

# Aspects of Waste Management and Recycling

**in South Africa**

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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

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➤ **Q & A**

➤ **Thank you**

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