

A first for the City of Cape Town

As land becomes more expensive, it becomes increasingly difficult to build new landfill sites; waste minimization is the only answer.

The City of Cape Town's new **Integrated Waste Management Bylaw** is aimed at regulating waste recovery and recycling activities, and setting minimum requirements for waste storage and infrastructure. The City is the first municipality in South Africa to develop a bylaw of this nature in line with new national legislation.

The bylaw's ultimate objective is to regulate and control waste management within the city. It replaces all old bylaws on waste-related matters, and ensures a uniform approach throughout the city. The Integrated Waste Management Bylaw is closely aligned with the National Waste Management Strategy as well as the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008, which was gazetted on 10 March 2009. It is also underpinned by the City's Integrated Waste Management Policy, which was adopted in 2006.

Cape Town's 3,2 million residents produce some 6 000 tons of waste per day. This works out at an average of 2 kg per person per day. With waste generation growing at 7% every year, Cape Town's landfill sites at Vissershok, Bellville South and Strandfontein are almost filled to capacity. "The City's broad obligation is to ensure that waste management services are provided to maintain a safe and healthy environment, and minimise resource and human impacts due to waste," says Barry Coetzee, the City's Head of Integrated Waste Management Policy.

According to national legislation, municipalities will from now on regulate all entities that provide waste management services or generate waste. "The bylaw aims to ensure that all residents, organisations, businesses, visitors/ tourists and government departments receive services from a legitimate waste management service provider," says Coetzee. "Accreditation will be required to ensure that all service providers abide by the City's bylaws and general environmental legislation.

"Another key provision is the separation of waste that still has value and can be recycled. This is already being piloted by the City in certain residential areas, and will be rolled out on a broader scale, subject to budget constraints," he says. The bylaw explicitly spells out the City's rights in respect of waste management services, as well as its obligations regarding cleaning and cleansing – including for disaster management. These include the responsible disposal of non-recyclable waste, collection and recovery of recyclables, and the processing and treatment of waste and recyclable materials.

The bylaw also provides for the minimisation of waste by industries, commerce, government departments and major events organisers, and places an onus on businesses to provide waste and recycling information. National legislation also requires municipalities to recover costs for services rendered. There will be no immediate effect on tariffs, as Council has already budgeted for the infrastructure and services, which include the pilot projects to introduce waste minimisation services. The bylaw was tabled at the Council meeting of 30 March, and upon adoption was forwarded to the Provincial Government for promulgation.

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