



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

City of Cape Town
Draft Waste Strategy
Frequently Asked Questions
September 2024

Question	Response
<p>What is the City of Cape Town's Waste Strategy, and why is it important?</p>	<p>The Waste Strategy outlines the City of Cape Town's approach to managing waste more effectively and sustainably. It addresses challenges such as rapid urbanisation, population growth, and the need to reduce waste sent to landfills. The strategy is important because it aims to create a cleaner, healthier environment for all residents and ensure that waste management services are accessible, affordable, and sustainable. Ensuring that all residents, including residents living in informal settlements, backyard dwellings and small-scale rental units (SSRUs), have access to quality waste services is critical in transforming the waste sector to be as circular as possible.</p>
<p>What type of waste does the strategy apply to?</p>	<p>The strategy applies to various types of waste generated within the City of Cape Town, including:</p> <p>Municipal Solid Waste: General household, commercial, and non-industrial waste.</p> <p>Hazardous Waste: Waste that poses significant health or environmental risks, requiring special handling and disposal.</p> <p>Organic Waste: Biological waste such as food waste and garden greens.</p> <p>Building and Demolition Waste (Builders' Rubble): Waste from construction, renovation, or demolition activities.</p> <p>Recyclable Waste: Materials like paper, plastics, glass, and metals.</p>
<p>What are the waste service options available?</p>	<p>The City of Cape Town offers a variety of waste service options, including:</p> <p>Collection Services: Weekly service for households and businesses, using 240-liter black wheelie bins.</p> <p>Recycling Services: "Think Twice" Separation at Source Program and drop-off facilities for recyclables, garden waste, and builders' rubble.</p> <p>Cleansing Services: Street sweeping, litter picking, removal of illegally dumped waste, waste removal from informal settlements,</p> <p>Disposal Services: Operation of landfill sites and refuse transfer stations, including hazardous waste disposal facilities.</p> <p>Waste Minimisation Services: Initiatives like home composting and waste prevention practices.</p>
<p>How will this Strategy affect current waste operations?</p>	<p>The existing waste operations in Cape Town will continue as they are currently structured, ensuring that essential services like waste collection, recycling, and disposal remain uninterrupted. However, as the Waste Strategy is implemented—following the development of a detailed implementation plan—there will be a gradual shift and expansion in these operations. This will include increasing collections in high density areas to prevent illegal dumping, ensuring that streets are clean, engaging the private sector to reduce waste to landfill and improving education and awareness around littering. Over time, these changes will lead to a more comprehensive and sustainable waste management system that better meets the needs of the growing population while reducing the environmental impact.</p>
<p>How does the City plan to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills?</p>	<p>The Strategy aims to significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills through a series of targeted initiatives designed to promote waste minimisation, recycling, and recovery. With our existing landfill airspace near capacity, increasing our waste diversion is urgent. Key actions include:</p> <p>Improved Separation at Source: The Strategy includes actions to progressively increase the coverage of separation at source services in the City, through either formal door-to-door collections, drop-offs, swap shops, as well as the integration of informal waste pickers.</p> <p>Alternative Waste Treatment: The Strategy explores alternative waste treatment options, such as waste-to-energy projects, which convert waste into energy, thus reducing reliance on landfills.</p>

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	<p>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): The City is working with producers to implement EPR regulations, which shift the responsibility of waste management to the producers, encouraging them to design products that are easier to recycle or reuse.</p> <p>Landfill Airspace Management: The City is also investing in extending the lifespan of existing landfills by optimising landfill airspace usage and developing new landfill cells where necessary. However, the emphasis remains on minimising the need for landfills by diverting as much waste as possible.</p>
<p>How does the Strategy incorporate principles of the circular economy?</p>	<p>Promoting Recycling and Resource Recovery: The Strategy prioritises increasing recycling rates and improving the separation of waste at the source. This enables the recovery of valuable materials that can be reintroduced into the economy, aligning with the principles of the circular economy.</p> <p>Supporting Waste-to-Energy Projects: The Strategy includes initiatives to explore waste-to-energy projects that convert waste into usable energy, turning waste from a disposal problem into a resource that contributes to energy security.</p> <p>Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): The Strategy advocates for EPR regulations, which require producers to take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products, including the post-consumer stage. This encourages the design of products that are easier to recycle or reuse, thereby closing the loop in the product lifecycle.</p> <p>Encouraging Innovation and Partnerships: The Strategy supports innovation in waste management technologies and fosters partnerships between the City, private sector, and civil society. These collaborations are essential for driving the circular economy forward and creating new economic opportunities within the waste sector.</p> <p>Fostering Local Economic Development: By supporting small and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) in the recycling and waste processing industries, the Strategy contributes to local economic development and resilience, further embedding circular economy principles in Cape Town's waste management system.</p> <p>City Leadership in Green Procurement: The City of Cape Town is positioning itself as a leader in green procurement. The Strategy promotes the purchase of sustainable and environmentally friendly goods and services, which supports the circular economy by ensuring that the City's own operations are aligned with sustainable practices. This leadership in green procurement not only reduces waste and resource consumption but also sets a standard for other sectors to follow.</p>
<p>How does the Strategy address the environmental impact of waste?</p>	<p>The Waste Strategy addresses the environmental impact of waste by focusing on reducing waste generation, improving waste management practices, and minimising the amount of waste sent to landfills. Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Diversion: A core pillar in the Strategy is to divert waste from landfills through increased recycling, composting, and other waste minimisation efforts, thereby reducing the environmental harm caused by landfill operations, such as greenhouse gas emissions and soil contamination. • Pollution Prevention: By promoting proper waste disposal and combating illegal dumping, the Strategy aims to protect Cape Town's natural environments—such as rivers, oceans, and green spaces—from pollution that can harm wildlife, ecosystems and ultimately, humans. • Community Education and Engagement: The Strategy includes initiatives to educate and engage residents and businesses on the environmental impacts of waste, encouraging more responsible waste disposal behaviours and the adoption of sustainable practices.
<p>How is the City addressing waste management in informal settlements?</p>	<p>The City provides waste collection services in informal settlements through a bagged door-to-door service. However, challenges like narrow streets, safety threats, lack of storage space for waste, and frequent informal settlement expansion make it difficult to provide consistent services. The City is working on improving these services by tailoring solutions to the specific needs of informal areas.</p>

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<p>What measures are being taken to combat illegal dumping?</p>	<p>The City is implementing various measures to combat illegal dumping, including increasing the waste collection services, continuing to deploy law enforcement to monitor hotspots, and converting illegal dumping sites into community spaces like parks. Additionally, the City is engaging in public awareness campaigns to educate residents about the consequences of illegal dumping.</p>
<p>What role does the private sector play in Cape Town's waste management?</p>	<p>The private sector is crucial in the waste management ecosystem, particularly in recycling and waste processing. The City is working to better integrate the private sector, including informal waste pickers and SMMEs, by creating partnerships and enabling economic opportunities within the waste sector. This integration is essential for improving waste diversion and supporting the circular economy. The City sees significant economic potential within the waste sector and the Strategy puts forward several levers to enable private sector to occupy this space – e.g., making waste accessible to the private sector, making it easier for waste sector businesses to coordinate with the City's waste operations, improving waste characterisation data for private sector planning and investment.</p>
<p>How can residents support waste management in Cape Town?</p>	<p>Residents play a critical role in supporting effective waste management in Cape Town:</p> <p>Educate Yourself and Others: Residents should familiarise themselves with the waste services available in their neighbourhood (see waste recyclers and drop-offs interactive map here), and ensure that they are using them correctly, and share this information with others. Residents can also download the City app for more information.</p> <p>Participate in Recycling and Home Composting Programs: Residents can actively participate in the City's recycling initiatives, such as the "Think Twice" program, and must make use of the drop-off facilities to dispose of recyclables and organic waste correctly. Residents can also divert their organic waste through the home composting bins.</p> <p>Reduce Waste Generation: By adopting waste minimisation practices like reducing, reusing, and repurposing materials, residents can help decrease the overall waste produced.</p> <p>Proper Waste Disposal: Never illegal dumping and littering by using the provided waste collection services and educating others in the community about the importance of proper waste disposal.</p> <p>Engage in Community Programs: Residents can get involved in community clean-up initiatives, support local waste management projects, and participate in public consultations to provide feedback on waste management services.</p> <p>Report Issues: The City has zero tolerance for illegal dumping and residents have a civic duty to report it. Residents should also report instances of overflowing bins, or other waste management issues to the City to ensure timely action is taken.</p>
<p>How can businesses support waste management in Cape Town?</p>	<p>As both producers and consumers of waste, businesses, both within the waste sector and beyond, have a key role to play in supporting effective waste management. They can do this by adopting sustainable practices and actively participating in the City's waste initiatives.</p> <p>Capitalise on waste beneficiation opportunities: Buy Back Centres (BBCs), organic waste businesses, recycling SMMEs, the waste-to-energy sector and informal waste pickers can take up new opportunities due to an improved regulatory environment, expanded access to waste and a clear stance on key infrastructure plans.</p> <p>Implement Waste Minimisation Practices: Businesses can reduce waste generation by adopting practices such as reducing packaging, reusing materials, and recycling within their operations. City service providers can embrace the principle of circularity in their procurement offerings.</p> <p>Participate in Recycling Programs: Businesses should separate recyclable materials from general waste and utilise recycling services (City or private).</p> <p>Engage in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Businesses that produce goods should comply with EPR regulations by taking responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products, including post-consumer waste management, through the relevant waste stream Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO).</p> <p>Support Waste-to-Energy Initiatives: Businesses can explore opportunities to contribute to or invest in waste-to-energy projects, which convert waste into usable energy, thereby reducing landfill use.</p>

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	<p>Collaborate with the City: Businesses can partner with the City on waste management projects, engage with partner organisations, participate in public consultations, and provide feedback on waste services to help improve and innovate waste management strategies.</p> <p>Promote Awareness and Education: Businesses can educate employees and customers about the importance of proper waste management, encouraging responsible disposal and recycling practices.</p>
<p>How can civil society organisations support waste management in Cape Town?</p>	<p>Civil society organisations (CSOs) are key partners in advancing waste management efforts in Cape Town.</p> <p>Advocate for Sustainable Practices: CSOs can advocate for environmentally sustainable waste management practices within communities and influence policy development by engaging with the City's waste management processes.</p> <p>Raise Public Awareness: CSOs can conduct educational campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of proper waste management, recycling, and the environmental impact of waste.</p> <p>Facilitate Community Involvement: CSOs can organise community clean-up events, recycling drives, and other initiatives that encourage active participation from residents in waste management efforts.</p> <p>Support Informal Waste Pickers: CSOs can work to support and integrate informal waste pickers into the formal waste management system, ensuring they have access to resources, training, and fair working conditions.</p> <p>Collaborate with the City: CSOs can collaborate with the City of Cape Town to provide feedback on waste management services, participate in public consultations, and help monitor and report on illegal dumping and other waste-related issues.</p> <p>Promote Circular Economy Initiatives: CSOs can support and promote circular economy initiatives, such as upcycling, composting, and waste-to-energy projects, that reduce waste and create economic opportunities within communities.</p>
<p>What level of government is responsible for waste management?</p>	<p>The Constitution assigns the responsibility of waste management to municipalities. As such, managing waste in Cape Town is a core utility in the City of Cape Town. However, there are some key issues that require provincial and national government co-operation and advocacy – for example, authorisations for projects on landfill sites and landfill extension, the management of problematic waste and regulating organic waste solutions.</p>
<p>How will the success of the Waste Strategy be measured?</p>	<p>The success of the Waste Strategy will be measured through regular monitoring and evaluation of a number of outcome level indicators, e.g., waste diversion rates, the effectiveness of service delivery, decreasing illegal dumping. The City will track progress against specific targets set within the Strategy and adjust its approach as needed to ensure continuous improvement. The details of these indicators are captured in the strategy.</p>
<p>When will we see the draft strategy document?</p>	<p>The formal participation process will occur from 11 September – 11 October 2024. Here you will have the opportunity to directly comment on the provisions in the Strategy, where after the Strategy will be redrafted with inputs and go through the approval process.</p>
<p>Can someone still comment on the strategy after the public participation process has closed?</p>	<p>No, once the public participation process has closed, the public will no longer be able to submit comments. However, the Waste Strategy will be reviewed every five years.</p>