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## **WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SAUMLAKI CITY, TANIMBAR ISLAND REGENCY**

### **MANAJEMEN SAMPAH DI KOTA SAUMLAKI KABUPATEN KEPULAUAN TANIMBAR**

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#### **Abstract**

This research focuses on the practices of waste collection and disposal. Utilizing a qualitative methodology approach, the study employs interviews, observations, documentation, and literature reviews as data collection techniques in a "natural" environment. The data analysis process involves steps such as simultaneous data collection, data reduction, data visualization, and drawing conclusions/verification. The study's findings highlight that despite Saumlaki City having effective waste management, the community's awareness of cleanliness remains low. Waste managers face challenges in adhering to schedules and overseeing the entire process, from collection to disposal. The existing infrastructure is deemed inadequate, especially concerning facilities and infrastructure for the collection, transportation, and disposal of waste at the final disposal site, resulting in the inefficiency of waste management. By combining these findings with previous research results, conclusions can be drawn regarding the complexity of challenges faced in improving waste management in Saumlaki City, with specific recommendations to enhance public awareness and improve waste management infrastructure.

**Keywords:** Waste Management, Waste Manager Performance, Saumlaki City.

#### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini memfokuskan pada praktik pengumpulan dan pembuangan sampah. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan metodologi kualitatif, penelitian ini memanfaatkan wawancara, observasi, dokumentasi, dan tinjauan pustaka sebagai teknik pengumpulan data di lingkungan "alami." Proses analisis data melibatkan langkah-langkah seperti pengumpulan data simultan, reduksi data, visualisasi data, dan penarikan kesimpulan/verifikasi. Temuan studi menyoroti bahwa meskipun Kota Saumlaki memiliki pengelolaan sampah yang efektif, tingkat kepedulian masyarakat terhadap kebersihan masih rendah, dan pengelola sampah menghadapi kendala dalam mematuhi jadwal dan mengawasi seluruh proses, mulai dari pengumpulan hingga pembuangan sampah. Infrastruktur yang ada dinilai kurang memadai, terutama dalam hal sarana dan prasarana untuk pengumpulan, pengangkutan, dan pembuangan sampah di tempat pembuangan akhir, yang mengakibatkan tidak efisiennya manajemen sampah. Dengan menggabungkan temuan ini dengan hasil penelitian sebelumnya, kesimpulan dapat ditarik mengenai kompleksitas tantangan yang dihadapi dalam meningkatkan manajemen sampah di



Kota Saumlaki, dengan rekomendasi spesifik untuk memperbaiki tingkat kesadaran masyarakat dan meningkatkan infrastruktur pengelolaan sampah.

Kata Kunci: Manajemen Sampah, Kinerja Pengelola Sampah, Kota Saumlaki.

## INTRODUCTION

This research reflects the administrative and legal framework in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, which grants autonomy to provincial, district, and city regions to manage and handle their governmental affairs in accordance with the principles of autonomy and co-administration. The existence of regional governments aims to accelerate the achievement of community welfare by considering the principles of democracy, equity, justice, and the uniqueness of a region. Local governments are given the right to establish regional regulations and other rules to implement autonomy and co-administration.

The principles underlying and guiding government regulation, according to Kasil (2003), include applicable obligations, clarity of authority, coordination principles, documentation, communication with all stakeholders, and simplicity. These principles are important in carrying out government duties to ensure proper administration.

In the context of the environment, waste management is one of the challenges faced by local governments. Waste, which is an object with no economic value produced from human activities or natural processes, can negatively impact the environment and public health if not managed properly. Environmental damage and pollution are accelerated by human activities and population growth.

This condition occurs not only in developing countries but also in developed countries with high industrialization levels. Rapid population growth in a region or country can cause various environmental problems, one of which is waste management. Waste has become a global issue that must be addressed seriously, considering its detrimental impacts not only locally but also nationally and internationally.

In the context of the Tanimbar Islands Regency, particularly in Saumlaki City, waste management issues are becoming increasingly complex. The Tanimbar Islands Regional Regulation No. 8 of 2014 on Waste Management assigns the responsibility of maintaining cleanliness to the local government, carried out by the Saumlaki City Environmental and Sanitation Office and other Regional Work Units (SKPD).

However, the implementation of the policies and strategies outlined in this regional regulation still faces several obstacles. Community-based waste management programs are minimal, possibly due to the lack of mediation resulting in agreements between related parties. Increasing community participation in waste management remains a challenge, especially in terms of awareness of cleanliness and the active role of the community in maintaining the environment.

The impact of ineffective waste management in Saumlaki City is evident from the lack of final disposal sites (TPA), resulting in waste accumulating at temporary disposal sites (TPS). The limited facilities and infrastructure provided by the local government cannot accommodate the increasing volume of waste. The lack of adequate final disposal sites leads to improper waste processing, causing negative impacts on the surrounding environment, such as unpleasant odors and contaminated water and soil.

The Saumlaki City government has attempted to address the waste issue by establishing Temporary Disposal Sites: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (TPS3R) to collect and process waste. However, in reality, some areas in Saumlaki City still lack TPS, resulting in waste being improperly disposed of and piling up in various corners of the city. This creates a slum and dirty impression, produces unpleasant odors, and creates wet and unhygienic areas.



To increase community participation, the local government has the authority to establish waste management policies and strategies involving norms, standards, procedures, and criteria set by the government. However, the lack of regular monitoring and evaluation of final disposal sites with open dumping systems that have been closed makes it difficult to measure the effectiveness of the implemented policies.

Considering the current developments marked by population growth and daily human activities, the amount of waste generated in Saumlaki City continues to increase. The variety of waste types and large volumes add to the complexity of waste management issues. The waste management paradigm that still relies on the old approach of collect, transport, and dispose and the lack of community-based waste management programs are real challenges.

In this context, waste management in Saumlaki City is not only the responsibility of the local government but also requires active participation from the community, business actors, and all stakeholders. Effective supervision by relevant agencies, increasing community participation, adequate monitoring of waste processing, and improving waste management infrastructure are strategic steps that need to be taken.

Given the complexity of waste management issues in Saumlaki City, this research will adopt an analytical approach to analyze the existing problems, evaluate the policies and strategies that have been implemented, and provide concrete recommendations for improving the sustainable waste management system. It is hoped that the results of this research can make a constructive contribution to the local government and all stakeholders in enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of waste management in Saumlaki City, Tanimbar Islands Regency.

## **METHODS**

This research adopts a qualitative approach to delve into waste management practices in Saumlaki City, Tanimbar Islands Regency. The focus of the study is on the aspects of waste collection, transportation, processing, and disposal, aiming to understand the waste management system holistically. The operational definition of the variables involves four main stages: waste collection practices, waste transportation, waste processing, and waste disposal as the final process.

The research is conducted in Saumlaki City, with a population that includes the community, waste management officers, local government, and relevant stakeholders. A purposive sample of 13 individuals was selected, consisting of 3 employees from the Saumlaki City Environmental Office, 4 waste management personnel, and 6 community members. Data collection was carried out through interviews, observations, and documentation, using primary tools such as voice recorders, cameras, and note-taking devices.

Data analysis involves data reduction, data visualization, and conclusion drawing and verification to obtain a comprehensive overview of waste management in the area.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Results**

The waste management system in Saumlaki City, particularly in managing the final disposal site (TPA), is currently overseen by the sanitation department and officers responsible for transporting waste from various points in Saumlaki City to the TPA. The cooperation between the sanitation department and the market head is considered a positive step that facilitates waste management in Saumlaki City. The market head has the authority to handle daily retribution payments, which is part of the effort to increase efficiency in the waste management system.

Improvements in waste management conditions in Saumlaki City can be seen from the various facilities and infrastructure that have been implemented. Under the leadership of Mr. CH. FATLOLON, SS., MM, as the head of the environmental department, there has been a significant improvement in the



waste management system. The corrective and coaching measures in Saumlaki, South Tanimbar, reflect a commitment to improving the quality of waste management in the region. Overall, the efforts to enhance the waste management system are positive steps that can have a meaningful impact on the environmental conditions and welfare of the local community. The facilities and infrastructure provided by the Saumlaki City Environmental Department can be seen in the table below:

**Table 1**  
Facilities and Infrastructure of the Environmental Department of Saumlaki City

| Waste Truck                               | TPST           | Amrol Truck | TPA              |
|---|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Saumlaki City has 4 units of waste trucks | Larat City     |             | Lorulung Village |
|   | Adaut Village  | 1 unit      | Amtufu Village   |
|   | Lauran Village |             |                  |

Source: Environmental Department of Saumlaki City, 2023.

Referring to information obtained from the Environmental Department, there are several waste workers employed within the scope of work of the Environmental Department in Saumlaki City, Tanimbar Islands. The data is as follows:

**Table 2**  
Employee Data

| Waste Truck Workers in Saumlaki City | Street Sweeper Workers in Saumlaki City | Sediment Cleaner Workers in Saumlaki City |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 35 people                            | 82 people                               | 16 people                                 |

Source: Environmental Department of Saumlaki City, 2023.

### Waste management practices in Saumlaki City

Through a series of interviews and observations, it was revealed that waste collection practices in Saumlaki City are carried out using waste collection vehicles that routinely traverse residential areas. However, findings show that not all residential areas are covered by this service, particularly in more remote residential areas. This gap highlights the challenges faced in terms of the accessibility of waste collection services in the city.

This limitation can negatively impact environmental cleanliness, especially in areas not reached by routine waste collection services. Remote residential areas tend to face obstacles in accessing waste management facilities, increasing the risk of uncontrolled waste accumulation. Additionally, this lack of coverage can contribute to potential public health issues due to the inability to manage waste effectively.

In this context, improving the coverage of waste collection services becomes an urgent need. The local government, together with relevant agencies, needs to consider strategies to ensure that all areas, including remote ones, receive adequate waste management services. Steps such as increasing the frequency of waste collection, adding more collection vehicles, or even considering alternative solutions like community-based waste management programs could be options to address the gap in the accessibility of waste collection services in Saumlaki City. These measures can contribute positively to maintaining environmental cleanliness and public health in the area.



### **Waste Transportation and Hauling**

The process of transporting waste from collection points to processing or disposal sites is a focal aspect of this study. Findings indicate that the waste transportation fleet in Saumlaki City is limited, and the distances that the fleet must travel are a limiting factor in the efficiency of waste management. This limitation creates potential problems related to delays in the waste management process in the city.

The limited waste transportation fleet can affect the frequency of waste hauling from collection points to processing or disposal sites. The distances that the fleet must travel are a critical parameter affecting the timeliness of the waste management process. Geographic conditions and possibly inadequate infrastructure can also complicate the waste transportation process.

The impact of fleet limitations and travel distances includes the potential for waste accumulation at temporary storage sites. This accumulation can cause various problems, including an increased risk of environmental pollution and reduced air quality around temporary storage sites. Additionally, waste accumulation can create a negative perception of the city's cleanliness and impact public health.

To address these challenges, the local government should consider options to increase the capacity of the waste transportation fleet, improve transportation routes, or even reevaluate logistics management in waste management. Technology-based approaches and logistical innovations can be effective solutions to improve the efficiency of waste transportation processes, ensure smooth waste management, and prevent unwanted accumulation. With the right solutions, Saumlaki City can enhance its waste transportation system performance, create a cleaner environment, and reduce negative impacts on public health and the environment.

### **Waste Processing at Temporary Disposal Sites**

Observations at temporary disposal sites highlight that the waste processing in Saumlaki City is still not optimal. One of the emerging issues is the lack of effectiveness in waste sorting and volume reduction. Inadequate sorting facilities are a major factor affecting overall waste processing at the local level.

Waste sorting is a critical stage in waste management aimed at separating different types of waste according to their characteristics. However, limited waste sorting infrastructure can lead to decreased efficiency in waste management. Observations also indicate a lack of adequate sorting facilities, contributing to low effectiveness in managing waste.

In addition to suboptimal sorting, waste volume reduction is also a primary concern. Volume reduction is an important step for more efficient waste management. Observations at temporary disposal sites show that the volume reduction process is not fully optimized, possibly due to technological limitations or insufficient investment in waste processing infrastructure.

The lack of waste processing infrastructure, particularly in terms of sorting facilities and volume reduction technology, is a major barrier to achieving efficient waste management in Saumlaki City. Therefore, further attention and investment from the local government are needed to enhance waste processing infrastructure to achieve more sustainable and effective waste management practices at the local level. By doing so, Saumlaki City can address waste management issues and create a cleaner and healthier environment for its community.

### **Waste Disposal at the Final Disposal Site**

The research also reveals that the waste disposal process at the Final Disposal Site (TPA) in Saumlaki City still uses an open system, which can have negative impacts on the surrounding environment. The open system at the TPA poses a significant risk to environmental pollution by



dispersing unpleasant odors, discharging waste into the wind, and endangering the health of the local community.

The TPA's open condition also suggests a lack of adequate supervision and maintenance. Without strict oversight, the TPA becomes vulnerable to illegal or uncontrolled dumping practices. This can create potential soil and water pollution around the TPA site. Soil pollution can occur through the seepage of waste liquids containing hazardous substances into the ground, while water pollution can occur through rainwater runoff carrying waste from the TPA to local water sources.

To improve overall waste management, it is important to evaluate and enhance the waste disposal system at the TPA. Implementing a closed system or better closure technology can be a solution to reduce the negative impacts on the surrounding environment. Additionally, increased supervision and routine maintenance at the TPA are necessary to prevent practices that can harm the environment and public health.

By detailing the potential risks and negative impacts associated with waste disposal at the TPA, this research can provide a foundation for local government and related parties to design more effective policies and actions in waste management in Saumlaki City. Improving infrastructure, implementing environmentally friendly technologies, and increasing supervision can be strategic steps to create a more sustainable waste disposal system that supports environmental conservation.

## **Discussion**

### **Challenges in Waste Management in Saumlaki City**

The results of this research highlight several challenges that need to be addressed in waste management in Saumlaki City. One aspect that requires serious attention is the uneven coverage of waste collection services across all residential areas. Although there are waste collection vehicles that routinely traverse residential areas, it was found that not all areas are covered by this service, especially in more remote residential areas. This uneven coverage indicates that there are still challenges in the accessibility of waste management services.

The uneven coverage of waste collection services suggests that some areas in Saumlaki City may have difficulty accessing optimal waste management services. Remote residential areas or those that are difficult to reach by waste collection fleets may face the risk of waste accumulation and negative impacts on environmental cleanliness. Therefore, efforts need to be made to improve the accessibility of waste management services throughout Saumlaki City.

In addition, the research provides insights into the importance of updates in waste transportation aspects. The process of transporting waste from collection points to processing or disposal sites was identified as a focal point. It was found that the waste transportation fleet is limited, and the distances that the fleet must travel are limiting factors. These constraints can impact delays in the waste management process and contribute to waste accumulation at temporary storage sites. Therefore, improvements and developments in the waste transportation system are needed to enhance the efficiency and smoothness of the waste management process in Saumlaki City.

By recognizing these challenges, this research is expected to provide a foundation for improving the waste management system in Saumlaki City. Recommendations and solutions offered based on research findings can serve as a basis for local government and related parties to design more effective policies and actions for enhancing comprehensive waste management services. Collaborative efforts between the government, community, and private sector can also be key to achieving sustainable waste management and having a positive impact on the environment and public health.



### **Limitations of Waste Transport and Processing Infrastructure**

The limitations of the waste transport fleet and processing infrastructure at temporary disposal sites in Saumlaki City highlight the urgent need for increased investment in this sector. Research findings indicate that the limited waste transport fleet causes constraints in the transportation process, from collection points to processing or disposal sites. Increasing the number and quality of the fleet is essential to enhancing the efficiency of local waste management.

Additionally, the waste processing infrastructure at temporary disposal sites also needs updating. Field observations indicate that waste processing is not yet optimal, particularly in terms of waste sorting and volume reduction. The lack of adequate sorting facilities can slow down the overall waste management process. Therefore, investing in modern and efficient waste sorting facilities can be a solution to improve waste management performance in Saumlaki City.

This investment can involve the private sector or partnerships between local governments and the private sector. Private sector involvement can help provide the latest technology and financial resources needed to improve waste management infrastructure. Furthermore, it is necessary to enhance the capacity of human resources involved in waste management, such as through training for waste management officers and the community, so they can actively participate in sustainable waste management practices.

In this context, cooperation between the government, private sector, and community is needed to formulate a holistic and sustainable waste management strategy. Local governments can design policies that support increased investment, while the private sector can contribute to the development of infrastructure and technology. Additionally, the community needs to be actively involved through educational campaigns and participation in community-based waste management programs.

Through these collaborative efforts, it is hoped that Saumlaki City can overcome the challenges in waste management and move towards a more efficient, sustainable system with positive impacts on the environment and public health.

### **The Need for Supervision and Maintenance at the Final Disposal Site**

In Saumlaki City, the management of the Final Disposal Site (TPA) with an open system poses serious environmental pollution risks. Field observations show that the open system at the TPA can result in negative impacts, especially if there is no adequate supervision and maintenance. This condition requires serious attention from authorities to prevent local ecosystem damage and protect the health of the surrounding community.

Uncontrolled waste disposal at the TPA can cause soil and water pollution in its vicinity. The open area at the TPA allows hazardous chemicals and toxic waste to seep into the ground, creating contamination risks that can harm soil microorganisms and plants. Additionally, rainwater can carry toxic materials from waste piles and flow them into local water systems, causing water pollution that potentially harms aquatic life and communities using the water.

The lack of supervision and maintenance at the TPA can also lead to the accumulation of toxic gases, such as methane, produced by the decomposition of organic waste. This gas not only has the potential to cause air pollution but can also create a fire hazard if it accumulates in significant amounts. Therefore, an effective gas management system needs to be implemented to reduce emissions and fire risks that can harm the environment around the TPA.

Better TPA maintenance efforts can also include innovative waste management practices, such as the creation of water-resistant cover layers to prevent soil and water pollution. Authorities can also consider modern waste management technologies, such as incinerators or more efficient recycling methods, as alternatives to reduce the environmental impact of waste disposal.



By improving supervision, maintenance, and adopting better waste management technologies, Saumlaki City can protect the environment around the TPA and prevent potential public health risks. These measures need to be integrated into a holistic waste management plan, creating an environmentally friendly and sustainable system for the city's long-term sustainability.

### **Recommendations for Improving Waste Management**

Based on research findings, significant improvements are needed in several aspects of waste management in Saumlaki City to achieve more sustainable and efficient practices.

Firstly, a comprehensive evaluation of the coverage of waste collection services is needed. Observations show that there are still disparities in the distribution of these services across residential areas. Therefore, steps need to be taken to ensure that all communities, including more remote areas, are covered by waste collection services. This evaluation can involve further collaboration with relevant parties and communities to understand the needs and challenges in various areas.

Secondly, expanding the infrastructure for waste transport and processing at temporary disposal sites is key to increasing the capacity and efficiency of the waste management process. A larger and more efficient waste transport fleet can help overcome the distance and limitations currently faced. Additionally, investing in better waste sorting facilities can support more effective and sustainable waste management.

Thirdly, changes in the waste disposal system at the final disposal site (TPA) are necessary. Moving towards a more controlled and environmentally friendly system will help reduce the risk of environmental pollution, particularly in the soil and water around the TPA. Implementing modern waste management practices, such as using water-resistant cover layers and effective gas management systems, can be solutions to address these issues. Additionally, involving the community in these changes can raise awareness of the positive impacts that can be achieved.

Overall, these improvement recommendations should be integrated into Saumlaki City's strategic waste management plan. Active involvement from local governments, relevant agencies, communities, and other stakeholders will be key to successfully achieving the necessary changes. By implementing these improvements, Saumlaki City can develop a sustainable, efficient, and supportive waste management system to create a clean and healthy environment for its residents.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Conclusion**

This research provides an in-depth overview of the waste management system in Saumlaki City, Tanimbar Islands Regency. We can draw several relevant conclusions from the obtained findings to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of waste management in this region.

1. The qualitative approach used in this research provides a deep understanding of waste management practices. This approach enables the researcher to investigate the community's views, attitudes, and behaviors and understand the factors influencing waste management in Saumlaki City. Thus, the proposed improvement recommendations can be more targeted and aligned with local needs.
2. The distribution of waste collection services remains uneven across residential areas. We need to conduct further evaluation to guarantee that these services encompass all communities, including those in more remote areas. Enhanced cooperation with relevant parties and community participation can be keys to achieving better service accessibility.
3. The waste transport fleet's limitations and processing infrastructure at temporary disposal sites are major constraints in the waste management process. To improve waste management





efficiency and reduce potential accumulation, urgent investment is required to increase the fleet and waste sorting facilities. Strategies for meeting these needs include private sector involvement and efforts to obtain financial support from third parties.

4. The waste disposal system at the Final Disposal Site (TPA) still faces environmental pollution risks. Therefore, a shift towards a more controlled and environmentally friendly system is necessary. Implementing modern technology and involving the community in this process can enhance waste management effectiveness at the TPA.

Overall, this research makes an important contribution to understanding the waste management system in Saumlaki City. The proposed improvement recommendations are holistic, involving aspects of collection, transportation, processing, and disposal of waste. By implementing these recommendations, Saumlaki City is expected to achieve sustainable, clean, and healthy waste management goals for the well-being of its community.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the conclusions of the research on waste management in Saumlaki City, several recommendations are necessary to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the waste management system in this region.

1. To address the uneven coverage of waste collection services, it is recommended to conduct an in-depth evaluation of residential areas that are not yet covered. The local government needs to map areas that are still not optimally served and develop strategies to expand waste collection service coverage. This effort can involve active participation from the local community, providing understanding about the importance of their role in maintaining environmental cleanliness.
2. To overcome the limitations of the waste transport fleet and infrastructure at temporary disposal sites, significant investment is required. The local government should consider increasing the budget for purchasing an adequate transport fleet and improving waste sorting facilities at temporary disposal sites. Collaboration with the private sector and seeking financial support from third parties can be strategic steps to meet the necessary funding requirements.
3. Changing the waste disposal system at the final disposal site (TPA) is essential. It is recommended to shift to a more controlled system, such as the use of modern technology in waste management. Implementing an effective and environmentally friendly recycling system should be considered to reduce the negative impact on the environment around the TPA. Active community participation in this process can create a better understanding of the benefits of sustainability.
4. The importance of increasing community understanding of waste management should be emphasized. Targeted and continuous educational campaigns are needed to provide information on household waste sorting, reducing plastic use, and the benefits of recycling. An educated community can become a better partner in maintaining the sustainability of the waste management system.

By implementing these recommendations, Saumlaki City is expected to overcome challenges in waste management and achieve the desired sustainability goals. This process requires synergy between the government, community, and private sector to create a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

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