

Guideline on Waste Picker Integration for South Africa

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SEPTEMBER 18, 2019



Who are Waste Pickers?


- Collect reusable and recyclable materials
- Men, women, landfill, streets, SA and non-SA
- Skilled workers, knowledgeable, innovative
- Number
 - DEA – 60000-90000
 - CSIR – up to 215,000 (Godfrey and Oelefse 2017, 6)
 - Need registration & occupational classification







Who is responsible for collecting recyclables?

- ❖ long history of burying waste – linear economy
 - ❖ not in section of the Constitution that sets out municipal responsibilities related to waste management
 - ❖ To date not the responsibility of industry
 - ❖ Waste Pickers are people who saw a gap, created jobs, support industry and protect the environment
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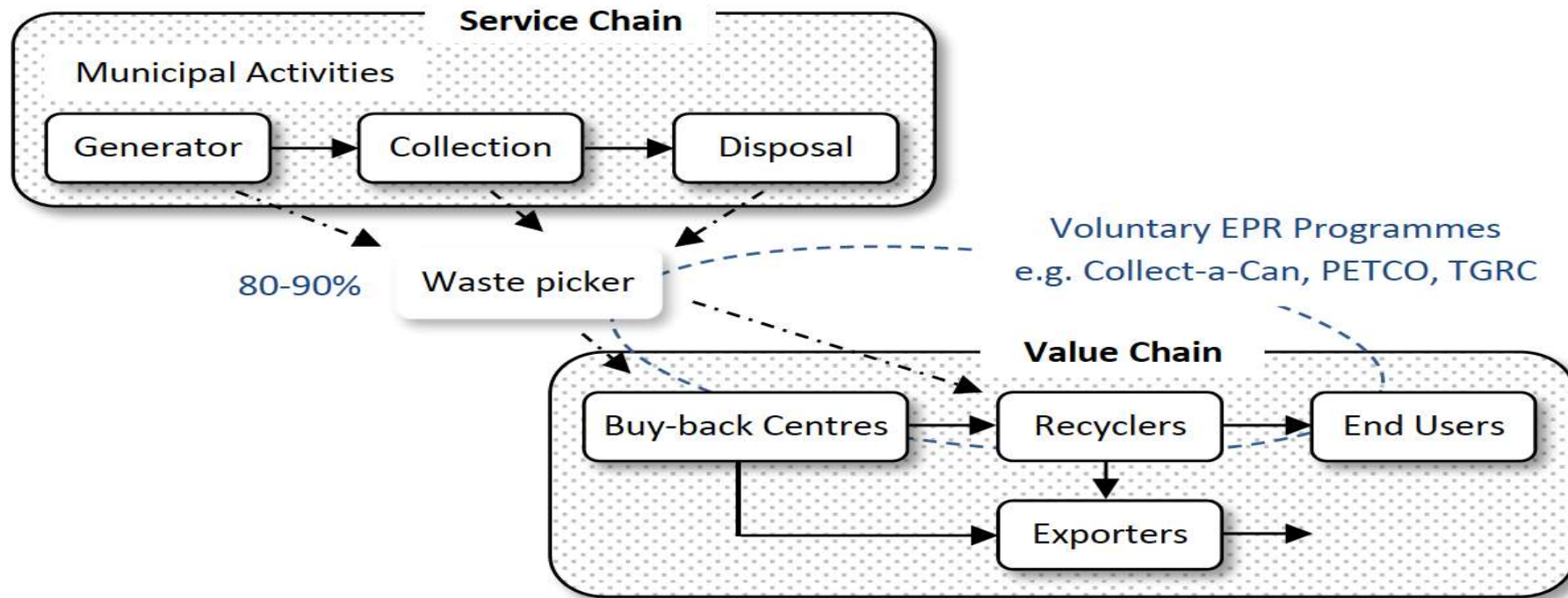



Fig 1. Role of the informal waste picker in bridging the service- and value- chains in South Africa (with a focus on paper and packaging) (adapted from OECD, 2015)

Some Contributions by Waste Pickers

- Recognition of the Role of Waste Pickers by government and industry
 - 57% post-consumer packaging and paper recycling rate
 - CSIR - 80-90% of post-consumer packaging and paper extracted by weight
 - CSIR - Save municipalities up to R748 million rand a year in landfill airspace
 - Functioning SoS system

“Separation outside source” (SoS)

- Waste Pickers created a “separation outside source” or SoS system to collect recyclables.
 - Because we put valuable materials in the trash instead of separating them inside our homes, Waste Pickers separate the materials for us and for the city after we put our rubbish bins out for collection.
 - The SoS system works so well that we have recycling rates comparable to some developed, European countries.
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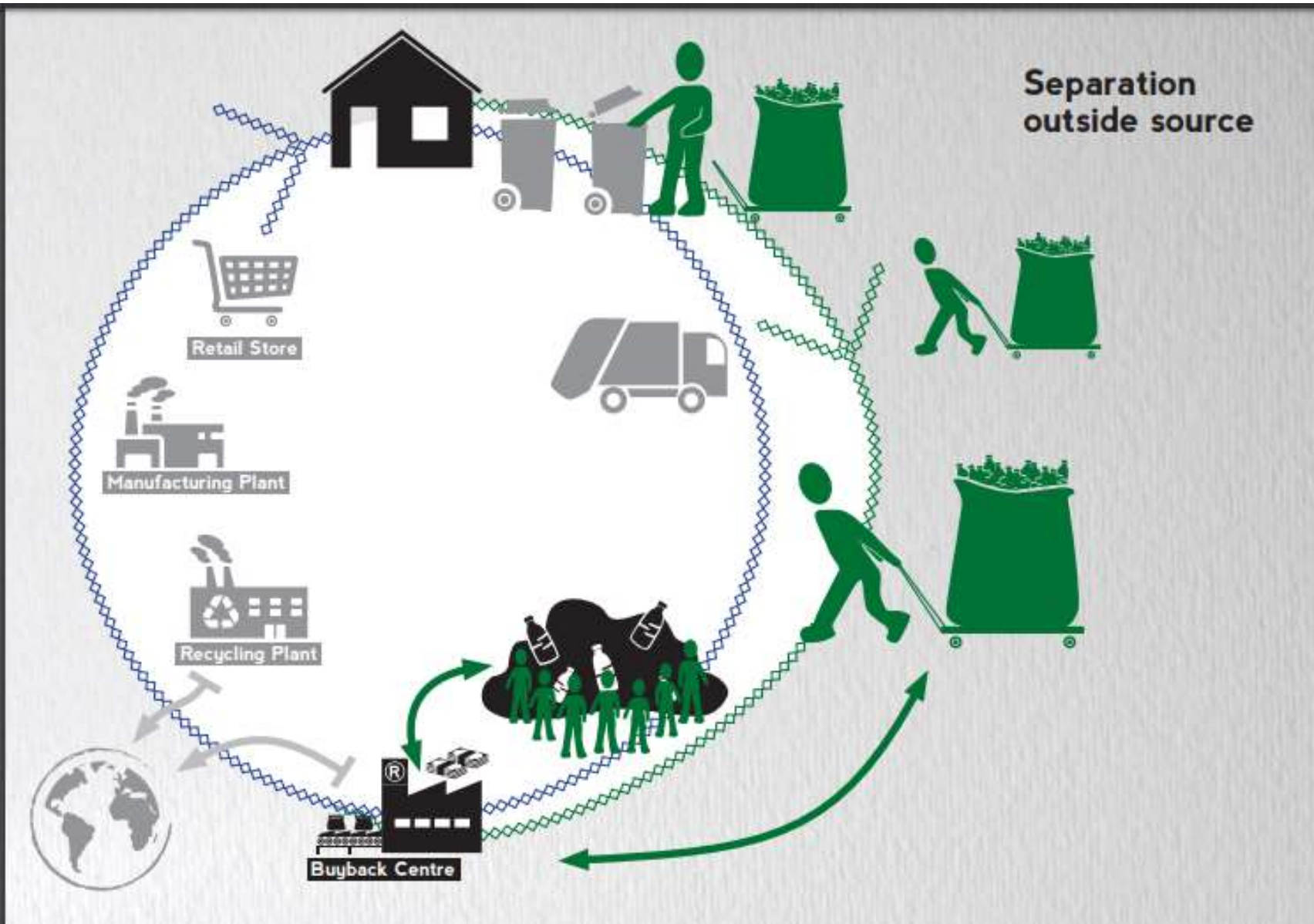


Diagram by M Samson, D Seegers and J van den Bussche


Developing fresh approaches

Developing fresh approaches requires

New ways of seeing and respecting

- ❖ Waste Pickers
- ❖ Waste Pickers' work
- ❖ Our relationship to Waste Pickers
- ❖ Waste Pickers' SoS system

New ways of relating, engaging and making decisions



DEA Guideline on Waste Picker Integration for South Africa




Participatory Process

- ❖ DEA, DST, Finance
- ❖ SALGA
- ❖ metros and smaller municipalities
- ❖ Packaging SA + PETCO and Paper Recycling Co.
- ❖ SAWPA, ARO
- ❖ NGOs – groundWork and WIEGO

Facilitated by Wits University



Waste Picker Integration Principles

1. Recognition, respect and redress
 2. Waste pickers know best what they want
 3. Meaningful engagement
 4. Build on what exists
 5. Cost effective, increased diversion
 6. Evidence-based
 7. Enabling environment
 8. Improved conditions and income
 9. Compensation for services and savings
 10. Holistic integration
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Definition of integration

Waste picker integration is the creation of an official recycling system that values and improves the present role of waste pickers, builds on the strengths of their informal system to collect and revalue materials, and includes waste pickers as key partners in its design, implementation, evaluation and revision.

Waste picker integration includes the integration of waste pickers' work as well as the political, economic, social, legal and environmental integration of waste pickers.


SECTION	CONTENT
A – Introduction	Section A explains why we need a waste picker integration Guideline and how to use it.
B – Understanding waste pickers and their contributions	Section B explains who waste pickers are, what they do, how they relate to formal recycling and waste management systems, and how they fit into the local and global recycling value chain.
C – Understanding waste picker integration	Section C explains the concept of waste picker integration.
D – Waste picker integration principles	Section D explains the principles that underpin waste picker integration that should be included in all waste picker integration plans.
E – Some common challenges to be addressed as part of waste picker integration	Section E presents some common challenges faced by waste pickers, municipalities and industry that should be addressed as part of waste picker integration. Annexure 2 presents possible ways to address each of these needs, and Section H presents a participatory process through which these and other challenges can be identified, prioritised and addressed.

SECTION	CONTENT
F – Integrated Separation at Source	Section F discusses why waste pickers must be involved in Separation at Source and how this can be done.
G – Enabling national environment	Section G outlines changes to be made at a national level to create an enabling environment for waste picker integration.
H – Implementing Waste Picker Integration	Section H presents a seven step participatory waste picker integration process. Working through the process will enable stakeholders to develop and complete the Waste Picker Integration Plan included in Annexure 1.
I – Conclusion	Section I concludes the main body of the Guideline
J – References	Section J provides references used in the Guideline
K - Annexures	Section K includes three annexures: Annexure 1 provides a template for a waste picker integration plan. Annexure 2 presents possible ways to address some typical issues related to waste picker integration encountered by municipalities, industry and waste pickers. Annexure 3 provides links to useful resources and videos on waste picker integration.

Section G

Enabling National Environment

Enabling National Environment

1. Legislation and Policy
 2. Integrated Extended Producer Responsibility
 3. Funding Mechanisms
 4. Occupational Classification
 5. Support for Organising
 6. Waste Picker Integration Support Programme
 7. Awareness Campaigns
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Section F

Integrated S@S

Waste Pickers and S@S

S@S is just a method for collection


Could be done by a number of different actors

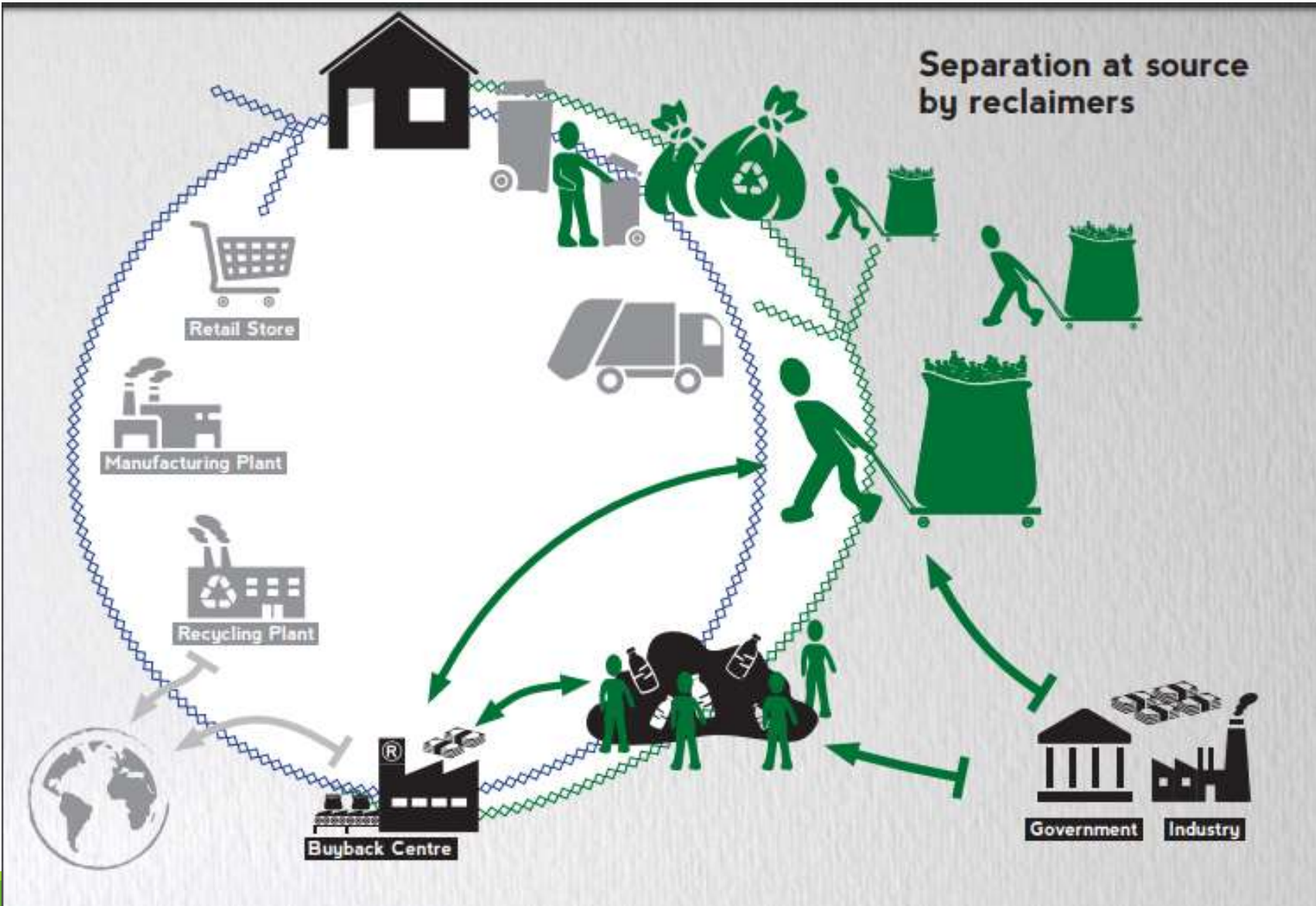
S@S does not need to harm waste pickers

Integrated S@S is stronger, better and more appropriate
S@S



Integrated S@S

1. S@S by waste pickers – grow from what exists
 2. S@S by waste picker cooperatives
 3. Contracting companies and including waste pickers
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S@S by cooperatives

What

- Democratic waste picker cooperatives
- Contract cooperatives
- High income areas
- Pay!
- Support!

- Waste pickers integrated and more organised

Note

1. Still have same issue with independent waste pickers as S@S by companies


Integrated S@S by private companies

What


1. Existing contracts

1. New contracts

Existing contracts with private companies


- Allow waste pickers to access materials
 - Allow to sell to their choice of buyer
 - Pay higher price if sell too company
 - Pay reclaimers a collection fee
 - Meetings – include street and landfill
 - Employ waste pickers
 - Pay compensation
- 


New contracts


- Must be the most cost effective and efficient inclusive option
 - Full involvement of waste picker organisations and waste pickers in the area
 - Can't be a European model
 - Pay compensation
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10 Basic Actions to Kick Start Integration



1. **Understand** – Ensure that staff in the organisation go through the Guideline and other resources, and engage with pickers to develop an informed understanding of who waste pickers are, what they do etc.
 2. **Commit** to the waste picker integration principles and to implementing waste picker integration together with waste pickers.
 3. **Engage, work together and share** – Create a team and assign a team leader in the organisation to be responsible for engaging and working with waste pickers. Start meeting with waste pickers and their organisations on a regular basis and establish a waste picker integration committee with elected waste picker representatives as soon as possible. Engage and work collectively with waste pickers. Share all relevant information.
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4. **Support** - Commit to developing waste pickers' capacity to organise, represent themselves and more fully participate in discussions about waste management, recycling and waste picker integration.
 5. **Facilitate access** – Improve waste pickers' access to recyclable materials
 6. **Provide basic infrastructure**
 4. Provide access to places to safely sort and store materials
 5. Provide access to ablution facilities and clean water for waste pickers at landfills, and seek ways to make the same provisions for waste pickers working in the streets
 7. **Reverse harm**
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- 8. Address real needs** - Find out from waste pickers what their main problems are and what they most want. Ensure that the different needs of landfill and street waste pickers are identified, as well as the specific needs of women waste pickers. Reach agreements with waste pickers about how these needs will be met
 - 9. Register** all waste pickers without discriminating. It is important to know all waste pickers working in the municipality. Pay waste pickers to be part of planning and implementing registration – they are the experts on what would encourage waste pickers to register.
 - 10. Plan and move forward** - Plan together with waste pickers how to move forward with the development of a WPIP and implementation of waste picker integration and initiate the process
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Section H


Waste Picker Integration Plans

Waste Picker Integration Plans




Objectives

Waste Picker Integration Plans


1. present data for develop evidence-based development of policies and programmes
 2. mitigate harm caused to waste pickers by existing recycling and waste picker programmes
 3. ensure waste pickers' conditions and livelihoods improved and not worsened by formal recycling and waste picker integration programmes
 4. ensure waste pickers are involved in decisions that affect them
 5. develop locally relevant, cost-effective, recycling programmes aligned with the waste picker integration
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Participation crucial

Participation is crucial in order to:

- Get the whole picture
 - Benefit from everyone's knowledge and experience
 - Avoid unintended harm
 - Deepening democracy
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Include all kinds of waste pickers


1. Female and male
 2. Landfill and streets
 3. Independent and coops (representatives)
 4. Young and old
 5. SA and non SA
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7 Steps for Waste Picker Integration


7 steps for waste picker integration

Prepare → Partner → Plan → Enable → Institutionalise → Implement → Revise


Step 1 - Prepare

- **Establish internal team** - Establish an internal waste picker integration team
 - **Learn** - Deepen knowledge about waste pickers and waste picker integration
 - **Commit** – Commit to implementing waste picker integration
 - **Analyse** – Analyse existing commitments and programmes
- 


Step 2 - Partner

- **Connect** – Connect with waste pickers
 - **Engage, listen and share** – Start meeting with waste pickers on a regular basis, listen to their perspectives and the issues they raise, share all relevant information.
 - **Collaborate** - Establish an inclusive waste picker integration working group to plan and oversee waste picker integration
 - **Forge a common understanding of what exists** – Gather data and develop a common understanding of the existing recycling system and different stakeholders' roles, priorities and issues.
 - **Support** – Provide waste pickers with support to organise and strengthen existing organisations.
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Step 3 – Plan integration

- **Rectify problems** - Address negative effects of existing recycling programmes
 - **Register waste pickers** - Register all waste pickers
 - **Meet key needs** – Address waste pickers' most pressing needs
 - **Integrate into new programmes** - Integrate waste pickers and their informal system into new recycling programmes.
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Step 4 – Create an enabling environment

- **Align regulatory environment** – Align by-laws, permits, policies, plans
 - **Secure skills** – Ensure the internal team has the relevant skills to implement waste picker integration
 - **Educate staff** – Provide ongoing training for officials
 - **Educate the public** – Run awareness campaigns and conduct educational activities
 - **Secure funds** – Raise funds for waste picker integration and collection of recyclables
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Step 5 - Institutionalise


- **Include in planning documents** – include in Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs), Business Plans etc
 - **Create new KPIs** – make waste picker integration part of relevant staff's KPIs
 - **Monitor, evaluate and revise** – Revise the WPIP based on evidence from M&E
 - **Create a platform** - Establish a permanent waste picker integration platform
 - **Adopt the WPIP** – Finalise and adopt the WPIP
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Steps 6 and 7

Step Six - Implement

- **Implement the WPIP** – implement all activities in the WPIP
- **M&E** – Monitor and evaluate the implementation.

Step 7 - Revise

- **Revise the WPIP** – Revise the WPIP based on evidence generated from implementation
 - **Institutionalise changes** – Make relevant changes to policies, planning documents, KPIs etc
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References and Annexures

References and Annexures


- Reference list
- Annexures
 - Template for WPIP
 - Table – burning needs and possible solutions
 - Useful resources – websites, videos

Annexure 2

Some Ideas to Address Key Challenges



Some burning issues

- Registration – Joburg
 - Waste pickers on landfills – Palm springs
 - Meaningful support for coops
 - Infrastructure hubs
 - Mobile clinics
 - Access ID
 - Women waste pickers
 - Ablution facilities
 - Harassment
 - Road safety
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Thank you
