



INNOVATION CHALLENGE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA) under the Ministry of Tourism and Environment Affairs, is inviting applicants to submit solutions on innovations to address waste management challenges in Eswatini.

1. SUMMARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Waste Management for Improved Livelihoods and Resilience project is a COVID-19 Green Recovery initiative with an objective to address the challenge of waste management in Eswatini and empower MSMEs, particularly women and youth, to regain sources of income to improve livelihoods, reduce levels of poverty and improve their overall wellbeing. The project aims to achieve a gender inclusive strategy developed to strengthen waste sector policy, legislation, institutional coordination and capacity building and sustainable innovative solutions developed and implemented for women and youth. One of the outputs of the project involves the development and implementation of an innovation challenge.

Eswatini Environment Authority in collaboration with UNDP will assist waste management partners to adopt a holistic approach to waste management, whereby the maximum amount of waste is part of a closed-loop process chain, thus creating a sustainable value chain and economy, and minimizing pollution and other negative externalities from this sector. The interventions will contribute to long-term transformation and long-lasting changes in policy, practice and capacities, at national or subnational levels in the waste sector and stimulate private sector engagement in the waste management sector.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the challenge is to solicit practical innovative solutions to waste challenges in Eswatini. This call for proposals is therefore focused on innovative solutions, in the form of either ideas, prototypes or solutions ready for implementation, targeted at solving an existing waste management challenge/issue.

3. CATEGORIES

Applicants are encouraged to provide solution under the following categories:

- Single-use diapers
- Electrical/Electronic waste
- Food waste
- Metal waste
- Recyclables (paper, glass, plastics, bottles, cans, etc.)
- Garden waste
- Construction/building waste
- Any other waste category



The solutions submitted should fall into any of the following stages of development:

Idea: a proposed solution for solving a problem that is derived through research and/or creative thinking. It must be a solution with potential for actual implementation and delivery.

Prototype: an early sample, model, or release of a product built to test an idea or assumption. It is a solution that can be tested to draw lessons and refined accordingly. The process of prototyping bridges the gap between conceptual ideas and real, workable solutions.

Tested solution that is ready for implementation: a working model or project that has been implemented on a small scale and has proven to work/solve the problem.

*An applicant may submit more than one proposal for different waste categories.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is a phased approach as follows:

PHASE 1: RAISING AWARENESS

Those who are interested in submitting proposals will have an opportunity to attend a workshop that will focus on providing information on the application process, addressing questions (i.e., where to find application forms) and providing an overview of the expectations/requirements for the proposals.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such awareness raising may take place through mass media & social media.

PHASE 2: SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Those interested should submit their proposals for addressing the waste management challenge/issue. This can be an idea or a prototype ready for testing or a tested solution ready for implementation. Applicants must submit a written proposal, in either English or Swati. The application form can be found on the **UNDP website**, tinkhundla centres and municipalities. Proposals must be sent by email attachment to innovateforwaste.sz@undp.org or physical submission to municipalities in your area.

Deadline: Submit proposal by **15 October 2021**.

PHASE 3: PROPOSAL EVALUATION

A judging committee will evaluate submitted proposal using the following review criteria:

REVIEW CRITERIA	SCORE
Waste management problem identified and defined	25%
Feasibility of the proposed solution	25%
Impact of the proposed solution	25%
Sustainability and scalability potential	25%
Total	100%

PHASE 4: PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

The applicants whose proposals scores 70% and above during evaluations will be invited to present their waste management proposal to the judging committee for final selection.

Applicants from the 'prototype' will be required to present their prototype to the judging committee, demonstrate how it is expected to operate and provide the anticipated outcomes during testing and implementation.

Applicants from the 'tested solution' category will be required to present results from the testing phase, including prototypes used and refinements made to the original concept.

PHASE 5: AWARD CEREMONY

An award ceremony will be organized to publicly announce the winners of the innovation challenge. The innovation challenge will award three (3) applicants per category as follows:

CATEGORY	PRIZE	AMOUNT (SZL)
IDEA	1 st Prize	30 000
	2 nd Prize	20 000
	3 rd Prize	15 000
Prototype	1 st Prize	70 000
	2 nd Prize	40 000
	3 rd Prize	20 000
Tested solution	1 st Prize	100 000
	2 nd Prize	75 000
	3 rd Prize	40 000

The prizes awarded will be funding for developing and implementing the solutions. Non-monetary awards will include training and capacity building on a sustainable waste value chain business model and a financial match-making facility. The training and capacity building will capacitate winners to develop business plans, seek additional funds for their projects, and turn the projects into businesses. Winners are required to use the prize money to further the solutions and, where applicable, UNDP may require reporting of the utilization of monetary prize.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following criteria for your application to be considered:

- The applicant should be from the formal and informal waste sector, an individual solution developer (especially women and youth), a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME), youth-led organization, women-led organization, community-based organization, or CSOs based and registered in Eswatini.



5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.1 In keeping with UNDP's goals to achieve the broadest positive impact for all, the intellectual property rights of these selected innovations remain with UNDP and the innovations will be made public on open exchanges. Innovators and developers will receive recognition for their efforts and appropriate licenses will be issued to them. UNDP is taking this approach to ensure that:

- Innovations that are of significant interest and benefit to the public actually become “public goods or services” and may be made accessible
- There will be no monopoly control over the solution
- The solution will not be priced beyond beneficiaries’ ability to pay for it.

If the innovative ideas selected by UNDP are adopted and replicated by UNDP or any of UNDP’s partners in various UNDP-supported programmes or projects, the sources of the innovative ideas must not and cannot expect to be the sole source of all business activities arising from such adoption of the innovation. Where necessary, and where marketable technologies are involved, UNDP may provide perpetual license to the source of the innovative idea, but UNDP shall not be precluded from granting the same license to other entities.

5.2 The proposal must be financially sustainable and scalable such that it is:

- viable in the long-term and financially sustainable
- broadly accepted and widely accessible to all targeted beneficiaries and/or potential users
- replicable in other environments

6. FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Should you require further clarifications, kindly send an email to innovateforwaste.sz@undp.org.

NOTE: Once an application has been submitted, both UNDP and EEA will not discuss this competition with applicants until the entire proposal review process is completed.