

# Country profile – Brazil

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on November 13, 2024)

Key pledge: Tax incentives for recycled materials and reuse by individuals, cooperatives, and grassroots organizations.

Total score:

13/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (8/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (3/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (1/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (1/4)
1-1. Does the NDC explicitly recognize the waste sector's GHG impact and set specific reduction targets?	2-1. Is the country planning to recognize and integrate waste pickers into the formal system?	3-1. Are there plans for meaningful consultation with local orgs, unions, integration of best grassroots practices?	4-1. Does it explicitly rule out waste-to-energy incineration, cement kiln burning, chemical recycling/pyrolysis?	5-1. Does this country recognize the co-benefits of waste sector climate action?
Waste is a named mitigation sector with methane reduction prioritized, but there are no waste-specific, time-bound targets	Includes a tax incentive to support recycling and reuse activities by individuals, cooperatives, and grassroots organizations such as waste picker collectives.	Significant civil society engagement with specific workshops across many cities, but no waste-specific stakeholder mechanisms.	No. The NDC does not rule out WtE incineration, cement-kiln co-processing, or chemical/"advanced" recycling.	No. Co-benefits are mentioned only at an economy-wide level, not specifically for the waste sector.
1-2. Is the country following the ZW hierarchy? Based on detailed approaches mentioned in NDC	2-2. Does the country include waste pickers as one of the key stakeholders?			5-2. Does this country highlight the importance of addressing class, race, and gender-based injustices? Particularly in the waste sector?
The NDC advances some treatment options (anaerobic digestion, aerobic treatment i.e. composting) but lacks upstream prevention commitments and any phase-out of disposal or WTE.	While the NDC references broad stakeholder engagement and offers a tax incentive applicable to cooperatives, it does not explicitly list waste pickers as key stakeholders.			Equity concerns (gender, race) are acknowledged broadly across the plan, but they aren't translated into specific waste-sector commitments or safeguards.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers?			
	Yes, via the tax incentive.			

# Analysis

## What's good about Brazil's NDC?

Brazil's NDC elevates the waste sector as a distinct mitigation pillar and identifies organics management through composting and anaerobic digestion with methane capture. Circular economy references are referenced with respect to multiple ministries, and the tax incentive for recycled material purchases explicitly includes individuals, cooperatives, and grassroots organizations, creating a pathway for waste pickers to benefit from national climate planning. The national climate plan was developed through a participatory process engaging diverse stakeholders, and the NDC references reuse and recycling alongside organics management.

## What's not good?

The absence of time-bound, sector-specific waste targets undermines accountability. Upstream prevention is not prioritized, and there is no commitment to phasing out disposal or false solutions like incineration. A bioplastics provision risks entrenching plastic production rather than reducing it. Waste picker integration is limited to indirect acknowledgement via incentives, with no formal plan for inclusion or protection. Justice measures are broad and not linked to waste-sector implementation.

## Summary

Brazil's NDC combines solid policy framing with some concrete measures for organics management, plus potential benefits for waste pickers via tax incentives. However, without enforceable targets, upstream prevention, or explicit technology safeguards, it falls short of transformative change.