

Project title (Acronym)	EU Green Economy Partnership with the Philippines (EU-GEPP): Green LGUs Project
LA / CSO (type)	City Government of Pasig
Implementing Partner(s)	European Union in the Philippines - The EU-funded Green Economy Partnership (EU-GEPP), through the Specific Objective 2: Green LGUs Project, is a way of scaling up these successful solutions to build sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient communities throughout the Philippines. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Philippines - Through projects like ACE (Accelerating Circular Economy), funded by the Japanese Government, and EPPIC (Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge), the UNDP has been enhancing local abilities to create circular economy models that also advance climate goals and ensure social inclusion. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) - As a co-lead for the Green LGUs project, the DILG plays a crucial role in guiding and supporting local government units across the Philippines. - Its involvement ensures that circular economy initiatives are well-integrated into local governance structures and development plans.
Country/countries, region	Philippines, Asia and the Pacific Region
Budget (specify EU funding amount, if applicable)	- EUR 60 million (Php 3.67 Billion) for the entire EU-GEPP Green LGUs Project EUR 477,463 allocated to Pasig City as of 21 January 2026 - Technical assistance/capacity-building for enabling inclusive governance - Innovation Challenge Grant – RiverRecycle to complete the Pasig ICE Hub - Community Grant – KILUS Foundation for creating green jobs and accelerating circular MSMes - Education and Behavioral Change Grant – EcoWaste Coalition to develop circular livelihood training modules that introduce practical circular economy concepts to prepare for accessing support for financing market linkages - Equipment for the ICE Hub or shared-service infrastructure
Is it a Global Gateway project?	Yes
Funding modality	Government
Funding sources	EU
Implementation period	2023-2028
Thematic development area (5 words)	Inclusive Green Livelihoods & Workforce Formalization Waste-to-Resource Innovation Community Engagement & Behavioural Incentive Systems Multi-Functional Infrastructure & Ecosystem Hubs Enabling Policy Environments for Circular Transition
Short description, including target beneficiaries and their engagement/reactions thus far (300 words)	Pasig City's comprehensive circular economy portfolio establishes a resilient, localized ecosystem that transforms waste management into a catalyst for social equity and economic resilience. Actively driven by the multi-disciplinary and inter-office Pasig Local Circular Economy Action Team, this localized approach seamlessly bridges grassroots community action with the intention of institutionalization. Central to this portfolio is Inclusive Green Livelihoods & Workforce Formalization, which empowers informal waste workers, junkshops, and MSMEs specializing in textile/plastic upcycling and community refilling stations. Through the <i>PlastiKita</i> a green jobs creation through the livelihood training program, partners provide essential financial and operational management training while actively processing legal

	registrations to transition informal workers and groups into self-sustaining entities that create circular products. These livelihoods connect directly to Waste-to-Resource Innovation hosted at the city's Innovation for Circular Economy (ICE) Hub. In collaboration with national government agencies to optimize technical machine specifications, the ICE Hub aims to deploy shredders, molders, and other machines to convert low-value plastic waste into sustainable construction materials, such as public furniture and temporary housing for affected families. Simultaneously, the ICE Hub serves as the anchor for Multi-Functional Infrastructure & Ecosystem Hubs. It is envisioned to be a shared service facility for MSME manufacturing and a learning center for visiting civil society organizations and public institutions. In support of the ICE Hub, Community Engagement & Behavioral Incentive Systems drive localized source-segregation. Mobile redemption facilities travel across barangays, exchanging segregated plastics for basic commodities like food and cleaning supplies, supported by behavioral change campaigns co-designed through resident consultations. Finally, these localized practices are sustained through Enabling Policy Environments for Circular Transition. The city is actively codifying its advancements into local policies, such as a circular economy ordinance. Some key exploratory areas are green public procurement, public-private partnerships, and community-led waste management, ensuring Pasig's transition is aligned with the national agenda and existing legal mandates, structurally funded, and embedded in the city's future.
Lessons learnt, key messages and results relevant for future EU programming (300 words)	Implementing Pasig City's circular economy portfolio has yielded critical insights into building a localized, resilient, and inclusive waste-to-resource ecosystem. Across all five thematic areas, the overarching lesson is clear: sustainable circular transitions require a deliberate balance between infrastructure, community-led behavioral shifts, and intensive institutional "hand-holding." In Inclusive Green Livelihoods & Workforce Formalization, we learned that formalizing informal waste workers cannot be a passive administrative exercise. It requires parallel community organizing that provides immediate employment opportunities to sustain workers while they transition into formal, self-sustaining entities. Furthermore, supporting MSMEs requires substantial facilities, space, and startup capital paired with long-term mentoring to prevent interventions from becoming short-lived or temporary. This intensive technical assistance requires cross-departmental support from the city office and strategic partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, and/or CSOs to address specialized technical gaps. While making sure that there is a business and market development to ensure sustainability of the program and the social enterprises developed by the communities. Concurrently, Waste-to-Resource Innovation and Community Engagement revealed the necessity of grounding circular economy concepts into existing, grassroots community knowledge and practices. Incentives must remain practical, leaning into gamification and the familiar "<i>may pera/halaga sa basura</i>" (there is money or value in trash) mindset, while framing waste management as a shared

	responsibility across neighborhoods, barangays, and the city. This community baseline directly impacts Multi-Functional Infrastructure. The ICE Hub's success depends entirely on aggressively promoting its services and training target beneficiaries and partners before operations begin. Robust Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials are vital so residents understand source-segregation as the literal fuel for the Hub's processing lines. Finally, under Enabling Policy Environments, we discovered local policies or ordinances must embed clear milestones, realistic timelines, and robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks to ensure the city stays on track, turning grassroots momentum into an institutionalized reality.
Replicability (100 words)	Pasig City's portfolio provides a highly replicable blueprint for other urban local governments by proving that circularity succeeds when infrastructure is grounded in localized social systems. By translating complex circular concepts into familiar grassroots practices—like gamified local incentives and the "<i>may pera o hala sa basura</i>" mindset—other local governments can easily mirror this community-driven baseline. Furthermore, the portfolio's emphasis on cross-departmental "hand-holding," specialized civil society organization (CSO) partnerships, and MSME mentoring offers a scalable framework for formalizing informal waste workers equitably and advancing local entrepreneurs engaged in circular business models. Supported by clear monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks and a dedicated inter-office circular economy action team, this model elevates waste management from localized pilot projects into an institutionalized, city-wide economic and policy strategy.