

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Gauteng Waste Information System (GWIS)

by

Khensani Mahatlani

09 March 2015





Contents

- Background
- Objectives of the system
- Challenges
- Success
- Lessons



Background

- In the early 2000s there was an increased environmental awareness in South Africa on the potential impact that medical waste (health care risk waste) can have on human health as well as on the environment.
- Health care waste management practices were often neglected due to lack of awareness and capacity.
- Medical waste was incorrectly mixed with general waste thus increasing the volumes of medical waste that requires costly treatment.
- Medical waste disposed of on uncontrolled waste disposal sites where informal reclamation of recyclable materials may be undertaken increased the health and safety risks to waste reclaimers.



Background Cont...

- Therefore, in 2004, the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE), now called GDARD promulgated the Gauteng Waste Information Regulations (GWIR), in terms of Environmental Conservation Act.
- This led to the development of the Gauteng Waste Information System (GWIS) in 2004.
- When the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008 “Waste Act” came into effect in 2009; section 62 of that Act required provincial MECs to establish provincial waste information system.
- GDARD then upgraded the system in 2010 to be aligned to the Waste Act.

Objectives

Objectives of GWIS and its enabling regulations (GWIR)

- To enable the Department to compile and make available to the public and to other organs of state, data and information regarding waste in the Province in order to protect the environment and to continuously improve integrated waste management throughout the Gauteng province.
- To assist with the identification of problematic provincial or regional waste streams occurring in large quantities, which may need the development of strategies.
- To create a uniform reporting method which incorporates secure electronic reporting formats, and regulate reporting intervals.
- To oblige waste generators, waste transporters, waste disposal site operators, treatment facility operators, recyclers and waste processors to register to the GWIS.



Challenges and how they are addressed

- Lack of knowledge by GWIS users e.g. registration requirements, threshold, reporting of waste data both level 2 and 3.
- Difference between GWIS and SAWIS.

GDARD conducts capacity building (groups and individuals).

- Companies from other provinces want to register on GWIS.

SAWIS needs to have their own field for transporters.

- Reporting of hazardous waste (level 3) is a challenge because it is new on the system.

Training is to be conducted by GDARD.



Challenges and how they are addressed

- Server where the system is hosted affects the Functionality of the system.

The matter has been reported to IT to be addressed.

- Users (hazardous waste treatment facilities, recyclers and transporters) often mistaken registration certificate on GWIS as a waste management licence.

*The Department advises the above-mentioned users that registration certificate is **not** a licence/ authorisation. A licence is needed to undertake activities such as:*

- *Treatment of hazardous waste in excess of 1 ton per day (monthly average);*
- *Recycling of general waste at a facility with an operational area more than 500m² ; and*
- *Recycling of hazardous waste in and excess of 500kg (monthly average)*



Successes

- In 2011/12 GWIS started to be aligned with SAWIS and GDARD exported the **registered activities** to SAWIS.
- User friendly registration process.
- Improvement of registration on the system; in 2009 the total number of registered activities were ± 500 , and as of 28 February 2015 number of registered activities are ± 1800 .
- There is also improved reporting of waste quantities on the system.
- In 2014/15 GWIS is able to export **data and upload** it into SAWIS with information dating back to 2012 to date. This was Gauteng's first export data to SAWIS.
- Treatment facilities are now able to report data for hazardous waste (level 3) as well as for minor generators (e.g. surgeries, clinics generating less than 20kg per day).



Lessons Learnt

- Constant change in legislation requires the system to be constantly upgraded.
- DEA WIS Task Team meetings with provinces assist with the knowledge to continuously improve system.
- There is a need for DEA to register all waste transporters in provinces that do not have WIS , as transporters from other provinces requests Gauteng for registration.



Thank You

Ms. Khensani Mahatlani

Assistant Director: Pollution and Waste Management

Tel: 011 240 3155

Email: Khensani.mahatlani@gauteng.gov.za

Address: 5th Floor Diamond building,
11 Diagonal Street, Newtown
Johannesburg,
Gauteng Province
South Africa