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The general principles underpinning sustainable management include promoting the right to a clean and healthy environment; the precautionary principle; the polluter pays principle; zero waste principle and achieving sustainable waste management goals.

Let's for instance consider the zero-waste principle in the context of beating plastic pollution. Under this principal, products and processes are designed and managed to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, and to conserve and recover all resources, and to prevent the burning or burying of resources. Waste is treated as a resource that can be harnessed for wealth creation, employment and the reduction of pollution.

The Act also mandates private entities and accounting officers of public entities to provide waste segregation receptacles at their premises for organic, plastic and general dry waste. Waste segregation facilitates the process of reuse, recycling, and recovery of plastic waste contributing to the circular economy plastic waste can be accounted for.

The devolved units have not been left behind in the solid waste management. They have a mandate to implement the devolved function of waste management, establish financial and operation conditions for the effective performance of waste management.