

# “We must Recycle More” - Minister Bhagwan urges National Commitment to Sustainability

On the occasion of Global Recycling Day, the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Rajesh Anand Bhagwan, issued a strong appeal for the population to prioritise recycling, embrace sustainable habits, and contribute to Mauritius’s transition to a circular economy.

Speaking at a commemorative event hosted at Plastic Industry Mauritius (PIM) Ltd in Port Louis, the Minister said, *“We must reduce waste, adopt responsible consumption, and make conscious choices—such as selecting recycled materials. This is not only necessary for the planet but essential for the future of our country.”*

He painted a sobering picture of the global plastic crisis, citing that *“around 14 million metric tons of plastic are entering the ocean annually”* and *“a staggering 170 trillion plastic particles are afloat in the world’s oceans, threatening ecosystems and livelihoods.”* On the local front, he revealed that Mauritius generated 539,086 tons of solid waste last year, representing a 2.5% annual increase over the past decade.



Rajesh Anand Bhagwan, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change



Eric Corson, Managing Director of PIM Ltd and PIMRecycling

Despite 46% of domestic waste being recyclable, the country’s recycling rate remains low—around four to five percent. *“Plastic waste alone accounts for over 75,000 tons of municipal solid waste each year, yet barely three percent is recycled,”* Bhagwan lamented, calling for urgent action to tap into the underutilised potential of recycling.

*“Addressing the issue of plastic pollution is among the main priorities of the Government,”* he affirmed. He highlighted the establishment of the Plastic Management Committee, tasked with coordinating strategies for a plastic pollution-free Mauritius. *“We also have a responsibility to inculcate a culture of environmental stewardship in our children and youth,”* he added, underlining the long-term importance of education in building sustainable habits.

Junior Minister Joanna Marie Bérenger announced the introduction of a waste sorting system as part of broader efforts to encourage reuse, recycling, and safe disposal of hazardous materials. *“This initiative will contribute not only to environmental protection and resource conservation, but also help reduce overall waste management costs,”* she explained.

She reaffirmed the Government’s support for local enterprises involved in recycling, including PIM Ltd.

For Eric Corson, Managing Director of PIM Ltd and PIMRecycling, Global Recycling Day serves as a reminder of the economic opportunities tied to sustainability. *“Recycling should not be seen as a constraint,”* he said, *“but rather as an opportunity to create green jobs, develop local expertise, and protect our environment for the generations to come.”*

Shirin Gunny, Chief Operating Officer of the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM) and Made in Moris, echoed that sentiment. *“We are an active and committed partner to Government efforts in making Mauritius an ecological and resilient nation,”* she stated.

The event brought together key players from both public and private sectors, reinforcing the shared responsibility and collaborative effort needed to shift the island’s approach to waste management and environmental protection. As Minister Bhagwan concluded, *“Every step we take today brings us closer to a cleaner, greener Mauritius.”*



Shirin Gunny, Chief Operating Officer of the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM) and Made in Moris