



Western Cape  
Government

BETTER TOGETHER.

# PROVINCIAL PROSPECTIVE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Waste Management Summit

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Mpumalanga

E. Hanekom

# SA's waste management situation



Running of out  
landfill airspace



# SA's waste management situation

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- Growing population and economy which results in the increased generation of waste.
- Increasingly complex waste streams as a result of industrialisation.
- Limited understanding of waste flows & quantities. Complicates interventions and the tracking of progress.
- “End-of-pipe” approach to waste management - waste disposal still remains the predominant means of managing waste in South Africa.
- Majority of municipalities and cities in South Africa face serious economic, social and environmental challenges related to solid waste management.

# SA's waste management situation

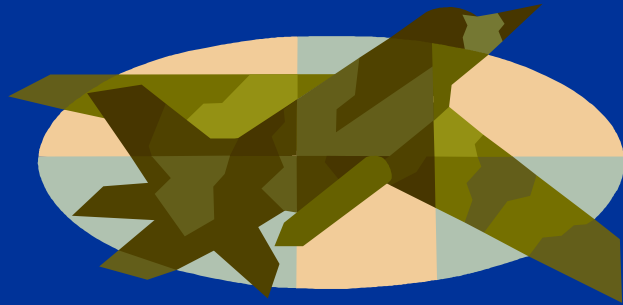
- Municipalities can no longer afford the 'collect and dump' approach to solid waste management due to soaring collection and transportation costs.
- Increase in living standards and as urban populations grow there is a looming waste crisis which will double in the volume of municipal solid waste generated annually by 2025 (World Watch Institute).
- "What a Waste": a global review of solid waste management (World Bank ) estimates that the amount of municipal solid waste will rise from the current 1.3bn tonnes a year to 2.2bn by 2025.
  - The annual cost of solid waste management is also projected to rise from \$205bn to \$375bn, with cost increasing most sharply in poorer countries.

# SA's waste management situation

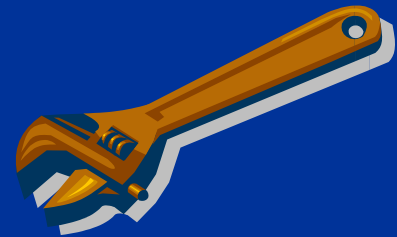
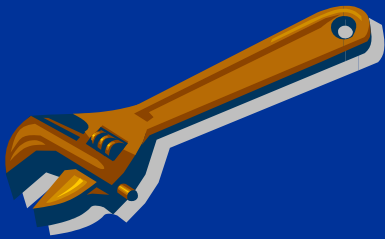
- Paradigm shift is needed in SA to see waste as a resource.
- If this resource is well managed it will unlock the embedded jobs in waste management and it can address the 3 social economic ills of SA such as:
  - inequality, unemployment and poverty.
- Integrated waste management impacts positively on climate change mitigation:
  - Methane x 21 damaging than carbon dioxide;
  - Globally waste disposal is responsible for 12% the anthropogenic (human induced) methane - 4<sup>th</sup> largest source of non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas (World Bank).
- Waste can also be utilised to response to the energy crisis which the country is experiencing by contributing to the energy mix.

# SA's waste management situation

- It can also be utilised to green the economy and unlock the economic potential:
  - DST 2011 – R 17b of which municipalities pay R8.3b to send R9.4b worth of resources to landfill.
- Illegal dumping is rife in SA – clean up cost x 5 more than the cost through the normal waste stream – CoCT spend annually more the R 241m on cleaning up illegally dumped waste.
- Limited waste management awareness of our citizen.
- Municipalities have limited capacity and resources resulting in non-compliance of the majority waste management facilities to environmental authorisation and impacting on health of people and the environment.
- Full cost accounting is not done by municipalities in setting tariffs – reliance on grant funding – resulting in a limited of integrated waste management infrastructure to divert waste for recycling.



Do SA have the environmental tool tools to win the waste war?





# Do SA have the environmental tool tools to win the waste war?

## ● NEMWA provides the tools to improve waste management in the country

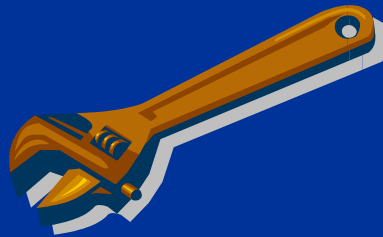
e.g.

- NWMS,
- Regulations & Norms and Standards;
- Integrated waste management and planning;
- Priority waste;
- Waste information management;
- Waste management pricing & Waste Bureau.

## ● DEA created governance platforms which allow stakeholder engagement which will positively impact on policy development.

## ● The solution for waste management in SA is to change from a linear to circular economy. From a “take-make-consume and dispose” to “re-use, repair, refurbish and recycling of existing materials and products.

# Tweaking and refinement of policies and processes needed



# Tweaking and refinement of policies and processes needed

- **Waste policies have to be totally aligned to promote a circular economy which is not currently the case – enabling:**
  - Def of waste needs further tweaking to enable the use of waste as a resource.
    - Schedule 3 which was added to the waste definition have a lot of unintended consequences which cannot be totally fixed which the draft exclusion regulations or an interpretation guide.
    - Clear definitions do not need implementation guides.
  - Add organic waste to landfill prohibitions.
- **Standards to be affordable – either scale down or phased in over longer periods eg cost of landfill containment barriers.**
  - Regulatory impact assessment to be done before any policy, legislation of regulation is promulgated.
- **Although DEA is supporting alternative waste management treatment and resource recovery the different environmental acts are not aligned to promote and enable this and this is impacting negatively on investment in the waste sector which the country cannot afford.**

# Tweaking and refinement of policies and processes needed

- **Waste information system to be redesigned to provide the information needed to inform decision-making, policy develop and management of waste.**
  - By setting new recycling targets the European Union will create a 180 000 new jobs, while making Europe more competitive and reducing demand for costly scarce resources by increase recycling/re-use of municipal waste to 70% in 2030.
  - A target of 20% waste diversion for recycling by 2019 was set for SA but the actual impacts, contribution to waste economy, job creation and the investment needed to move from 10% to 20% is not known.
  - Funding of integrated waste infrastructure is needed to recover waste material for the waste economy.

# Tweaking and refinement of policies and processes needed

## ● Waste pricing:

- Needed in SA to correct market failures;
- Implementation of it should not be rushed;
- Concerns:
  - Rush with implementation
  - Government to manage all existing EPR schemes government managed within a period of two years from the date implementation – why not rather focus on the waste streams without EPR schemes? (enabler, regulator & implementer?)
  - Capacity of Waste Bureau is not known – will Bureau be able to draft product plans - why not leave it for industry and the Bureau to provide rules and do the assessment once the plans are drafted.
  - Impact of revenue generation of municipalities.
  - It seems no socio economic assessment is being planned.
- Incentivising rather than penalising/taxing?

# Tweaking and refinement of policies and processes needed

- **National waste/illegal dumping campaign is needed to raise awareness.**
- **Regionalisation of waste management services needed to maximise resource use as well as partnership between the municipalities and the private sector.**
- **Cost reflective tariffs to be set by municipalities.**
- **Sustainable public procurement will stimulate the market for green goods with recycled content – should be implemented over all the spheres of government.**
- **Capacity building:**
  - Strengthen the role of provinces to enable them to assist and capacitate municipalities and SMME's.
  - Need for short courses on integrated waste management.

**Working together is going  
a long way in solving  
problems**



# Contact Us



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