

## What is Cleaner Production?

Cleaner Production is a preventive, company-specific environmental protection initiative that maximizes the resource efficiency. The concept is about the prevention, rather than the control of pollution aiming at managing of environmental impacts of business processes, services and products. It analyzes the flow of materials, water and energy consumption and identify options to minimize waste, effluent and emissions of industrial processes through source reduction strategies. The options generated to minimize waste, effluent and emissions may be specific to a particular company but finally ensure the resource efficiency of the industry sector. It can be extended to cover the entire lifecycle of a product or a service and may associate with changes in technology, input materials, operating practices, product design, waste use, maintenance and packaging.



The concept of Cleaner Production was developed in 1989 during the preparatory meeting for Rio summit organized by UNEP in Canterbury, England. United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) introduced Cleaner Production in developing countries and countries in transition through launching the International Project on establishment of National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs). After 14 years of experience, the NCPC Programme was reviewed and launched the new joint Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Programme by UNEP and UNIDO in 2009.

## RECP specifically works to advance;



## Benefits of RECP Application

1. Prevents pollution and environmental degradation through waste minimization efforts; recycling, treatment, and safe waste disposal.
2. Provides opportunities for economic benefits and creates new market opportunities increasing economic growth in the long run.
3. Prevents or slows environmental degradation and reduces the exploitation of natural resources.
4. Strengthen the product competitiveness in the global market.
5. Improves the image of producers and increases consumer confidence on the products.
6. Reduces the level of health hazard and increases safety.

## RECP initiatives in Sri Lanka

### National Cleaner Production Centre in Sri Lanka

The concept of Cleaner Production is being implemented in Sri Lanka since 2002 establishing the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. NCPC provides services for the industries including consultancy, audits, foot print calculations and capacity building.

### National Policy and Strategy for Cleaner Production

The Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment in Sri Lanka has developed the National Policy and Strategy for Cleaner Production in 2005 in collaboration with NCPC and related stakeholders ensuring the policy intervention in Cleaner Production. The Policy and Strategy aims at;

- Achieving Sustainable Development
- Improving environmental quality
- Improving Eco-efficiency across all sectors of the economy
- Alleviating poverty
- Improving the living standards of all Sri Lankans

### Objectives of the Policy and Strategy

- To reduce consumption pressure on natural resources base by efficient use of raw material.
- To improve performance by using ecologically sound practices in the production processes, design and use of products, and in the provision and use of services.
- To improve efficiency of water and energy consumption by minimizing wastage, excessive exploitation and use through improving the production process of better products and provision of services.
- To improve competitiveness in the local and global economy through environmental sound practices.
- To improve social responsibility towards sustainable development.



## Cleaner Production initiatives in Sri Lanka



### For more information :

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## Cleaner Production

"The continuous application of an integrated environmental strategy to processes, products and services to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment" (UNEP, 1990)

### Strategies of the National Policy and Strategy for Cleaner Production:

- Change present water and material consumption pattern to reduce excessive exploitation, use and wastage.
- Eliminate and/or mitigate energy wastage.
- Improve system efficiencies for energy conservation.
- Apply lifecycle thinking to reduce and/or eliminate over use of raw materials and wastage.
- Eliminate / reduce quantity and toxicity of emissions and discharges in production process and services.
- Change the processes / practices, which cause soil degradation by improving implementation of ecologically sound soil conservation methods.
- Create disincentives for production and use of environmentally harmful products.
- Create incentives for production and use of environmentally beneficial products.
- Create awareness and information dissemination.
- promote public consultation & participation of grass roots level personnel in the decision making wherever feasible.
- Promote good governance through incorporating CP practices at the Local, Regional and National Governmental Levels.
- Develop regulatory, financial and Market Based Instruments (MBIs).
- Establish performance indicators and benchmarks to assess and monitor the performance of sectoral CP policies.
- Establish and utilize regular reporting procedures.
- Establish and implement procedures for improving the overall CP program and Policies.
- Develop a sustainable institutional mechanism to co-ordinate inter and intra sectoral CP activities and networks throughout Sri Lanka.

### Sectoral Policies and Strategies on Cleaner Production available in Sri Lanka;

- National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production for Health Sector, 2007
- National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production for Tourism Sector, 2008
- National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production for Fisheries Sector, 2008
- National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production for Agriculture Sector, 2012

### National steering committee for Cleaner Production

To steer the implementation of National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production and Sectoral Policies, a Steering Committee was established in 2013 including public and private sector representations.