

SAO Raises Concerns Over

Water Pollution and Ineffective Wastewater Management

Revealing Audit Results with Recommendations
to Improve the Management of Wastewater Collection
and Treatment Systems



Performance Audit on the Management of Wastewater Collection and Treatment Systems

by Local Administrative Organizations (LAOs)



Thailand's surface water quality is declining due to pollution, mainly from urban and industrial wastewater. This impacts ecosystems and public health, highlighting the need for effective wastewater management.

Audit Overview



A performance audit was conducted on the management of wastewater collection and treatment systems by LAOs. The audit covered fiscal year 2022, focusing on 15 provinces and 24 municipalities, with a total budget of 5,463.94 million baht.

Audit Objectives



To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of wastewater collection and treatment system management by LAOs, ensuring optimal benefits and sustainable environmental impact reduction.

Key Audit Findings

1. The management of wastewater by LAOs has mostly not yet been effective



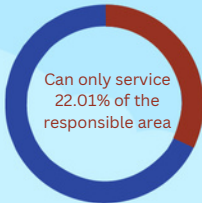
Some LAOs are not utilizing the system as intended



Some LAOs are utilizing the system continuously but has less water than its wastewater treatment capacity



Some machinery and equipment are not utilized or are damaged



Unable to provide service coverage for the entire responsible area



The quality of treated water does not meet the standards

2. The LAOs is unable to implement the collection of wastewater treatment fees in accordance with the 'Polluter Pays Principle' (PPP).



No plan for wastewater service charges in the LAOs' 3-year plan



There was no PR, meeting or explanation to those involved about the impacts, important and benefits



There has not been a survey of opinions or appropriate rates for wastewater treatment fees

3. Most LAOs are still unable to fully promote and support wastewater management



Unable to follow guidelines for wastewater management by LAOs via the 'Pracharat' mechanism



Unable to raise awareness for a water quality monitoring network



Unable to regulate and monitor pollution sources to ensure compliance with the law



No database of pollution sources has been compiled or prepared



Reporting of wastewater treatment system summaries (Form TS.2) is inaccurate, incomplete, and delayed in some months

4. Targeted LAOs under the 20-year Water Management Master Plan (2018 – 2037) lack preparation for wastewater treatment system construction



Most local administrative organizations didn't know that the areas within their own responsibilities are targets for construction



LAOs lacks preparation and understanding in preparing documents for budget allocation requests



There is a lack of personnel with expertise in preparing documents for budget allocation requests

Impacts



- Untreated wastewater is discharged into natural water sources
- Water pollution problems arise
- It becomes a source of disease transmission
- It poses a public health burden
- Wastewater treatment has a higher unit cost



- Lack of budget for operating and maintaining the wastewater system
- Lost opportunity to allocate the budget to address more urgent issues
- Failure to raise awareness among the public and pollution source owners about reducing water consumption



- Local residents lack awareness and access to information on wastewater issues
- Household wastewater prevention and reduction in communities are ineffective
- Some untreated wastewater is discharged into natural water sources



- Lack of budget allocation for wastewater collection and treatment system construction
- Potential delays or cancellations of construction projects

Recommendations

1



Conduct an evaluation of the performance of existing wastewater treatment systems nationwide

2



Implement a wastewater service fee based on the "polluter pays principle", considering users' willingness to pay, ability to pay, income levels, and income distribution in each locality

3



Encourage local administrative executives to prioritize the development of management plans as well as the establishment of a wastewater management database

4



Utilize this summary report to prevent the issues identified in the audit findings from occurring

