



REPORT BACK: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Commission 2



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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CHALLENGES

- The need to create jobs and economic opportunities within the waste management sector through the use of small businesses and labour intensive mechanisms for waste collection.
- Driving towards a Zero Waste Economy.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS MADE

- Recycling ecosystem approach as a transition to zero waste economy- there is need to connect the recycler with the recycled product consumer.
- Voluntary recycling initiatives –ROSE Foundation indicating 2 different models:
 - NORA-SA: producer funded & focuses on recycling used oil
 - SAICRA: self-funded & focuses on Industrial container reconditioners.
- IWMP for Greater Letaba-developed in-house, saving consultancy fees & resulting in better ownership & implementation.
- Case study on Job creation in waste management-Nkomazi Municipality- multi-stakeholder approach is key (eg. Consult even traditional leaders & sangomas)
- Waste Tyre as a resource –creativity in complete recycling of tyres producing essential, affordable, durable and use-friendly products.

SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC BARRIERS

- Lack of Stats-Need to know how much of a product is put on the market, how much of that ends up as waste & how much of that is recovered safely. This will inform stakeholders of potential job creation areas or feasibility of job creation.
- IWMPs-Lack of knowledge to gather information to have base lines (stats), when & how often to review IWMPs & lack of performance assessment.
- Lack of training leading to unsustainable SMMEs
- Lack of standardised pricing in the sector; sector is an open market system as people compete. Rural areas vulnerable to low prices for recyclables-negatively impacts on eagerness to continue in the sector.
- Lack of inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement or public participation when municipalities plan their waste interventions.
- Lack of cooperation & mutual support, between industry and municipalities
- No sufficient budget allocated to waste in municipalities as waste is not prioritised as other basic needs such as water.
- Role players are working in silos, no coordination and cooperation.
- No investment is done to create jobs but we regard small spin offs from the normal projects as jobs created.
- Lack of support from Municipalities- Waste pickers sorting their collected recyclables in open spaces thus perceived as a problem for municipality.
- Requirement of multiple licences from DEA to set up some recycling business.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use Stats, eg., from the IDP to develop the IWMP in-house.
- For all initiatives -there needs to be a multi-stakeholder approach- extend public participation to all stakeholders, eg., rural villages, chiefs, sangomas, school children, clinics, scouts, sports, informal businesses/traders, etc.
- Awareness and clean up campaigns- need to be reinforced with continuous education, eg., cleanest school campaigns; composting of organic waste for fresh produce sellers.
- When there's limited funds-use EPWP for eg., street cleaning campaigns
- DEA needs to develop norms and standards for recyclers to prevent the tedious and expensive process of acquiring an EIA; make it easier for an entrepreneur to set up business.
- There is a need to develop good educational material for awareness raising- environmental & social benefits of waste mngnt .

HOW DO WE CREATE JOBS WHILST PROMOTING THE WASTE HIERARCHY?

- Need to generate stats for the various industries within the sector to know which industry has an opportunity & which one is saturated.
- There needs to be a concerted effort:
 - ❖ DEA, DTI, Dept Economic Development & Dept of SMMEs all may support waste management SMMEs, & different companies within the same sector - coordination & cooperation needed to maximise resources & to prevent duplication of efforts.
 - ❖ A concerted effort needs major investment; eg., plastic levy & REDISA money to be invested back into growing the sector to buy money generating infrastructure with the sector & also to create sustainable jobs.
- Raise awareness, impart technical knowledge on waste management 1st rather than social benefits such as financial profit.
- Train SMMEs -PDIs (youth & women) environmental management & business management.

HOW DO WE DRIVE THE RECYCLING ECONOMY IN SA?

- Need to set achievable & measurable goals & targets-work towards these; Polokwane declaration on zero waste????
- Formalise the recycling industry
- Incentivise the waste pickers; if waste is valuable people will continue to work on it.
- Big corporates need to be held responsible, eg., coca cola plastic bottles should be valuable also, not just the glass ones or the SAB glass beer ones.
- We all need to create markets for recyclables by making bold decision to favour the market-preferential purchase of products from recyclers, eg, recycled refuse bin bags
- Standardise pricing of recyclables.
- Find successful case studies & sell them to garner support.
- Recycling Companies need to invest in rural areas to curb loss of profits due to long transportation of recyclables to Metros-such practises result in creation of monopoly within the sector.
- Recognise & utilise waste pickers as an already existing resource.
- Use Economic instruments , eg., plastic levy money & levy collected by REDISA should be invested back into the industries.
- Municipalities must provide support to recyclers, by, eg., providing space to sort their collected recyclables- this will also prevent pollution of public spaces & rivers.

HOW DO WE DEVELOP SMMES?

- Waste management companies should appoint people in the communities they serve; train, empower & support them.- eg., transfer business management skills, & even facilitate their access of loans at the bank.
- Impart business & project management skills & principles to SMMES eg. Finance, HR, investing profit back into the business (infrastructure) & people (knowledge & skills), & big companies can partner at equal levels with SMMES to transfer skills.
- Need to bridge the gap between recyclers & processors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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