Government of Malawi

NATIONAL E-WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

2024

National E-waste Management Policy

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MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAGR: Compound Annual Growth Rate
CFTC: Competition and Fair-Trading Commission
CSO: Civil Society Organisation
DHRMD: Department of Human Resource Management and Development
EAD: Environmental Affairs Department
EEE: Electrical and Electronic Equipment
EoL: End of Life
EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility
ICT: Information and Communications Technology
IT: Information Technology
MACRA: Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority
MBS: Malawi Bureau of Standards
MCCCI: Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
MEPA: Malawi Environment Protection Authority
MIP-1:   Malawi 2063 First 10 Year Implementation Plan
MRA: Malawi Revenue Authority
NCIC: National Construction Industry Council
NCST: National Commission for Science and Technology
NSO: National Statistical Office
NEWMP: National E-waste Management Policy
OPC: Office of the President and Cabinet
PPPC: Public-Private Partnerships Commission
POPs: Persistent Organic Pollutants
SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
WEEE: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

Glossary

Electrical and electronic equipment: equipment that is dependent on electrical currents or electromagnetic fields to work properly and equipment for the generation, transfer, and measurement of such currents and fields.

Extended Producer Responsibility: a policy principle to promote total life cycle environmental improvements of product systems by extending the responsibility of the manufacturers of the product to various parts of the entire life cycle of the product, and especially to the take-back, recycling, and final disposal of the product.

Green consumption: preferential consumption of goods and services based on their pro-environment claims.

Producer: an entity that introduces new or used EEE, products into the country using authorized means by manufacturing, assembling, importing, distributing, converting, selling, and or reselling.

E-waste: all types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and its parts that have been discarded by the owner as waste without the intention of re-use.

3R Principle: a principle of waste management hierarchy which fosters reducing the amount of waste produced, recycling and reusing materials where possible.

Foreword

The National E-waste Management Policy has been developed to address issues regarding the management of waste electrical and electronic equipment. The government realizes that the digital revolution has led to an increase in demand and use of electrical and electronic equipment by individuals, the private sector, and the public sector. An increase in the use of these pieces of equipment also comes with an increase in the amount of waste generated which is being discarded in large quantities at an increasing rate in the country. Waste electrical and electronic equipment pollutes the environment and increases health risks on the society.

The Policy outlines the goals, outcomes, priority areas, and implementation arrangements that will provide a guiding framework for achieving sustainable and standardised approaches for managing waste electrical and electronic equipment. The development of the Policy aligns well with Government's commitment in improving waste management as outlined in country's national vision, the Malawi 2063 and its First10- Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1). The vision recognises environmental sustainability as an enabler of sustainable development. Under this enabler, the MIP-1 focuses on waste management and the green economy.

I, therefore, call upon all stakeholders and development partners to embrace this policy and support the Government to ensure that together we improve the management of waste electrical and electronic equipment in the country.

Honourable Michael B. Usi, PhD
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Preface

Malawi has never had a national policy to guide stakeholders in the implementation of initiatives to improve the functioning of E-waste management system. The National E-waste Management Policy comes at an opportune time when Government has placed environmental sustainability among the key priority areas as stipulated in the Malawi 2063. The prioritization of safe, clean and sustainable envirnment under the environmental sustainability enabler presents an opportunity for the Government, development partners and stakeholders to direct resources and efforts towards addressing E-waste management issues and in the country. The policy defines government's policy direction as well as affirms its commitment to the adoption and implementation of programmes and strategies aimed at the management of the E-waste in a manner consistent with the desire for sustainable development.

The policy is designed to address gaps and challenges such as lack of infrastructure; inadequate funding for e-waste management intervations; poor governance system; and coordination and management of e-waste management related programmes. This policy shall ensure that evidence-based E-Waste management interventions are implemented at scale and in line with the Malawi 2063 Vision. The policy is also aligned to multilateral environmental agreements to which Malawi is a signatory such as Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

The National E-waste Management Policy was developed through a highly consultative process incorporating input from a broad range of stakeholders. These include: District Executive Committees, Religious and Traditional Leaders, Members of Parliament, Development Partners, members of the academia, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, and officials from various Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Let me thank the various partners who contributed financial and technical support to the development of this policy. It is my sincere hope that all stakeholders will continue demonstrating their commitment through supporting implementation of this Policy. I would therefore urge all stakeholders to make use of the policy when they implement their activities.

Yusuf Malsellino Mkungula, PhD
SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National E-waste Management Policy provides a guiding framework to all stakeholders for the implementation of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) management interventions to address the existing and foreseen emerging national issues regarding. In this Policy, E-waste has the same meaning as WEEE and may be used interchangeably. The Policy also upholds the Government's commitment to the protection of the environment and human health from hazardous chemicals as espoused in national and international development goals including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Malawi does not manufacture electrical and electronic equipments (EEE) but assembles some products using imported components. Nevertheless, there are new and second-hand EEE that are imported by private importers mainly from Asia the Middle East, the USA, Europe, and South Africa. Some EEE is imported through international donations. Most old and end-of-life EEE will be found at offices, in households, at educational institutions, and at repair shops where they are kept for extended periods. The conventional usefulness of EEE completely diminishes when it reaches its end-of-life and is generally discarded, at which point it becomes waste.

The Policy has identified six priority areas that consolidate aspirations contained in its goal and objectives. The priority areas are Institutional, Legal and Regulatory Framework; Financing; Infrastructure Development; Capacity Building and Awareness; Research and Development and EEE Certification. The Policy complements other policies and strategies in the environment and natural resources sector in protecting and reducing the negative impacts of E-waste on the environment and human health.

The Policy provides the institutional framework within which government institutions, the private sector, development partners, academia, and civil society will be able to coordinate their efforts for the effective and efficient management of E-waste in the country. It contains an Implementation Plan which will facilitate the adoption of a well-coordinated approach for its effective implementation. It also contains a monitoring and evaluation Plan which has indicators that will help to track the progress of the implementation of the Policy.

1.1 Historical Background

Historically, there has been limited coverage of E-waste in the country's policy and legal frameworks related to environmental management in general and waste management in particular. For example, the Environmental Management Act of 2017 covers issues related to toxic and hazardous wastes. However, the Act does not specifically address environmentally sound management of E-waste although it is classified as hazardous waste. Similarly, the Environment Management (Waste Management and Sanitation) Regulations of 2008 do not specifically provide for measures to deal with this category of hazardous wastes. Nevertheless, the National Solid Waste Management Strategy (2019 – 2023) recognises E-waste as an

"emerging waste stream". It further notes that Malawi has experienced an increase in E-waste generation due to a growing demand for EEE most of which is low-quality EEE.

According to the Global E-waste Monitor 2017, it was estimated that in 2016, Malawi generated 9.5 million kilograms of E-waste, (4 percent of all the E-waste generated in the Africa region), which is equivalent to 0.5 kg per capita per year. Overall results show that there have been an increased generation of Malawi's E-waste over the years since 2014, having more than doubled from 4 million kilograms to 9.5 million kilograms in 2016. When compared to the Global E-waste Monitor 2020, E-waste generated in Malawi reached 10 million kilograms in 2019, which is also equivalent to 0.5 kg per capita per year. Substantial growth in Malawi's E-waste is largely due to mobile phones, computers and TV sets.

1.2 Current Status
E-waste is currently not being managed in an environmentally sound manner although its generation is increasing in the country. There is no recycling plants or facilities and most E-waste ends up in open dumping sites where it is mixed with other wastes. Nonetheless, some E-waste is collected by informal waste collectors to extract valuable components from the equipment but this is done without following any safety measures, which is contrary to the provisions of the Occupational Safety, Health and Welfare Act. This situation poses a risk to both human health and the environment and is being aggravated by the absence of a relevant policy, which defines roles and responsibilities of different actors in managing E-waste.

Considering the environmental and health challenges associated with E-waste, a robust management system must be devised to ensure their proper and safe disposal. This would entail the recovery of some valuable components for social and economic gains through the sale of recovered materials and the creation of green jobs.

The 2022 national E-waste Monitor survey by the National Statistics Office, ITU and UNITAR -SCYCLE, shows that there is an increase in the availability of electrical and electronic equipment put on the market from 1.3 million kilograms in 1995 to 12.5 million kilograms in 2022. Small equipment and temperature exchange equipment are the largest categories entering the market, but lamps may dominate in the future if the 2020 and 2021 trends continue. Similarly, E-waste generation has continued to grow in the country over time, reaching 14.53 million kilograms in 2021 from 0.6 million kilograms in 1995. Small equipment is the largest contributor of E-waste generated over the past two decades followed by Small IT and telecommunication equipment. Results also show increasing trends in waste electrical and electronic generated from temperature exchange equipment and large equipment (excluding photovoltaic panels) over the same years (1995-2021).

1.3 Linkages with Other Relevant Policies and Legislation

The National E-Waste Management Policy has been developed in the context of national legislation, policies, strategic documents, and relevant international agreements. The following section highlights some of the key instruments that apply to Policy.

1.3.1 National Level

1.3.1.1 The Constitution of the Republic of Malawi
The Constitution of the Republic of Malawi under section 13(d) provides that the State shall actively promote the welfare and development of the people of Malawi by progressively adopting and implementing policies and legislation aimed at managing the environment responsibly to; prevent the degradation of the environment; provide a healthy living and working environment for the people of Malawi; accord full recognition to the rights of future generations using environmental protection and the sustainable development of natural resources; and conserve and enhance the biological diversity of Malawi.

1.3.1.2 Malawi 2063
Malawi 2063 (MW2063) is a long-term Development Strategy that outlines the collective aspirations and goals of Malawians towards the year 2063. Enabler 7 outlines Malawi's aspirations for environmental sustainability. It provides for a safe, clean, secure, and sustainable environment including adequate waste disposal, treatment, and recycling. The Vision puts a strong emphasis on the importance of ICT in the achievement of a better Malawi for all. This entails increased use of EEE across all sectors hence generation of more E-waste which will require sound management.

1.3.1.3 The Environmental Management Act, Cap. 60:02 of the Laws of Malawi
The Act provides for the protection and management of the environment and the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources. The Act also establishes a legal framework for waste management and includes provisions on hazardous waste.

1.3.1.4 Environment Management (Waste Management and Sanitation) Regulations 2008
These Regulations specifically provide for waste management and sanitation. Part VI of the Regulations deals with the management of hazardous waste. The Regulations domesticate key elements of the Basel Convention that sets out the requirements for the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, notification procedures, and prior informed consent.

1.3.1.5 Environment Management (Chemical and Toxic Substances Management) Regulations 2008
The Regulations provide for full cycle management of toxic substances and chemicals. The Regulations have a direct link to the National E-waste Management Policy because they regulate chemicals that can be found in the EEE.

1.3.1.6 Environment Management (Management of Ozone Depleting Substances) Regulations,1998

These regulations provide for measures to control importing and exporting of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) or the use of ODS technologies. Under the regulations, ODS technologies include EEE such as air-conditioners, heat pump units, ice machines Refrigerators, Freezers, and dehumidifiers.

1.3.1.7 The Local Government Act, Cap.22:01 of the Laws of Malawi

The Act establishes local authorities which have the mandate to establish, maintain and manage services for the collection and removal, and treatment of solid and liquid waste and the disposal of such waste whether within or outside its area of jurisdiction. and prevention of environmental degradation. Local authorities establish bylaws relating to waste which may include E-waste under the Local Government Act.

1.3.1.8 The Communications Act, Cap 68:01 of the Laws of Malawi

The Act provides for the protection of public health and safety, and compliance with national and international standards and obligations laid out in communication agreements and treaties to which Malawi is a party. It also provides for the establishment of the type-approval regime for terminal equipment or any other electronic telecommunications equipment.

1.3.1.9 The Control of Goods Act, Cap 18:08 of the Laws of Malawi

The Act provides for the control of any goods imported into or exported from Malawi. It provides for restrictions on quality of goods that can be imported into the country. Importation of EEE that does not meet minimum safety specifications is restricted under the Act.

1.3.1.10 The Public Health Act, Cap.34:01 of the Laws of Malawi

The Act creates the legal framework for the protection of public health in Malawi. It outlines obligations by the citizenry and manufacturers in ensuring a clean and safe environment for all which is in line with this Policy.

1.3.1.11 Occupational Safety, Health and Welfare Act, Cap. 55:07 of the Laws of Malawi

The Act provides for the regulation of the conditions of employment in workplaces, including those engaged in E-waste management, as regards the safety, health and welfare. It also prevents and regulates accidents of persons employed or authorised to go into the workplace.

1.3.1.12 The National Environmental Policy

The overall goal of the National Environmental Policy (NEP) is the promotion of sustainable, social, and economic development through the sound management of the environment and natural resources. The NEP provides guidance on the development of regulatory frameworks for waste management.

1.3.1.13 The Public Private Partnerships Policy

The Policy aims at securing increased investments and efficiency, reduced prices and expanding the range of services available to a wider cross-section of the society. The Policy will guide the establishment of collaboration between government and the private sector entities in management of E-waste.

1.3.1.14 The National Waste Management Strategy

The National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) sets out the priorities to be pursued in Malawi to minimize the detrimental impact on human health and the environment of poor waste management. The National E-waste Management Policy aligns with the NWMS as it identifies E-waste as an important emerging waste stream.

1.3.2 International Level

1.3.2.1 The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes

Under the Basel Convention, parties agreed to minimize the production of the hazardous waste which includes E-waste; prioritize environmentally sound management of waste; and minimize the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, especially from developed countries to developing countries. Some of the important commitments made under this Agreement include the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste and decision IX/6 adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. These commitments gave a mandate to the Basel Convention Secretariat to implement a global work plan for the environmentally sound management of E-waste. Malawi acceded to this Convention on 21st April 1994.

1.3.2.2 The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Stockholm Convention seeks to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are pollutants that can be found in various EEE and associated wastes. The Convention provides that Parties shall endeavour to utilize and, where necessary, establish the means to integrate national implementation plans for POPs in their sustainable development strategies where appropriate. Malawi acceded to this Convention on 27th February 2009.

1.3.2.3 The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

The Convention aims to raise international cooperation among United Nations Member States in protecting the ozone layer from depletion. Under Article 2(b), parties are obliged to adopt legislative or administrative measures and cooperate in harmonizing appropriate policies to control, limit or reduce or prevent human activities under their jurisdiction that are likely to have adverse effects resulting from modification or likely modification of the ozone layer. This policy is responding to the obligations under this agreement.

1.3.2.4 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

The Montreal Protocol was negotiated as a protocol to the Vienna Convention. The Protocol is a global agreement to protect the Earth's ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of chemicals that deplete it. This agreement relates to E-waste since some cooling systems in electrical equipment such as air conditioners and fridges contain Ozone Depleting Substances. Malawi ratified the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in January 1991.

1.3.2.5 Minamata Convention on Mercury

This Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from mercury and mercury compounds released from human activities. The Convention contains provisions that relate to the entire life cycle of mercury, including controls and reductions across a range of products, processes, and industries where mercury is used, released or emitted. One of the key elements of this convention is to take measures to phase out or reduce mercury use in certain products which include EEE such as batteries, switches, and lights. The policy is aligned with this convention because some E-waste contains mercury. Malawi signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 10th October 2013 and is in the process of ratifying it.

1.4 Problem Statement

Waste electrical and electronic equipment is currently not being managed in an environmentally sustainable manner although its generation is increasing. The main challenges facing Malawi regarding E-waste have been lack of specific policy and legal frameworks on E-waste management(i.e. with provisions on; re-use or recycling of E-waste, end-of-life product takeback; and implementation of extended producer responsibility), lack of laws on import of used EEE (i.e. governing standards, certification, testing, and labelling of used EEE imports to prevent the country from being used as a dumping site); lack of public awareness on E-waste; lack of environmental expertise and institutional capacity in managing E-waste, lack of infrastructure for appropriate E-waste management and lack of financial resources to implement the basic interventions needed to manage the E-waste.

In the absence of National E-Waste Management Policy, the Malawi Government was guided by several policies and strategic documents that were not specifically focused on E-waste. This has resulted in lack of institutional coordination in E-waste management.

1.5 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a unified guiding framework for achieving sustainable and standardised approaches to E-waste management in Malawi. The Policy provides direction for managing challenges associated with E-waste to mitigate the impact of E-waste on human health and the environment.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 BROAD POLICY DIRECTION

2.1 Policy Goal

The overall goal of this policy is to attain an effective, efficient, equitable, and responsible management of waste electrical and electronic equipment to protect human health and the environment for the socio-economic development of Malawi.

2.2 Policy Outcomes

i. Regulated and monitored E-waste sector.
ii. Improved and sustained financing for E-waste management.
iii. Improved infrastructure and technologies for E-waste management.
iv. Increased knowledge and skills in E-waste management.
v. Reliable information management systems of EEE and E-waste.
vi. Improved quality of EEE produced (imported and or assembled).

2.3 Policy Objectives

The objectives of the Policy are to:

i. strengthen the institutional, legal and regulatory framework for E-waste management.
ii. guide the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism for E-waste management.
iii. establish a national system to collect, transport, process, and export E-waste consistent with Malawi's international commitments.
iv. build the technical capacity of personnel responsible for monitoring and regulating EEE and the environmentally sound management of E-waste.
v. raise awareness of the people of Malawi on environmentally sound management of E-waste and its value chain.
vi. Strengthen quality assurance mechanisms for EEE.
vii. improve data and information management on EEE and E-waste.

2.4 Guiding Principles and Core Values

The implementation of this Policy will be guided by the following principles and core values:

i. **Protection of human health and environment:** The Policy will ensure that all hazardous materials in E-waste are treated properly to avoid endangering human health and harming the environment.
ii. **Circular economy:** The policy will ensure that EEE that has reached the end of life (EoL) is utilized to create economic value. Reuse and recycling of EEE that have reached EoL will create opportunities for jobs and skills development.

iii. **Environmental sustainability**: The policy will recognise the importance of maintaining an ecological balance while managing E-waste. This will ensure that Malawi continues to benefit from the use of EEE and E-waste economically.

iv. **Collaboration and partnerships:** The policy will promote partnerships between public and private institutions and the citizens to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in E-waste management.

v. **Equity and social inclusion**: The policy will promote social inclusion and equity by creating an enabling environment for the participation of the youth, women, and people with disabilities in the EEE value chain.

vi. **Transparency and accountability:** The Policy will promote a culture of openness and responsibility by stakeholders in the EEE value chain.

vii. **Integrity:** The policy will promote honesty and firm adherence to ethical standards and professionalism among stakeholders.

viii. **Extended Producer Responsibility:** The Policy will recognise the role of manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment in environmentally sustainable management of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

ix. **3R:** The policy will encourage the implementation of the waste management hierarchy, which fosters reduction of waste generated, and reusing and recycling materials where possible. Implementing the 3Rs will contribute to achievement of a circular economy.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

The Policy has identified six priority areas that consolidate aspirations contained in the goal and policy objectives. The policy priority areas are:

i. Institutional, Legal and Regulatory Framework
ii. Financing
iii. Infrastructure Development
iv. Capacity Building and Awareness
v. Research and Development
vi. EEE Certification

3.1 Policy Priority Area 1: Institutional, Legal and Regulatory Framework

The Policy priority area focuses on organisations and agencies as well as laws, and regulations that govern collection, transportation, storage and disposal of E-waste. This framework also specifies the rights and responsibilities of various stakeholders in E-waste value chain.

The existing institutional, legal, and regulatory framework is not explicit on E-waste and there are no specific strategies within the framework to address challenges associated with E-waste.

Policy Statements

The Policy will ensure that:

I. Specific legislation and regulations governing E-waste are strengthened.
Strategies
a. Review and amend the relevant laws to address gaps and overlaps in the existing legal framework for waste management.
b. Develop specific regulations, guidelines, and standards on E-waste.
c. Establish and implement an extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework for all producers of electronic and electrical equipment.

II. Environmentally sustainable E-waste management by institutions is well coordinated.
Strategies
a. Establish an inter-agency monitoring system.
b. Develop an integrated system to facilitate E-waste management across institutions.
c. Improve the capacity of relevant law enforcement agencies and other institutions to properly manage E-waste.
d. Establish of third-party organisations (TPOs) for collecting E-waste and transporting it to the appropriate storage location.

3.2 Policy Priority Area 2: Financing

Financing is critical for the successful implementation of the policy on E-waste. It enables the execution of the E-waste management initiatives, supports the TPOs' sustainability, and allows for the improvement and scaling up of products and services provided by all relevant institutions.

There are no sustainable financing mechanisms for E-waste management. While E-waste generation is increasing annually, the lack of resources to manage it poses serious risks to the environment and human health.

Policy Statement
> The Policy will ensure that:
> **I.   Adequate financial resources for E-waste management are available.**
>
> **Strategies**
> > a. Develop a prioritized budget for E-waste.
> > b. Establish an E-waste Management Fund which will be managed by the Policy holder.
> > c. Promote investment in E-waste management.
> > d. Promote public-private partnerships in E-waste management.
> > e. Introduce a levy on importation of new EEE, E-waste and refurbished EEE

3.3 Policy Priority Area 3: Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development involves proper and effective management of physical facilities for managing electrical and electronic equipment that have reached their end of life. These include collection centres, carrier vehicles, drop-off points, dismantling, refurbishing, or recycling centres, and safe disposal facilities.

Despite the exponential growth in EEE consumption and subsequent generation of E-waste, there are no proper E-waste management facilities in Malawi. E-waste from households and local market centres is treated in backyard operations and oftentimes discarded with municipal solid waste at open dumps and into surface water bodies. Similarly, those from big private and public institutions are just stockpiled within their premises before being dumped or sold to informal stakeholders. Malawi needs effective and efficient infrastructures to manage its ever-increasing E-waste generation.

Policy Statements
The policy will ensure that:
> **I.   Effective and efficient E-waste management facilities are strategically established.**
> > **Strategies**

a. Enhance procurement and construction of modern E-waste management facilities.
b. Establish standards and guidelines that govern the construction of E-waste management facilities.
c. Strengthen private-public partnerships (PPPs) in developing waste electrical and electronic equipment infrastructure.
d. Enhance formal recycling of E-waste locally.

3.4 Policy Priority Area 4: Capacity Building and Awareness

Capacity building involves providing individuals and organisations with resources to effectively manage waste electrical and electronic equipment. Further, awareness programmes are also critical in addressing waste EEE issues. Education about the dangers of waste EEE and the importance of proper disposal helps raise awareness and encourages action. By educating people and building their capacity, responsible waste EEE practices are promoted and the environment for future generations is protected.

Currently, E-waste management in Malawi faces many challenges due to inadequate skills and knowledge. This is compounded by the fact that E-waste management is a relatively new concept in the country.

Policy Statements

The policy will ensure that:

I. **Knowledge and skills of stakeholders across the EEE value chain are enhanced.**

   Strategies
   a. Mainstream waste EEE management into national school curricula in primary, secondary, tertiary and professional development institutions.
   b. Develop training programs on environmentally sustainable management of waste EEE.
   c. Enhance technology development and innovation in E-waste management.
   d. Designate training institutions as centres of excellence in EEE and E-waste.

II. **Information on electrical and electronic equipment and waste electrical and electronic equipment is adequately communicated.**

   Strategies
   a. Develop and implement a communication strategy on EEE and E-waste.
   b. Engage E-waste ambassadors as motivators.

      c. Raise awareness of appropriate handling, reuse, and recycling of E-waste.

      d. Strengthen green consumption of EEE across all sectors.

3.5 Policy Priority Area 5: Research and Development

Research and Development through collection of data and statistics are key to a comprehensive understanding of the major sources of EEE imports, and of the extent, status, and trends of E-waste distribution for the development of evidence-based E-waste management frameworks and policies.

There is limited data, statistics, and information available on EEE and E-waste due to limited skills, fragmented efforts among data producers and users, and LIMITED financial resources to support E-waste management. This is hampering efficient and effective management of E-waste.

Policy Statements

The Policy will ensure that:

    I. **Data on EEE and E-waste data are available to planners, decision-makers, relevant individuals, and institutions.**

Strategies

      a. Improve E-waste data collection and management system.

      b. Develop a public database or website where all stakeholders can access E-waste management data and statistics.

      c. Strengthen coordination among E-waste data producers and users.

      d. Build capacity of data producers and processors.

3.6 Policy Priority Area 6: EEE Certification

Certification of EEE entails ensuring the acceptability and conformity of the EEE to minimum technical and safety requirements before the EEE is used. This includes a critical check of products before they are dispatched to end users. Currently, not all EEE are subjected to certification before being put on the market.

Policy Statement

This policy will ensure that:

    I. **Only EEE that meet local and international quality, environmental, and safety standards are available on the market.**

Strategies

      a. Enforce EEE standards requirements.

      b. Enhance capacity in regulatory institutions.

      c. Strengthen coordination and collaboration among regulatory agencies.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

This chapter highlights how the policy will be implemented. Chapter includes institutional arrangements, an implementation plan, and a monitoring and evaluation Plan.

4.1 Institutional Arrangements

The government recognises that successful implementation of the policy will need a multisectoral approach. Therefore, the implementation of the policy will involve various stakeholders including government ministries, departments, agencies, private sector organisations, development partners, civil society organisations, and non-governmental organisations. The following are the key institutions and their respective roles in the implementation of the policy:

i. **Office of the President and Cabinet**
   The Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) is responsible for providing strategic leadership and oversight in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the Policy.

ii. **Ministry responsible for Environment**
   The Ministry will be the Policy holder and will be responsible for the provision of leadership and coordination of policy implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

iii. **Ministry responsible for Finance**
   The Ministry will be responsible for determining the financing mechanisms to govern E-waste management. The Ministry will guide the appropriate means of mobilising financial resources for the development of the E-waste management infrastructure.

iv. **Ministry responsible for Health**
   The Ministry will be responsible for awareness raising, capacity building, and training programmes on impacts of E-waste on human health.

v. **Ministry responsible for Information**
   The Ministry will lead public awareness initiatives on EEE and E-waste to influence policy decisions and behaviour/mindset change.

vi. **Ministry responsible for Labour**
   The Ministry will provide policy guidance on occupational health and safety for producers of EEE and the E-waste management facilities and it will be responsible for enforcement of labour laws. It will also be responsible for skills development in WEEE management through the Technical Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TEVETA).

vii.   **Ministry of Justice**
The Ministry will be responsible for developing EEE and E-waste legislation. The Ministry is also responsible for providing general legal advice about the signing, ratification, and implementation of bilateral, regional, and international treaties.

viii. **Ministry responsible for Trade and Industry**
The Ministry will be responsible for tracking EEE and E-waste imports and exports. The Ministry will also be responsible for registering EEE and E-waste business entities.

ix.   **Ministry Responsible for Energy**
The Ministry will be responsible for providing policy guidance on electrical equipment and energy recovery processes from E-waste.

x.   **Ministry responsible for Local Government**
The Ministry will be responsible for overseeing the development of E-waste by-laws in all local authorities

xi.   **Ministry responsible Education**
The Ministry will be responsible for designing and developing the national education curricula. It will facilitate the inclusion of E-waste management in the primary and secondary schools and the universities curricula.

xii. **Parliamentary Service Committee Responsible for Environment**
The committee will be responsible for advocating for support and implementation of the policy through the enactment of relevant legislation.

xiii. **Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA)**
The Authority will be responsible for enforcing regulations. It will also be responsible for issuing permits, certificates, and licenses for storage, transportation, classification or destruction, importation, and exportation of E-waste. MEPA will also be responsible for lobbying with Ministry responsible for finance on; fiscal incentives that are necessary for promoting the protection and management of the environment and the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources; economic instruments to ensure appropriate pricing of environmental resources; and economic instruments to ensure that the costs of pollution are paid by the polluter.

xiv. **Malawi Communication Regulatory Authority (MACRA)**
The Authority will be responsible for developing and publishing technical standards related to communication goods and services. The agency will also be responsible the

establishing a type approval regime for terminal equipment or any other electronic equipment in the telecommunication sector. Furthermore, MACRA will conduct technical audits of the main EEE installed and E-waste generated by telecommunication services providers to establish the E-waste generation rates from the sector.

xv. **Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority**

The Authority will be responsible for ensuring that the acquisition of EEE meets local and international standards. It will also be responsible for ensuring that the proper disposal of E-waste is in accordance with Waste Management legislation**.**

xvi. **Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA)**

The agency will be responsible for regulating entities that produce energy from E-waste.

xvii. **Competition and Fair-Trade Commission (CFTC)**

The commission will be responsible for regulation monitoring, control, and prevention of acts or behaviours that would adversely affect competition and fair trading in all businesses regarding EEE and E-waste management.

xviii. **Public Private Partnership Commission (PPC)**

The commission will be responsible for promoting public-private partnerships in E-waste management.

xix. **Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)**

The agency will be responsible for developing and enforcing national standards relevant to EEE and E-waste.

xx. **National Statistical Office (NSO)**

The agency will be responsible for collecting and maintaining data on EEE and E-waste. The agency is also responsible for creating and maintenance of a comprehensive national EEE and E-waste data repository and ensuring its accessibility.

xxi. **Local Authorities.**

City, municipal and district councils will be responsible for the development of by-laws for the environmentally sound management of E-waste. The Local Authorities will also ensure that appropriate E-waste management infrastructure is in place. The Local Authorities will also carry out public awareness raising programs on E-waste.

xxii. **Producers**

Producers will be responsible for ensuring that their products meet both local and international requirements on ICT, health, and the environment. In addition, producers

will also be responsible for adhering to the Extended Producer Responsibility, creating awareness of the quality of EEE, and designating drop-off points for E-waste.

xxiii. **Informal sector**

This group comprises EEE repairers, E-waste collectors, and recyclers. They will be responsible for sensitising the public on the items that are collected for recycling and repairing or reuse.

xxiv. **Academia and Research Institutions**

Academia and research institutions will be responsible for supporting capacity building and the adoption of best practices and developments in the sector. They will also ensure the generation and dissemination of new knowledge to relevant stakeholders including policy and decision-makers.

xxv. **Non-governmental Organisations and Civil Society**

The Non-governmental organisations will be responsible for encouraging innovation and growth and support the establishment of E-waste management businesses, entrepreneurs, and small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs). They will also be responsible for awareness raising and providing checks and balances.

xxvi. **Consumers**

Consumers will be responsible for ensuring that they use certified EEE. They will also be required to properly dispose of E-waste.

4.2 Implementation Plan

The National E-Waste Management Policy will guide the implementation of E-waste management initiatives by various stakeholders under the coordination of EAD and guided by strategic focus and interventions contained in Annex 1. The implementation plan highlights the objective of each priority area, strategies, responsible institutions, and timeframes.

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The monitoring and evaluation will be guided by Monitoring and Evaluation Plan as presented in Annex 2. The monitoring and evaluation plan will help to track the progress of the implementation of the Policy. A mid-term review will be conducted after 3 years, and a final review will conduct after 5 years of implementation to inform the successor Policy. The review will be a consultative process with all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the policy initiatives. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan highlights objectives, outputs, performance indicators, targets, baselines, means of verification and assumptions, and risks.

ANNEX 1: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Policy Priority Area 1: Institutional, Legal and Regulatory Framework			
Policy Statement 1: Specific legislation and regulations governing E-waste are strengthened.			
Objective	*Strategy*	*Responsibility*	*Timeframe*
To strengthen institutional, legal and regulatory framework for E-waste management	Review and amend the relevant laws to address gaps and overlaps in the existing legal framework for waste management.	**EAD**, MACRA, Ministry of Justice	2024 - 2026
	Develop specific regulations, guidelines, and standards on E-waste.	**EAD**, MACRA, Ministry of Justice	2024- 2026
	Establish and implement an extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework for all manufacturers, importers, and resellers of electronic and electrical equipment	**EAD,** MCCCI, MACRA, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Malawi Revenue Authority	2024 - 2028
Policy Statement 2: Environmentally sustainable E-waste management by institutions is well coordinated			
Objective	*Strategy*	*Responsibility*	*Timeframe*
To strengthen institutional, legal and regulatory framework for E-waste management	Establish inter-agency monitoring system	**EAD,** EP&D, MACRA	2024-27
	Develop an integrated system to facilitate E-waste management across institutions	**EAD,** Ministry of Local Government, Local Authorities	2024- 25

	Improve the capacity of relevant law enforcement agencies and other institutions to properly manage E-waste	**Ministry of Justice,** EAD, MACRA	2024 - 2028
	Establish third part organizations (TPOs) for collecting E-waste and transporting it to the appropriate storage location	**EAD,** Ministry of Trade, PPP Commission, MACRA	2025 - 2028

Priority Policy Area 2: Financing

Policy Statement 1: Resources for E-waste management are adequately provided

Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To guide the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for waste electrical and electronic equipment management	Develop a prioritized budget for E-waste	**MEPA,** Ministry of Finance, EAD, Local Authorities	2024-2027
	Establish E-waste Management Fund.	MEPA	2024 - 2027
	Promote investment in E-waste management	**EAD,** Ministry of Finance; Ministry responsible for Local Government, Ministry responsible for Industry, MEPA	2024 - 2027
	Promote public-private partnerships in E-waste management.	**PPPC,** EAD, Local Authorities	2024 - 2029
	Lobby for introduction of a levy on E-waste and refurbished EEE importation	**MEPA,** Ministry of Finance	2024 - 2029

Policy Priority Area 3: Infrastructure Development			
Policy Statement 1: Effective and efficient E-waste management facilities strategically established			
Objective	*Strategy*	*Responsibility*	*Timeframe*
To establish a national system to collect, transport, process, and export E-waste consistent with Malawi's international obligations.	Enhance procurement and construction of modern E-waste management facilities.	**MEPA,** EAD	2024-2026
	Establish standards and guidelines that govern the construction of waste EEE management facilities.	**MBS,** EAD, NCIC	2026 - 2027
	Strengthen private-public partnerships in E-waste infrastructure development	**PPPC**	2024 - 2026
	Enhance formal recycling of E-waste locally.	**EAD,** Ministry of Trade and Industry	2024 - 2029
Policy Priority Area 4: Capacity Building and Awareness			
Policy Statement 1: Knowledge and skills of stakeholders across the EEE value-chain on E-waste are enhanced			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To create and implement awareness and education programmes to sensitize the people of Malawi on the importance of responsible life-cycle management of EEE.	- Mainstream E-waste management into national school curricula in primary, secondary, tertiary and professional development institutions	**EAD,** Ministry of Education	2024-2029

	-Develop training programs on environmentally sustainable management of E-waste		2024-2029
	-Enhance technology development and innovation in E-waste management.	National Commission for Science and Technology	2024-2029
	-Designate and strengthen institutions as centres of excellence in EEE and E-waste.	**EAD**, Ministry of Education	2024-2025
Policy Statement 2: Information on EEE and E-waste is adequately communicated			
Objective	*Strategy*	*Responsibility*	*Timeframe*
To create and implement awareness and education programmes to sensitize the people of Malawi of the importance of responsible life-cycle management of EEE.	Develop a communication strategy on EEE and E-waste.	MACRA, Ministry of Information	2024-2025
	Engage E-waste ambassadors as motivators	**EAD,** MACRA	2026-2029
	Raise awareness of appropriate handling, reuse, and recycling of E-waste	**EAD**, MEPA, MACRA, Local Authorities	2024-2029
	Strengthen green consumption of EEE across all sectors	MEPA	2024-2029
Priority Policy Area 5: Research and Development			

Policy Statement 1: Data on EEE and E-waste are available to planners, decision-makers, l relevant individuals and institutions.

Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Improve capturing, processing, storage, and sharing of data and information on EEE and E-waste.	Improve E-waste data collection and management system	**NSO,** MACRA, EAD, Ministry of Trade	2025 – 2029
	Develop a public database or website where all stakeholders can access E-waste management data and statistics.	**NSO,** Local Authorities	2024 - 2027
	Strengthen coordination among E-waste data producers, users, and policy and decision-makers.	**EAD,** NSO, Local Authorities, Government, MRA, MERA, MEPA, Ministry responsible for information	2024 – 2028
	Build capacity of data producers and processors.	**EAD**, NSO, Ministry responsible for education Local Authorities, Government, MRA, MERA, MEPA, Ministry responsible for information	2024 – 2028

Policy Priority Area 6: EEE Certification

Policy Statement 1: Only EEE that meet local and international quality, environmental, and safety standards are available on the market

Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Strengthen quality assurance mechanisms for EEE	Enforce EEE standards requirements	**MACRA,** MBS, MRA, EAD, MEPA, MERA	2024 - 2028
	Enhance capacity in regulatory institutions	**EAD,** MEPA, MACRA, MERA, DHRMD, MBS	2024 -2028

	strengthen coordination and collaboration among regulatory agencies	**EAD**, MEPA, MACRA	2024 - 2028

ANNEX 2: MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Policy Priority Area 1: Institutional, Legal, and Regulatory Framework

Outcome: Regulated and monitored the E-waste sector

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
To strengthen the institutional, legal, and regulatory framework for E-waste management.	Relevant laws to address gaps and overlaps in the existing legal framework for E-waste reviewed and amended	Number of laws reviewed and amended (Waste Management Regulation of 2008; New E-waste Regulations)	2	0	Reviewed and amended legislation	Financial and human resources are available.
	Specific regulations, guidelines, and standards on E-waste developed.	Number of regulations, guidelines, and standards developed	3	0	Regulations, guidelines, standards	Financial and human resources are available.
	An extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework developed.	Number of EPR frameworks developed.	1	0	Report	A third-party organisation is established. Financial and human resources are available.
	A multi-stakeholder monitoring team established.	Number of teams established	1	0	Memorandum of understanding	Stakeholders are willing to work together.
	Coordination among stakeholders in E-waste	Number of meetings conducted	20	0	Meeting minutes	Financial resources are available

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	managemen t improved					
	System to facilitate E-waste managemen t across institutions merged	Number of systems merged	1	0	MoUs signed	The willingness of stakeholders to merge the systems Stakeholders have their respective systems in place Financial resources are available
	The capacity of institutions to enforce the laws improved	Number of institutions capacitated on law enforcement	5	0	-Training reports -Procurement reports	Financial resources are available
	Third-party organisation s (TPOs) established.	Number of TPOs established	1	0	Certificate of registration	-Producers agree to establish the TPO -Enabling Regulations and Laws are gazetted and enacted respectively.

Policy Priority Area 2: Financing

Outcome: Improved and sustained financing for E-waste management

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
To guide the establishment of a sustainable	Viable financing mechanisms for E-waste	Number of financing mechanisms instituted	2	0	Government gazette	Private investors are cooperative

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
financing mechanism for E-waste management.	management instituted					
	Investment in E-waste management promoted.	Number of E-waste management investments	50	0	Waste operation licenses	Investor interest
	Public-private partnerships in E-waste management are promoted	Number of partnerships entered into	2	0	Signed PPP contracts	Private willingness
	Levy on importation E-waste and refurbished EEE introduced	Number of levies introduced	1	0	MRA Tax schedule	There will be no smuggling
Policy Priority Area 3: Infrastructure Development						
Outcome: Improved infrastructure and technologies for E-waste management						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Target**	**Baseline**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumptions/ Risks**
To establish a national system to collect, transport, process, and export E-waste consistent with Malawi's international obligations	Procurement and construction of modern E-waste management facilities enhanced	Number of E-waste management facilities constructed	3	0	E-waste management facilities	-Availability of financial resources -Stakeholder commitment
		Number of E-waste management facilities procured	6	0	E-waste management facilities	
	Standards and guidelines	Number of standards established	1	0	Standards for E-waste management	Availability of financial resources

					facilities 'construction	
governing the construction of E-waste management facilities established.	Number of guidelines established	1	0		Guidelines for E-waste management facilities 'construction	
Private-public partnerships in E-wate infrastructure developed	Number of PPP Interventions in E-waste infrastructure developed	3	0		Signed PPP contracts	Private investors are willingness
Incentives to private entities for the development of E-waste management infrastructure provided	Number of incentives set by the government to private entities for E-waste	1	0		Government gazette	-Investors are available
Formal local recycling of E-waste developed	Number of formal recycling facilities developed	3	0		Recycling licences issued	Willingness of investors to venture into large scale E-waste recycling

Policy Priority Area 4: Capacity Building and Awareness						
Outcome: Increased knowledge and skills in E-waste management						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Target**	**Baseline**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumptions/ Risks**
To raise awareness of the people of on environmentally sustainable management of E-waste	E-waste in national school curricula in primary, secondary, tertiary and professional	Number of school curricula mainstreaming E-waste management	4	0	School curricula	School curricula to be reviewed within the timeframe of the policy.

and its value chain.	development institutions Mainstreamed					Willingness of independent tertiary institutions
	Communication strategy on EEE and E-waste developed	Number of Communication Strategies	1	0	Strategy Document	-Availability of Financial and Human Resources -Collaboration of Stakeholders
	International E-waste Day on 14th October yearly commemorated	Number of E-waste days commemorated	5	0	Activity Reports	-Availability of Financial Resources -Stakeholder commitment -Other public events that can overshadow the event
	E-waste ambassadors identified and engaged	Number of Ambassadors engaged	6	0	Signed MOUs	Availability of people with a strong passion for proper E-waste management
	Awareness of handling and disposal of E-waste raised	Number of awareness campaigns	15	0	Activity reports	Availability of financial and human resources
	Green consumption of EEE across all sectors strengthened	Percentage of EEE imported/locally manufactured eco-rated	80	0[1]	Import and local production data	-Standards on eco-rating of EEE are available -Enforcement capacity.

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[1] The zero signifies absence of baseline data

	Training programs on environmentally sustainable management of E-waste developed	Number of training programs	2	0	Training curricula	Capacity to deliver the programs in institution
		Number of training institutions offering training	2	0	NCHE training accreditation report	
To build the technical capacity of personnel responsible for monitoring and regulating EEE and the environmentally sound management of E-waste.	E-waste management mainstreamed into national school curriculums at all levels	Number of school levels that have mainstreamed EEE and E-waste	4	0	Primary schools, Secondary schools, Tertiary education institutions, and professional development institutions curricula	-Frequency of curricula reviews. -Stakeholders' willingness -Financial resources are available
	Personnel on E-waste trained	Number of personnel in relevant institutions trained in EEE and E-waste	500	10	Training reports	-Credible institutions offering specialised E-mail training are available -Financial resources are available
	Technology development and innovation in E-waste management enhanced	The number of technologies and innovations in E-waste management enhanced	5	0	The technologies and innovations	-Financial resources are available -Adoption of new technologies and innovations.

	Centres of excellence in EEE and E-waste designated	Number of training institutions designated as centres of excellence	1	0	Signed MoUs	Capable institutions offering training in EEE and E-waste are locally available.

Policy Priority Area 5: Data and Statistics

Outcome: Reliable information management systems of EEE and E-waste

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
To improve data and information management on EEE and E-waste.	Data collection and management systems developed	Number of harmonised data collection and data management systems developed	1	0	Database	Financial resources are available
	Capacity of data producers and processor developed	Number of officers trained	100	20	Training reports	Financial resources are available

	Coordination meetings among E-waste data producers, users, and policy and decision-makers conducted	Number of coordination meetings on E-waste data	20	0	Meeting minutes	Financial resources are available

Policy Priority Area 6: EEE Certification

Outcome: Improved quality of EEE produced (imported and or assembled)

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
To reduce substandard EEE on the market.	EEE standards enforced	The proportion of producers complying with standards	100%	0[2]	Type approval Certificates	Data availability
	Enforcement officers trained	Number of enforcement officers trained	10	100	Training reports	Financial resources are available
	Coordination meetings among stakeholders conducted.	Number of coordination meetings conducted.	20	0	Meeting minutes	Financial resources availability
	E-waste Management Fund established	Number of Funds established	1	0	Government Gazette	Producers accept to contribute to the fund.

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[2] Data is currently not available