



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Health

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

#63 Park Street, Port of Spain 100607

He: 3/16/165 Vol. XVI

March 6, 2023

Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure
Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
Parliament Complex
Cabildo Building
St. Vincent Street
Port-of-Spain

Dear Ms. Sampson-Meiguel

Fourth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on an Inquiry into the Impact of Landfills on the Environment of Trinidad and Tobago

Your letter referenced Parl.: 14/3/73 Vol. VI dated January 13, 2023 on the captioned subject is relevant.

Please find enclosed the written response from the Ministry of Health to the recommendations of the Fourth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on the inquiry into the impact of landfills on the environment in Trinidad and Tobago.

Sincerely



Asif Ali

Permanent Secretary
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



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Fourth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on an Inquiry into the Impact of Landfills on the Environment in Trinidad and Tobago

Recommendations:

65. We recommend that the MoH liaise with the THA regarding the possible implementation of the Sterilwave System for the treatment of medical waste at all hospitals in Trinidad.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has written the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) requesting information on the key aspects of the Sterilwave System which has been implemented at its health facility including:

- i. the technical and staffing requirements for installation and use of the Sterilwave System;
- ii. the types of medical waste that is handled by the Sterilwave System;
- iii. the cost of the Sterilwave System and its continued maintenance costs per month/year;
- iv. the benefits and impact of using the Sterilwave System as opposed to the traditional method of handling medical waste; and
- v. any possible challenges arising in the implementation and use of the Sterilwave System.

Based on the submission by the THA, the MoH will conduct an assessment to determine the possible implementation of the Sterilwave System in hospitals in Trinidad.

66. We recommend the frequency of covering of waste at all landfills in accordance with international standards.

Research conducted indicates that in developed countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia, waste at landfills is covered on a daily basis, using six (6) inches of dirt.