, men, and youth in decision-making forums, public awareness campaigns, and environmental protection committees.

### **7.2 Disability Mainstreaming**

The Municipality shall ensure that persons living with disabilities are not excluded from SWM programs. Measures will include:

- i. Providing accessible participation channels (e.g., barazas, social media, radio broadcasts) to gather feedback on waste services.
- ii. Including persons with disabilities in awareness campaigns and SWM education initiatives.
- iii. Encouraging CBOs and private sector actors to create roles within SWM that are inclusive of persons with disabilities, in both collection and recycling processes.

### **7.3 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in SWM**

Poor SWM contributes to climate-related risks such as pollution, open burning, and greenhouse gas emissions. O' kalou Municipality shall:

- i. Integrate climate change considerations into public education and awareness programs, emphasizing safe waste disposal and the consequences of illegal dumping and open burning.
- ii. Promote waste segregation, recycling, and extended producer responsibility to reduce emissions from unmanaged waste.
- iii. Involve schools, religious institutions, and community organizations in climate-conscious waste practices, embedding environmental responsibility from early childhood through Environmental Education in schools' curricula.

#### **7.4 ICT and Innovation in Waste Management**

To enhance inclusivity, accountability, and feedback mechanisms, Ol' kalou Municipality will adopt ICT solutions and innovative approaches. These will include:

- i. Establishing hotline phone numbers and active social media platforms to allow residents to provide feedback on SWM services.
- ii. Exploring ICT-based platforms to map waste collection zones, monitor service delivery, and report illegal dumping.
- iii. Encouraging innovation among youth and private actors in recycling technologies, waste-to-energy solutions, and eco-friendly waste processing methods.

#### **7.5 Occupational Health and Safety for Waste Workers**

The safety and health of waste workers is a priority for the Municipality. In accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (2007), Ol' kalou Municipality shall:

- i. Provide annual training on occupational safety and health (OSHA) for all waste collectors, including loaders and CBO members.
- ii. Require all waste handlers to use full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all times, with semi-annual refresher training.
- iii. Issue PPEs to municipal loaders, while requiring CBOs and private groups to procure their own equipment.

- iv. Ensure that all waste workers receive relevant vaccinations, such as tetanus, with proof provided through vaccination cards.
- v. Establish and monitor compliance through Environmental Inspectors to safeguard workers against occupational risks and uphold public health standards.

## **CHAPTER EIGHT: IMPLEMENTATION**

### **8.1 Implementation Strategy**

The implementation strategy outlines the key actions required to operationalize the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Plan within Ol' Kalou Municipality. The strategy focuses on strengthening the legal and institutional framework, developing sustainable infrastructure, promoting waste segregation and recycling, and establishing effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

To strengthen the legal and institutional framework, the Municipality will formulate and operationalize appropriate legislation and policy instruments for solid waste management. This will be achieved through finalizing and adopting the SWM Plan and Strategy, reviewing existing municipal by-laws and formulating new ones where necessary, recruiting skilled and unskilled personnel, and conducting capacity-building programs for staff. Public awareness and training on integrated solid waste management practices will also be undertaken to enhance compliance and participation.

The Municipality will establish sustainable infrastructure and systems for waste collection and transportation. Waste transportation will be undertaken by the Municipality in collaboration with licensed private solid waste collectors. Key actions will include the designation, construction, and operation of waste collection points, establishment of waste transfer stations within urban nodes, and acquisition, fencing, and management of environmentally appropriate disposal sites.

To promote waste minimization, segregation, and recycling, the Municipality will establish systems that support separation of waste at source and recovery of recyclable materials. This will reduce the volume of waste disposed of at final disposal sites. Strategies will include public communication and awareness on waste segregation and recycling, provision

of appropriate collection equipment such as color-coded bins and skip bins, development of waste segregation and recycling facilities in core urban centers, and implementation of promotion programs for recycled and recovered materials.

The Municipality will also establish environmentally sound infrastructure and systems for solid waste management by acquiring land in suitable locations for waste management purposes and conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) prior to the development of any solid waste management facilities.

To ensure accountability and continuous improvement, the Municipality will establish a waste management monitoring and evaluation system to track progress, assess performance, and conduct end-term evaluations of the SWM Plan.

## **8.2 Phased Transfer of SWM Functions to the Municipality**

Solid waste management functions were previously undertaken by the County Government through the Departments of Public Health and Environment. Upon adoption of this policy, these functions will be progressively transferred to Ol' Kalou Municipality to enable effective local-level planning, coordination, and service delivery.

## **8.3 Service Level Agreements (SLA) between County and Municipality**

Service Level Agreements (SLAs) will be established between the County Government and the Municipality to guide implementation of solid waste management services. The Municipality will be responsible for service delivery within its jurisdiction, while the County Department of Public Health will provide oversight, technical support, and enforcement of public health and environmental standards.

## **8.4 Capacity Building and Human Resource Development**

The Municipality will strengthen institutional capacity through targeted human resource development initiatives. These will include staff training, up-skilling programs, professional development opportunities, and continuous community engagement and public awareness initiatives to support effective implementation of the SWM Plan.

### **8.5 Resource Mobilization**

The Municipality will mobilize financial and material resources to support implementation of the SWM Plan through lobbying for enhanced budgetary allocations from the County Government, implementation of appropriate user fees, exploration of public-private partnerships, generation of revenue from recyclable materials and compost sales, and engagement with development partners and donors.

### **8.6 Partnerships and Collaborations**

The Municipality will promote partnerships and collaboration with the private sector, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and development partners to enhance efficiency, innovation, and sustainability in solid waste management.

### **8.7 Establish waste management monitoring and evaluation system**

Ol' Kalou Municipality will adopt appropriate technologies and management tools to support monitoring and evaluation of solid waste management activities. This system will enable tracking of progress, performance assessment, and informed decision-making, including the conduct of end-term evaluations.

## **CHAPTER NINE: MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND LEARNING (MERL)**

### **9.1 Monitoring Framework**

Environmental monitoring will be a key component of municipal Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMPs). Poor solid waste management has direct and indirect impacts on public health, environmental quality, and climate change, and must therefore be regularly monitored. The monitoring framework will:

- i. Track waste generation and disposal rates in relation to population growth, economic activity, and social dynamics.
- ii. Assess compliance with established environmental quality standards.
- iii. Provide a basis for future planning, including the establishment of landfills, transfer stations, and material recovery facilities.
- iv. Measure the effectiveness of public awareness and education programs, as well as other policy interventions.

The monitoring system shall include measurable indicators to track progress in SWM. Key Performance Indicators will cover, but not be limited to:

- i. Waste generation per capita and per household.
- ii. Percentage of waste collected versus waste generated.
- iii. Recycling and recovery rates.
- iv. Reduction in illegal dumping and open burning incidents.
- v. Compliance with occupational health and safety standards for waste workers.
- vi. Greenhouse gas emissions avoided or reduced through improved waste management practices.

### **9.2 Reporting Mechanisms (to Municipal Board, County, Public)**

To ensure transparency and accountability, reporting mechanisms will be established as follows:

- i. Municipal staff will compile regular monitoring reports for submission to the Municipal Board.
- ii. Consolidated reports will be submitted to the County Government for integration into county-wide planning and resource allocation.
- iii. Public reporting will be undertaken through community meetings, media channels, and digital platforms to keep citizens informed and engaged.

### **9.3 Mid-term and End-term Reviews**

Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out through structured reviews at mid-term and end-term stages of the policy cycle. These reviews will:

- i. Assess progress against planned outputs and outcomes
- ii. Identify gaps, lessons, and areas requiring adjustment.
- iii. Provide recommendations for scaling up best practices or revising strategies.

### **9.4 Knowledge Management and Continuous Learning**

The monitoring and evaluation system will also serve as a learning tool. Ol' kalou Municipality shall:

- i. Collect and share lessons learned from daily implementation of SWM activities.
- ii. Develop means of verification for greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided.
- iii. Document and disseminate best practices within the municipality, across counties, and nationally for replication.
- iv. Build institutional memory and improve future waste management strategies through continuous learning.

## **CHAPTER TEN: POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS**

### **10.1 Review Period**

This Solid Waste Management Policy shall be subject to periodic review to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with evolving national legislation, county frameworks, and global best practices.

- i. The standard review period shall be every **five (5) years**, unless emerging challenges, opportunities, or legislative changes necessitate an earlier review.
- ii. Interim assessments may be conducted at mid-term intervals to evaluate implementation progress and recommend adjustments.

### **10.2 Amendment Procedure**

Amendments to this Policy may be initiated by the Municipal Board, County Government, or any other authorized body responsible for oversight of waste management. The procedure shall include:

1. **Proposal of Amendments** – Draft proposals may originate from municipal departments, county authorities, stakeholders, or community representatives.
2. **Technical Review** – A designated technical committee shall assess proposed amendments for feasibility, legal compliance, and alignment with broader development goals.
3. **Approval Process** – Final amendments shall be approved through the established county legislative process before adoption by the Municipal Board.
4. **Communication of Amendments** – Approved changes shall be communicated to all stakeholders, with updated policy documents disseminated through official platforms.

### **10.3 Stakeholder Participation in Reviews**

Stakeholder participation shall be central to the review and amendment process to ensure inclusivity, transparency, and ownership. The Municipality shall:

- i. Conduct consultative forums with communities, waste service providers, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and development partners.
- ii. Collect feedback through public participation platforms, including community barazas, digital platforms, and structured surveys.
- iii. Ensure that vulnerable groups—such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, and informal waste workers—are actively engaged in the review process.
- iv. Integrate stakeholder feedback into the revised policy to strengthen legitimacy and sustainability.

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