

20 Cities Towards Zero Waste

Dar es Salaam



Population: 8,161,230

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Why this city?



Dar es Salaam deserves to be recognized among the top 20 Zero Waste Cities worldwide for its pioneering community-driven zero waste model led by Nipe Fagio, which integrates waste picker cooperatives, achieves unprecedented 95% waste diversion rates with full organic waste management, significantly reduces methane emissions, and fosters inclusive economic opportunities while advancing scalable, government-supported solutions across multiple city neighborhoods and regions in Tanzania.

Impact & Sustainability

Over the past three years, Dar es Salaam's zero waste model in Bonyokwa ward has achieved a remarkable 95% waste diversion rate, collecting 1.74 tonnes of waste daily from 4,500 households and achieving 100% organic waste diversion from disposal, which has reduced methane emissions by 16.4 tonnes annually. This community-driven model integrates waste picker cooperatives, has established decentralized material recovery facilities, and fosters sustainable economic opportunities, setting a replicable and scalable standard for waste reduction and resource recovery in the city.

Partnership & Collaboration

Here are three key multi-stakeholder partnerships supporting Dar es Salaam's zero-waste efforts:

- **Nipe Fagio and Waste Picker Cooperatives** – This community-based partnership empowers waste pickers, women, and youth through formal cooperatives that manage door-to-door waste segregation, collection, and material recovery, providing social recognition and economic opportunities.
- **Dar es Salaam City Council and Municipal Authorities** – The local government collaborates in policy advocacy, permitting, and integrating zero-waste systems within city waste management programs, including support for composting facilities and community engagement campaigns.

- **International Partners, including the World Bank, GIZ, USAID, and Trust Africa** – These organizations provide technical support, funding, and capacity building to scale zero waste implementation, reduce methane emissions, and strengthen climate resilience through workshops, research, and infrastructure development.

Inclusiveness & Social Equity

Dar es Salaam actively includes marginalized groups through formal training programs and support for informal waste workers, providing them with equipment, skills development, and leadership training that improve their working conditions and enable them to cocreate sustainable waste management solutions. This approach enhances livelihoods while promoting equitable participation in the waste value chain. Also, during The International Zero Waste Cities Conference (IZWCC) 2024, hosted by Nipe Fagio and the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), the Tanzania Waste Pickers Association (TAWAPA) was launched.

Innovation & Technology

The city has adopted a door-to-door waste collection system led by cooperatives combined with mobile app-based payment systems for households, optimizing collection efficiency and promoting source segregation, which has improved waste diversion rates and financial sustainability.

Scalability & Transferability

The city published a comprehensive Zero Waste Model case study and a community mobilization toolkit that provide step-by-step guidance on co-designing and implementing inclusive waste management technologies and systems replicable in other municipalities.

Summary

Key points	Summary
Key achievements	Dar es Salaam has achieved an outstanding 95% waste diversion rate in Bonyokwa ward, collecting 1.74 tonnes of waste daily from 4,500 households , with 100% organic waste diversion. Methane emissions have been reduced by 16.4 tonnes annually. The city's zero waste model integrates waste picker cooperatives, decentralized material recovery facilities, and scalable community-driven practices, establishing a replicable framework for other Tanzanian cities , including Zanzibar, Arusha, and Tanga.
Policies & governance	The city promotes zero waste through community-based segregation, cooperative-led collection, and decentralized composting facilities, including the Simu 2000 Composting Facility in Ubungo. Dar es Salaam aligns with national and international frameworks , including signing the C40 Pathway Towards Zero Waste, embedding circular economy principles, and supporting climate-resilient waste management policies.
Practices & innovations	Awareness campaigns are implemented through door-to-door visits, community surveys, and local engagement strategies that encourage behavioral change. The city uses mobile app-based payment systems for households to optimize collection efficiency and ensure financial sustainability. A Zero Waste Model case study and community mobilization toolkit provide step-by-step guidance for replication in other municipalities.

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