

Aspects of Waste Management and Recycling

in South Africa

Marba Visagie

Environment Directorate

Department of Trade and Industry (the dti)



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Presentation Outline

- **Vision**
- **Background**
- **Legal Context**
- **Stakeholders**
- **Business and Government Partnering**
- **Waste - to – Energy Potential**
- **Calling for Country Partnerships**
- **Conclusion**



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- environmental benefits +

+ socioeconomic gains -

**Efficient
& Market
Driven
Recycling**

**Organised
Recycling Industry**

Recycling Initiatives

Laws and Landfills

**Waste Dumps, Air & Water Emissions,
Poor Control**

sustainable recycling industry



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BACKGROUND

- ❖ **South Africa Prior to Democracy – Pre 1994**
 - Environmental laws focused on limited conservation
 - Water and energy management constituted supply at lowest feasible price
 - Cities developed around mines & mine dumps
 - Municipalities: waste removal to open dumps

- ❖ **South Africa Since Democracy 1994**
 - Participation at International Environmental Forums
 - Implementing MEAs including Agenda 21, Basel, UNFCCC and Kyoto
 - World Class Environmental Laws
 - Municipalities: Landfills, recycling initiatives



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LEGAL CONTEXT

- ❖ **National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 1998: Minimise waste & recycle**
- ❖ **National Waste Management Act (NWMA) 2009: Compulsory waste management plans**
- ❖ **Revised Second Hand Goods Act Rules applicable to possession of second hand goods**
- ❖ **Waste Regulations and By-laws eg. Plastic Bags, Tyres, Hazardous etc Systems to underpin recycling**
- ❖ **Local By-laws Enforcement (* * *)**



STAKEHOLDERS

❖ Citizens

- Increasing awareness and commitment to recycling
- (***) Informal sector (pickers, scavengers, small collectors) (***)

❖ Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)

- Environmental Acts and Regulations
- Green Jobs Programme within National Programme of Action

❖ Department of Justice

- Second Hand Goods Act
- Law Enforcement

❖ Local Authorities

- By-laws
- Landfill and waste removal services (waste not separated)
- Recycling and waste exchange initiatives
- Control landfills and municipal land

BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERING

- **Municipalities**
 - Buy-back centres (marginal profits, volatile markets)
 - Materials Recovery Facilities (* * *)

- **Large business**
 - Invest in paper, plastic and glass recycling
 - Metals recycling is an established market

- **Government: Acknowledge Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) Forum and its sub-sectors**
 - Commercialised waste removal for industrial waste
 - Buyisa e-Bag Programme – revenue from plastic bag taxes
 - Outcome of the workshop of 22 September 2009
 - Recycling Industry Body (RIB)
 - NCPC support

WASTE - TO - ENERGY

- ❖ Landfills emit green house gases including methane
- ❖ An extremely damaging green house gas (GHG)
- ❖ Options:
 - Do nothing – negative health and climate implications
 - Flare – negative climate implications
 - Capture and use to generate electricity – best practice, long term CDM gains



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PARTNERSHIPS

POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIPS

- ❖ Most Developing countries have efficient recycling systems.
- ❖ South Africa is calling for technical assistance:
 - Awareness raising, training and technology transfer
 - Advance recycling as part of bigger Sustainable Development Concepts (eg. Symbiocity)
 - **Socio-economic gains**: partnership opportunities, (dignified) green jobs, green trade
 - **Environmental gains**: Waste is used productively and no longer wasted, landfills are minimised, mindset changes to appreciate waste for the possibilities it holds

CONCLUSION

CITIZENS, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT ARE RECYCLING - READY

- ❖ SA is moving beyond the wasting of waste ...
- ❖ Maximise the sustainable development potential of waste
- ❖ Beyond fragmented initiatives into organised industry
- ❖ On 22 Sept : Recycling Industry Body (RIB)
 - Get the governance measures required for success
 - Form partnerships to learn from advanced countries
 - Utilise NCPC as a host until matured
 - Make recycling a profitable green business

➤ **Q & A**

➤ **Thank you**

mvisagie@thedti.gov.za



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