



**Western Cape
Government**

Department of Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning

Western Cape Integrated Waste Management Plan 2027-2032 (draft)

September 2026

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Acronyms

10YFP	10-year Framework of Programmes
AHP	Absorbent Hygiene Products
AU	African Union
AWT	Alternative Waste Treatment
BFI	Budget Facility for Infrastructure
C&D	Construction and Demolition
C&DW	Construction and Demolition Waste
C&I	Commercial and Industrial
CoCT	City of Cape Town
CKDM	Central Karoo District Municipality
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CWDM	Cape Winelands District Municipality
DCF	District Co-ordinating Forum
DDM	District Development Mode
DCoG	Department of Cooperative Governance
DE	Doughnut Economics
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEA&DP	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
DM	District Municipality
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DSI	Department of Science and Innovation
DSP	Departmental Strategic Plan
DTPW	Department of Transport and Public Works
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
ERA	Extended Producer Responsibility Association
G4J	Growth for Jobs
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDPR	Gross Domestic Product per Region
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GRDM	Garden Route District Municipality
GRAP	Generally Recognised Accounting Practice
HCRW	Health Care Risk Waste
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IPWIS	Integrated Pollutant and Waste Information System
IUDG	Integrated Urban Development Grant
IWMF	Industry Waste Management Forum
IWMP	Integrated Waste Management Plan
JDMA	Joint District Metro Approach
LM	Local Municipality
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MFMA	Municipal Financial Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003)
MIG	Municipal Infrastructure Grant
MINMEC	Minister and Members of the Executive Council

MINTECH	Ministerial Technical Committee
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
MW	Municipal Waste
NDP	National Development Plan 2030
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998)
NEM: WA	National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008)
NPF WEG	The National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality
NWMS	National Waste Management Strategy, 2020
ODM	Overberg District Municipality
PERO	Provincial Economic Review and Outlook
PRO	Producer Responsibility Organisation
PSP	Provincial Strategic Plan
R&R	Repair and Refurbishment
S@S	Separation at Source
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SANEDI	South African National Energy Development Institute
SAWIS	South African Waste Information System
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIME	Strategic Integrated Municipal Engagements
SMME	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
STRID	Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping
TIME	Technical Integrated Municipal Engagements
USDG	Urban Settlements Development Grant
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
WCCCRS	Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy
WCDM	West Coast District Municipality
WCG	Western Cape Government
WC IWMOF	Western Cape Integrated Waste Management Officers' Forum
WCIWMP	Western Cape Integrated Waste Management Plan
WCRAAG	Western Cape Recycling Action Group
WDF	Waste Disposal Facility
WIR	National Waste Information Regulations, 2012
WMF	Waste Management Facility
WML	Waste Management Licence
WIE	Waste-to-Energy
WMO	Waste Management Officer
WMOF	Waste Management Officers' Forum

Glossary

TERMS	DEFINITION
Buy-back centre	A facility that purchases source-separated recyclable materials, such as paper, plastic, glass, and metal, directly from the public, waste pickers or informal collectors.
Circular economy	An economy that is restorative and regenerative by design and aims to keep products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, distinguishing between technical and biological cycles. This new economic model seeks to ultimately decouple global economic development from finite resource consumption. It enables key policy objectives such as generating economic growth, creating jobs, and reducing environmental impacts, including carbon emissions (DEFF, 2020).
Disposal	Means the burial, disposal, discharge, abandoning, dumping, placing or release of any waste into, or onto, any land (NEM: WA, 2008).
Drop-off facility	Facilities that provide residents with the convenient opportunity to dispose of waste, which they have not put out for collection, into containers for later removal by the municipality.
Extended Producer Responsibility	Means that a producer's responsibility for an identified product is extended to the post-consumer stage of an identified product's life cycle.
Extended Producer Responsibility free riders	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) free riders refer to companies that benefit from the environmental and economic advantages of EPR policies without contributing to the costs and efforts of implementing these policies.
Gender- responsive	Refers to a policy or program which fulfils two basic criteria: a) gender norms, roles, and relations are considered and b) measures are taken to actively reduce the harmful effects of gender norms, roles, and relations—including gender inequality (GPE and UNGEI, 2017).
Gender-sensitive	Refers to gender awareness and means that a policy or program recognises the important effects of gender norms, roles, and relations. It is often contrasted with being gender-blind, which ignores differences in opportunities and resource allocation for women and men and gender norms, roles, and relations and often reinforces gender-based discrimination (GPE and UNGEI, 2017).
General waste	Waste that does not pose an immediate hazard or threat to health or to the environment, and includes: (a) domestic waste; (b) building and demolition waste; (c) business waste; (d) inert waste; or (e) any waste classified as non-hazardous waste in terms of the regulations made under section 69 [of the Waste Act, 2008 (Act

	No.59 of 2008)], and includes non-hazardous substances, materials or objects within business, domestic, inert or building and demolition wastes
Regional Gross Domestic Product (GDPR)	GDPR at market prices equals the sum of gross value added by all industries at basic prices plus taxes on products minus subsidies on products in a region.
Hazardous waste	Any waste that contains organic or inorganic elements or compounds that may, owing to the inherent physical, chemical or toxicological characteristics of that waste, have a detrimental impact on health and the environment.
Indigent	The term 'indigent' means 'lacking the necessities of life'. In a South African context, the Constitution provides guidance in this regard, leading to the view that the following goods and services are considered necessities for an individual to survive: a) sufficient water b) basic sanitation c) refuse removal in denser settlements d) environmental health e) basic energy f) health care g) housing h) food and clothing Anyone who does not have access to these goods and services is considered indigent.
Industrial Symbiosis	Industrial Symbiosis (IS) is the exchange of materials or services between entities. Specifically, it involves the use of unused or residual resources (materials, energy, water or services) of one company, by another. These synergies improve resource efficiency and economic, social and environmental benefits for the companies involved (GreenCape).
Integrated Waste Management	Employing several waste control and disposal methods, i.e. reducing, reusing, recycling, incinerating, and landfilling, to minimise the environmental impact of commercial and industrial waste streams.
Integrated Waste Management Plan	A plan prepared in terms of section 12 of the NEM: WA.
Materials recovery facility	A centre for the reception and transfer of materials recovered from the waste stream for recycling. Materials are sorted by type and treated.
Minimisation	The avoidance of the amount and toxicity of waste that is generated and, in the event, where the waste is generated, the reduction of the amount and toxicity of waste that is disposed (NEM: WA).
Municipal solid waste	Waste generated from residential and non-industrial commercial sources. It includes predominantly household waste (domestic waste) with sometimes the addition of commercial waste collected by a municipality within a given area. It includes either solid or semi-solid wastes and generally excludes industrial hazardous waste.

One Health	A collaborative, multisectoral, and trans-disciplinary approach - working at local, regional, national, and global levels- to achieve optimal health and well-being outcomes recognising the interconnections between people, animals, plants and their shared environment. (University of Pretoria, n.d.)
Organic waste	Means waste of biological origin which can be broken down, in a reasonable amount of time, into its base compounds by microorganisms and other living things.
Polluter Pays Principle	All costs associated with waste management should, where possible, be borne by the waste generator.
Re-use	To utilise the whole, a portion of a specific part of any substance, material or object from the waste stream for a similar or different purpose without changing the form or properties of such substance, material or object (NEM: WA).
Recovery	The controlled extraction of material or the retrieval of any substance, material or object from waste (NEM: WA).
Recycle	A process where waste is reclaimed for further use, which involves the separation of waste from a waste stream for further use and the processing of that separated material as a product or raw material (NEM: WA).
Refurbishment	The repair and reconditioning of products so that they can be returned to use for another life cycle. Refurbishment may be performed by the original manufacturer, or a third party qualified to perform the necessary parts replacement or repairs (DEFF, 2020).
Separation at source (S@S)	Separation at source is the separation of different types of post-consumer waste materials at the site where they are generated. S@S typically focuses on the separation of recyclables (and often further disaggregation into different types of recyclables), organic waste and solid waste. Selective collection of separated materials ensures that they do not contaminate each other and that waste to landfill is minimised.
Sustainable development	Sustainable development reflects a process that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Often called intergenerational equality, the idea is that we should share natural resources not just with people who are alive on the planet today but also with future generations of the Earth's inhabitants. While we can use a certain amount of the planet's resources, we should never entirely deplete a natural resource. Sustainable development requires people to rely as much as possible on renewable resources (the kind that can be replenished) by getting power from the sun rather than power from fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas, which take millions of years to form. Besides the careful stewardship of natural resources, sustainable development promotes the eradication of poverty and extreme income and wealth inequalities, the goal of full employment, the provision of access to quality and affordable basic services to all South Africans, and the fostering of a stable, safe and just society.

Swop shop	This refers to an exchange of recyclable material for goods that are basic needs. The material is valued through a point system, which can be redeemed for selected goods.
Treatment	Means any method, technique or process that is designed to: (i) change the physical, biological or chemical character or composition of a waste or, (ii) remove, separate, concentrate or recover a hazardous or toxic component of a waste, or (iii) destroy or reduce the toxicity of waste, in order to minimise the impact of the waste on the environment prior to further use or disposal.
User Pays Principle	All costs associated with the use of a resource should be included in the price of goods and services developed from that resource.
Waste	Any substance, material or object, that is unwanted, rejected, abandoned, discarded or disposed of, by the holder of the substance, material or object, whether or not such substance, material or object can be reused, recycled or recovered. Once it is reused, recycled or recovered the material ceases to be a waste (NEM: WA).
Waste disposal facility (Landfill site)	Means any site or premises used for the accumulation of waste with the purpose of disposing of that waste at that site or on that premises (NEM: WA, 2008). The National Norms and Standards for Disposal of Waste to Landfill, 2013 requires that these facilities are authorised and engineered according to legal requirements.
Waste management facility	A place, infrastructure, structure or containment of any kind, upon or at, where a waste management activity takes place and includes a waste transfer station, container yard, landfill site, incinerator, a lagoon, recycling or a composting facility (NEM: WA, 2008).
Waste management hierarchy	The "hierarchy of waste management" is a priority sequence for managing waste, the most desirable option being to avoid waste in the first place. Where it is not possible to avoid waste completely, ways to reduce, re-use or recycle the unwanted material should be considered. If waste cannot be made useful, only then should it be collected, treated and disposed of (DEFF, 2020).
Waste management officer	Means a waste management officer designated in terms of section 10 of the Waste Act (NEM: WA).
Waste picker	Someone who collects re-usable and recyclable materials from residential and commercial waste bins, landfill sites and open spaces in order to revalue them and generate an income. (DEFF & DSI, 2020).
Waste picker integration	The creation of a formally planned recycling system that values and improves the present role of waste pickers, builds on the strengths of their existing system for collecting and revaluing materials, and includes waste pickers as key partners in its design, implementation, evaluation and revision. Waste picker integration requires changes in several spheres and includes the integration of waste pickers' work, as well as the political, economic, social, legal and environmental integration of waste pickers (DEFF & DSI, 2020).

Wastepreneur	Portmanteau blending the words “waste” and “entrepreneur”.
Waste transfer facility	A facility that is used to accumulate and temporarily store waste before it is transported to a recycling, treatment or waste disposal facility.

DRAFT

Executive Summary

The National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008, as amended (NEM: WA), requires provincial governments and municipalities to develop Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs) to ensure proper waste management planning. The WC IWMP aims to provide strategic direction for waste management in the province over the short-, medium- and long-term. The specific objectives of the WC IWMP are:

- to provide a review and analysis of the status of implementation of the 3rd generation WC IWMP 2023-2027;
- to provide an overview of the identified waste management gaps and needs in the province;
- to develop a set of goals, objectives, activities and targets that respond to the identified gaps and needs;
- to take cognisance of aspects relating to gender equality and inclusivity, human rights, socio-economic development, sustainability of waste services, and environmental impacts to inform specific goals, objectives, activities and targets;
- to increase the level of leadership, governance, stewardship and participation in integrated waste management; and
- to enhance a resource-efficient society through the development of focused and customised restorative and regenerative approaches for circularity potential.

Prepared by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), the WC IWMP establishes the foundation for the next five-year cycle of strategic planning. It responds to persistent challenges such as illegal dumping, inadequate recycling, strained landfill capacity, rising service costs, and the broader sustainability, climate, and socio-economic pressures that affect the Western Cape.

The Plan is being developed in two phases over a two-year period:

- **Phase 1: Status Quo - 2025/2026:** The Status Quo Phase took place during the 2025/26 financial year.
- **Phase 2: Implementation Plan Phase: 2026/2027:** The Implementation Plan Phase is taking place during the 2026/27 financial year.

Public Participation

Public participation will occur throughout the development of the WC IWMP. An intergovernmental steering committee was established, comprising representatives from various provincial departments, and the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). A database of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) comprising key stakeholders representing municipalities, industry and civil society was compiled and updated throughout the process. The Status Quo Report was made available for public comment from **19 February 2026 to 20 March 2026**. A public participation webinar was hosted on **3 March 2026**. Invitations along with a waste services questionnaire were distributed to I&APs on the database and placed on the departmental website. A separate questionnaire aimed at Waste Management Officers (WMOs) was distributed to each municipality. Information from the surveys was used to assist in the identification of waste management gaps and needs.

During the development of Phase 2, an advert was placed in the provincial Gazette, and the *Cape Argus* and *Die Burger*, inviting members of the public to submit written representations on or objections to the draft WC IWMP (commenting period: **16 September 2026 - 19 October 2026**) and to invite them to attend upcoming public participation workshops. The draft Plan

was made available at municipal offices, the departmental website and via email, upon request. The Plan was also made available to all those who registered on the database.

The draft Plan was circulated to municipal managers for comments. Furthermore, the draft Plan was also distributed to all the relevant stakeholders in accordance with section 72 of the NEM:WA, which states that the MEC is required, to “consult all members of the Executive Council whose areas of responsibility will be affected by the exercise of these powers”, the Minister, and any national organs of state that may be affected

● Strategic Alignment

The Plan aligns with the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS), 2020 (the NWMS, 2026 is currently in development), gender and inclusivity frameworks, the circular economy transition, and global commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan is strongly anchored in:

- **SDG 12** Sustainable Consumption & Production and related SDGs on poverty, inequality, health, gender, and climate; and other related SDGs
- **NDP 2030**, emphasising waste reduction, job creation and green economic opportunities;
- **NWMS goals**, including a progressive shift away from landfill and adoption of the waste management hierarchy and shift towards the circular economy;
- **Provincial frameworks**, notably the Provincial Strategic Plan, Growth for Jobs (G4J), Climate Change Response Strategy, OneHealth, Western Cape Infrastructure Framework 2050, and the Provincial Organic Waste Strategy targeting 100% diversion of organic waste from landfill by 2027.

● Socio-Economic Context

The Western Cape's population reached approximately 7.6 million people in 2025, with more than 92% of residents living in urban areas. Continued population growth, urbanisation and immigration place increasing pressure on municipal infrastructure and waste management services.

Despite being one of the country's most economically developed provinces, poverty and inequality remain significant challenges. Over 50% of residents are estimated to live below the lower-bound poverty line, increasing dependence on municipal support services, including free basic refuse removal. Informal settlement growth, housing backlogs and increasing service demands present additional challenges for municipalities across the province.

● Waste Generation

Total waste generation increased from approximately 3.35 million tonnes in 2018 to 3.58 million tonnes in 2024. General waste makes up 90–95% of total waste, growing by 12% since 2018. Hazardous waste declined by 44%; sewage sludge and tarry waste remain key streams.

● Waste Diversion and Recycling

Overall waste diversion plateaued at 31% in 2024, achieving its highest level of 32% in 2023, which is below the NWMS 40% target for 2025. Organic waste diversion shows progress but is uneven; many municipalities remain far from the provincial 2027 prohibition to landfill requirement.

● Waste Infrastructure and Capacity

The Western Cape has 277 waste management facilities (WMFs), including 57 landfills and 42 material recovery facilities. Many landfills have less than 15 years of airspace left. Waste-to-

Energy (WtE) projects remain limited, with only a few licensed facilities. The number of DEA&DP compliance audits at WMFs decreased (73 in 2018 compared to 48 in 2025 because of budget constraints); findings conclude that non-compliance is still widespread at these facilities. Compliance audits highlight widespread operational challenges, including inadequate infrastructure maintenance, landfill gas management concerns, limited diversion activities and poor compliance with license conditions.

● **Institutional and Governance Indicators**

As of 10 July 2026, 80% of municipalities have designated Waste Management Officers. All 30 municipalities have endorsed IWMPs, but four have lapsed (invalid) IWMPs. Reporting on the implementation of IWMPs as per the NEM: WA remains a challenge.

● **Waste Collection and Service Access**

During 2024, 90% of households received weekly refuse removal, compared to 89,8% in 2021. Informal settlements remain underserved; refuse bags are the primary service method. Rural households experience inconsistent service provision; many depend on drop-offs. Rapid urban growth, increasing informal settlements, fleet limitations, ageing infrastructure and escalating operational costs continue to affect municipal service delivery. Illegal dumping remains widespread and continues to place significant financial and environmental pressures on municipalities.

● **Waste Minimisation, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Circular Economy**

The Province continues to support waste minimisation initiatives through recycling programmes, organic waste diversion, separation-at-source initiatives, and awareness campaigns. Participation in EPR schemes increased significantly, with 530 producers registered in the Western Cape by 2024. The Paper and Packaging sector remains the dominant contributor. However, challenges remain relating to free riders, infrastructure investment, municipal engagement and support for difficult-to-manage waste streams.

The Province has also advanced repair and refurbishment programmes, supported youth-focused circular economy initiatives. Waste picker integration remains limited, though pilots in Drakenstein and Cape Agulhas Municipalities demonstrate potential.

● **Review of the WC IWMP 2023–2027**

Overall implementation performance thus far: **78% achievement** across four strategic goals. Highlights include:

- Strengthened awareness and training (landfill operator courses, Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping, circular economy promotion);
- Improved IWMP alignment and municipal support through forums and onsite audits;
- Growth of refurbishment and repair sector initiatives targeting youth and women;
- 42 enforcement actions undertaken in 2023–2024 in response to identified non-compliances.

● **Key Provincial Gaps Identified**

Waste management gaps were identified internally and via the public participation process and grouped into nine key themes covering:

- Waste generation and diversion
- Waste information

- Waste education and awareness
- Waste collection and transportation
- Circular economy
- Waste management infrastructure
- Governance and institutional arrangements
- Waste management finances
- Human rights and inclusivity

A list of prioritised needs was identified from the gap analysis around the (1) stabilisation of waste services, improved compliance, and protection of public health, (2) improved service efficiency, increased diversion rates, improved data reliability and a more institutionally resilient waste system, and (3) a low-carbon, and regionally integrated waste management system with strong circular economy linkages.

Implementation Plan

The Vision for waste management in the province remains as is, focusing on resource-efficiency, inclusivity and fairness, the promotion of social well-being and environmental protection. The Mission Statement, which promotes good governance and partnerships, has also largely been retained, with the inclusion of data driven decision-making.

- **Vision:**

"A resource-efficient, inclusive and thriving society that ensures a clean environment."

- **Mission:**

"To build a resource-efficient, inclusive and thriving society that recognises the value of waste, supported by affordable, data-driven, appropriate services, technologies and infrastructure through good governance and partnerships that will benefit communities, the economy and the environment."

- **Strategic Goals and Objectives:**

Four strategic goals and associated objectives were developed:

Goal 1: Inclusive participation and behaviour change for socio-economic development

Objectives:

- Objective 1.1 Increase public awareness, advocacy, and education in IWM
- Objective 1.2 Strengthen whole of society mobilisation for sustainable waste management

Expected Outcome:

- An empowered and actively participating society that adopts responsible waste management practices, contributes to cleaner and healthier communities, and supports socio-economic development through waste minimisation, resource recovery and circular economy initiatives.

Goal 2: Improved integrated waste management planning and implementation for efficient waste services, technologies and infrastructure

Objectives:

- Objective 2.1 Implement budget-led Municipal Integrated Waste Management Planning
- Objective 2.2 Expand integrated waste management infrastructure and services
- Objective 2.3 Improve waste data management, reporting and analysis for decision-making
- Objective 2.4 Strengthen governance and sustainable finances

Expected Outcome:

- Clean communities across the Western Cape with access to well-managed, reliable and financially sustainable waste management services and infrastructure.

Goal 3: Transition to a circular economy through effective and efficient utilisation of resources

Objectives:

- Objective 3.1: Minimise consumption of natural resources and promote the circular economy principles;
- Objective 3.2: Stimulate job creation within the waste economy; and
- Objective 3.3: Increase waste diversion through reuse, recovery and recycling.

Expected Outcome:

- Drive the transition towards a circular economy by promoting waste avoidance/reduction, reuse, recycling and resource recovery, resulting in waste diversion, improved resource efficiency, enhanced environmental sustainability and expanded socio-economic opportunities for communities, businesses, and industry with a particular focus on empowering youth, women, persons with disabilities, and waste pickers.

Goal 4: Strengthened compliance monitoring and enforcement

Objectives:

- Objective 4.1 Strengthen compliance and enforcement
- Objective 4.2 Decommissioning and closure of waste management facilities
- Objective 4.3 Remediate contaminated land

Expected Outcome:

- Improved compliance, enforcement and regulatory systems for waste management across the Western Cape with well-managed, waste management facilities and infrastructure.

An Implementation Table containing activities, outputs, timeframes, responsibilities and targets has been developed to assist in meeting the strategic objectives goals.

1 Introduction

Inadequate waste management practices, including illegal dumping, littering, limited recycling, and suboptimal landfill operations, pose significant risks to environmental integrity, public health, and municipal fiscal sustainability. Given South Africa's multifaceted socio-economic challenges and fiscal constraints, strategic planning and optimisation of waste management systems are important. Such measures must ensure efficient service delivery, environmentally sound waste management practices, and the adoption of a circular economy framework to minimise resource consumption and waste generation. Waste management is deeply intertwined with numerous aspects, such as climate change, public health, environmental sustainability, human rights, gender equality, economic development, and consumption habits. It also presents opportunities for job creation, helping to alleviate poverty. Furthermore, external global factors e.g. the conflict in the Middle East and global economic shifts and trade dynamics have the potential to lead to supply chain disruptions, thereby increasing costs of waste management technology and vehicles. As a result, effective waste management planning requires a comprehensive, multidimensional approach that accounts for all these interconnected factors.

The National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008 (NEM: WA), as amended, mandates provincial departments responsible for waste management, and municipalities to develop Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs) as foundational instruments for systematic waste governance. IWMPs constitute the primary strategic phase within governmental planning and accountability cycles. The five-year validity period of the current 3rd Generation WC IWMP ends in March 2027, necessitating its review and the development of the 4th Generation WC IWMP. In the Western Cape, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), hereafter referred to as 'the Department', is responsible for waste management and is thus required to formulate the Western Cape IWMP (WC IWMP).

1.1 Background and Purpose

The WC IWMP aims to provide strategic direction for waste management in the Western Cape over the short-, medium- and long-term and is applicable to the provincial departments, municipalities, the private sector, civil society and the public. The Plan aims to take cognisance of the various social and economic challenges currently facing the province while aligning with key policies such as the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS), which emphasises the **Waste Management Hierarchy** and the **Circular Economy**. The specific objectives of the 4th generation WC IWMP 2027-2032 are:

- to provide a review and analysis of the status of implementation of the 3rd generation WC IWMP 2023-2027;
- to provide an overview of the identified waste management gaps and needs in the province;
- to develop a set of goals, objectives, activities and targets that respond to the identified gaps and needs;
- to take cognisance of aspects relating to gender equality and inclusivity, human rights, socio-economic development, sustainability of waste services, and environmental impacts to inform specific goals, objectives, activities and targets;
- to increase the level of leadership, governance, stewardship and participation in integrated waste management; and

- to enhance a resource-efficient society through the development of focused and customised restorative and regenerative approaches for circularity potential.

The Role of Integrated Waste Management Plans in Environmental Planning:

The WC IWMP addresses certain environmental impacts and spatial aspects that will influence and inform other policy and planning instruments.

Environmental impacts related to waste management include air pollution, waste transportation, land fill gas emissions, littering and the burning of waste. Water sources and soil may also become polluted through the seepage of leachate from poorly constructed waste disposal facilities (WDFs) and through litter and illegal dumping. Furthermore, unmanaged waste can also be carried into the oceans and cause harm to marine life. These aspects must be considered in environmental impact reports, Environmental Management Frameworks (EMFs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), given their regional context that these instruments cover so that they respond to the goals and objectives contained in the WC IWMP.

Future planned waste management facilities are located spatially and will therefore need to be integrated within the spatial development frameworks. Consultation through the establishment of intergovernmental steering committees is critical so that key spatial waste information can be aligned to various sector plans including the WC IWMP, district and municipal IWMPs.

1.2 Scope of the WC IWMP

The WC IWMP covers the geographical area of the Western Cape Province of South Africa, which makes up 10.6% of the country's land surface and covers an area of approximately 129 462 km². It is the fourth largest province in South Africa and is divided into one metropolitan municipality and five district municipalities, namely the City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality (CoCT), Cape Winelands District Municipality (CWDM), Central Karoo District Municipality (CKDM), Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM), Overberg District Municipality (ODM) and the West Coast District Municipality (WCDM). District Municipalities are further subdivided into 24 local municipalities (Figure 1 and Table 1). The Western Cape has an estimated population of 7.5 million, accounting for nearly 12% of South Africa's population (StatsSA, 2024).

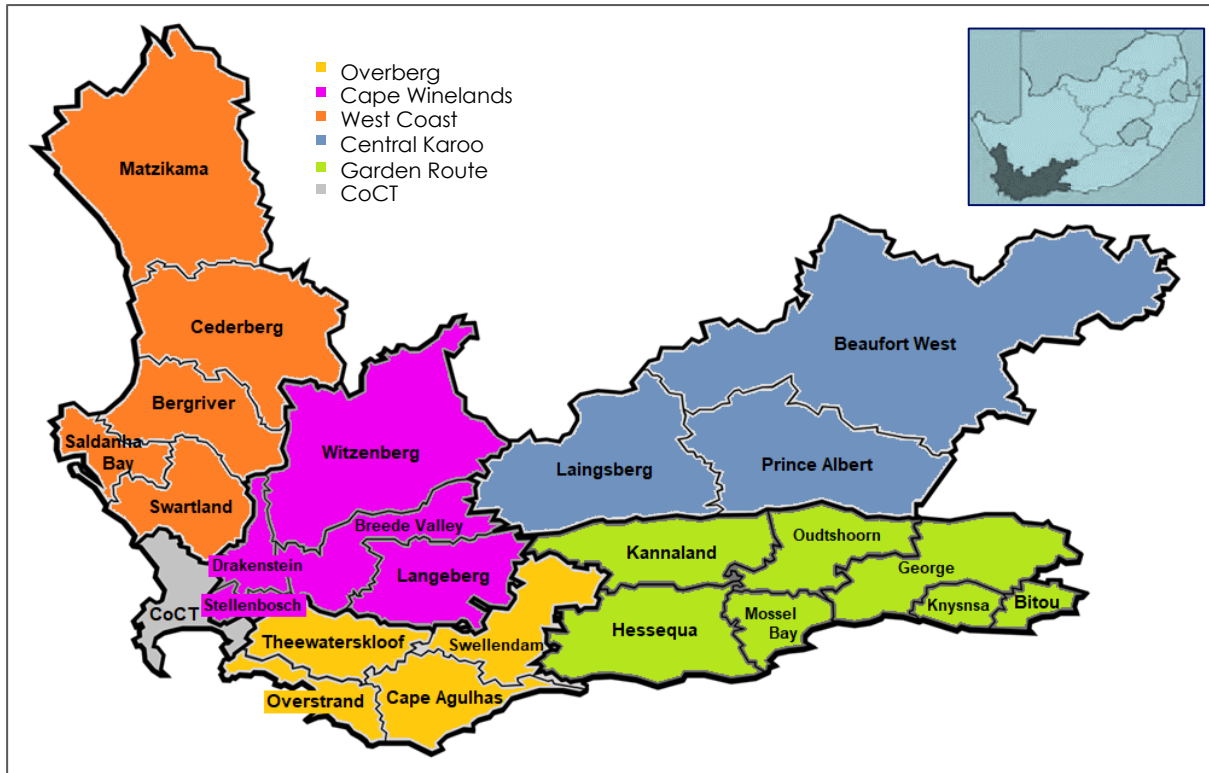


Figure 1: Map of the Western Cape

Table 1: Overview of the districts within the Western Cape

DISTRICT/METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES	LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES
Cape Winelands District	
The CWDM covers an area of 21 473 km ² , which constitutes 17% of the Western Cape's total area and comprises five local municipalities (WESGRO, 2024a). Agriculture is an important economic activity in the district. The region's large rural areas support an extensive agricultural industry that is mostly rural. However, several towns, like Worcester, Paarl and Stellenbosch, function as highly developed nodes. The region also attracts a large number of tourists largely driven by the scenery, mountains, wine and fruit estates (WESGRO, 2024a).	Breede Valley, Drakenstein, Langeberg, Stellenbosch, Witzenberg
Central Karoo District	
The CKDM covers an area of 38 854km ² , which constitutes 30% of the Western Cape's total area and is the largest district in the province. It comprises three local municipalities (WESGRO, 2024b). Agriculture is a key economic activity in the district. The town of Beaufort West constitutes the central economic hub of the district (WESGRO, 2024b).	Beaufort West, Laingsburg, Prince Albert
Garden Route District	
The GRDM covers an area of 23 331 km ² and comprises seven local municipalities. In terms of economic activity by sector, the finance, insurance, real estate, and business services sector was the largest contributing sector to the district's Regional Gross Value Added (RVGA) in 2023 (WESGRO, 2024c)	Bitou, George, Hessequa, Kannaland, Knysna, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn
Overberg District	

The ODM covers an area of 12 241 km ² which constitutes 9% of the Western Cape's total land area and is the second smallest district in the province (WESGRO, 2024d). It comprises four local municipalities. The finance, insurance, real estate and business services sector contributed the most to the district's RGVA in 2023 (WESGRO, 2024d)	Cape Agulhas, Overstrand, Swellendam, Theewaterskloof
West Coast District	
The WCDM covers an area of 31 101 km ² and comprises five local municipalities (WESGRO, 2024e). The agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors contributed the most to the West Coast district's RGVA, in 2023 (WESGRO, 2024e).	Bergervier, Cederberg, Matzikama, Saldanha Bay, Swartland
City of Cape Town	
The Cape Metro covers an area of 2 445km ² , which constitutes 1,9% of the Western Cape's total area (WCG, 2024). It represents a significant portion of the province's economy and population. Key economic sectors, include finance, insurance, real estate, and business services, transport, storage and communication, and manufacturing (WCG, 2024).	N/A

1.3 Method and Approach

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), now Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), and DEA&DP's guidelines for the development of Integrated Waste Management Plans was used to inform the approach of the WC IWMP 2027-2032. Sector plans developed by the Department are also required to follow an inclusivity approach, taking cognisance of women and other vulnerable groups.

1.3.1 Inclusivity Approach

The Eight-principles Workplace Action Plan for promoting women's economic empowerment and gender equality was adopted by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) in 2012, with the purpose of building commitment for gender mainstreaming across the public service. The DEA&DP has aligned with this commitment to include gender mainstreaming across all its mandates, including waste management. A broader human rights approach will be adopted, prioritising vulnerable and marginalised groups, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, while recognising the intersecting factors such as gender, age, disability, socio-economic status, geographic location and informal-sector participation that may compound vulnerability and inequality.

An inclusive approach to waste management enables the Department to develop effective, equitable, and sustainable waste solutions. By involving communities, waste pickers, businesses, municipalities, and other stakeholders, the Department can improve provincial waste diversion rates, reduce environmental impacts, create economic opportunities, and support a cleaner and healthier environment for all. An inclusivity approach is guided by the Batho Pele public service principles, namely: consultation, service standards, access, courtesy, information, openness and transparency, redress, and value for money. The Western Cape Government's core values further reinforce these principles and include integrity, accountability, competence, innovation, caring, inclusivity and collaboration, and responsiveness. Collectively, these principles and values guide service delivery and stakeholder engagement, fostering inclusive participation, accountability, and high standards of service excellence.

Inclusivity these aspects will be incorporated at various stages in the development of the IWMP.

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ASPECTS	INTEGRATION OF INCLUSIVITY ASPECTS
Policy and Legislative Framework, Strategic Alignment	Equality/ Gender equality laws, Sustainable Development Goals,
Status Quo	Disaggregated data, stakeholders (include vulnerable groups)
Public Participation	Include targeted groups e.g. women's groups, youth forums, informal waste picker cooperatives, and disability rights organisations, focused groups may be required.
Implementation Plan	Ensure that identified activities are responsive to gender, human rights and inclusivity issues.
Monitoring, Evaluation (M&E) and Reporting	Include gender, human rights and inclusivity indicators in the IWMP's M&E framework.

1.3.2 Planning Process

Phase 1: Status Quo

The Status Quo Phase took place during the 2025/26 financial year. The WC IWMP includes a Status Quo, which provides an overview of the socio-economic situation in the Western Cape and waste management information relating to e.g. generation and composition, diversion, disposal, compliance and institutional arrangements. The Status Quo also included a review of the implementation of the 3rd Generation WC IWMP 2023-2027.

Phase 2: Implementation Plan Phase

The Implementation Plan Phase is taking place during the 2026/27 financial year. The Status Quo and stakeholder consultation assisted in identifying waste management gaps and needs. The identification of projects and activities will occur via consultation with the project steering committee, working group and thorough public participation to identify, evaluate and select alternatives that respond to identified waste management gaps and needs. The vision for waste management in the province as well as strategic goals and objectives to achieve this vision is included. The desired end-state aligns to key policies including the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP), the NWMS (2020) and relevant provincial policies, strategies and strategic plans. The WC IWMP includes an action plan with activities, resources and timeframes.

Approval Process

Once the WC IWMP is drafted, it must be approved by the MEC for Local Government and Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, whereafter it must be endorsed by the National Minister of the DFFE.

Monitoring and Review

The WC IWMP must be monitored and reported on annually to ensure its implementation. This includes reporting to the DFFE. The WC IWMP will be reviewed yearly and updated every five years.

1.3.3 Public Participation

Public participation will occur throughout the development of the WC IWMP. An intergovernmental steering committee was established and meets on a quarterly basis. The steering committee comprises representatives from various departments, namely:

-  Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
-  Department of Water and Sanitation
-  The South African Local Government Association
-  Department of Health and Wellness
-  Department of Infrastructure
-  Department of Mobility
-  Department of Local Government
-  Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:
 - Chief Directorate: Environmental Governance, Policy Coordination & Enforcement
 - Chief Directorate: Environmental Sustainability
 - Chief Directorate: Environmental Quality
 - Chief Directorate: Development Planning

Phase 1

A database comprising Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and other key stakeholders was compiled and updated throughout the process. Identified stakeholders included e.g. municipalities, community organisations, industry and recycling organisations. The Status Quo Report was made available for public comment from **19 February 2026 to 20 March 2026**. Comments received are included in a Comments and Responses Report. A public participation webinar was hosted on **3 March 2026**. The Status Quo findings were presented, and the identification of waste management gaps and needs were workshopped. Invitations along with a waste services questionnaire were distributed to I&APs on the database and placed on the departmental website. A separate questionnaire aimed at Waste Management Officers (WMOs) was distributed to each municipality. Information from the surveys was used to assist in the identification of waste management gaps and needs.

Proof of public participation is included in **Appendix A**.

Phase 2

An advert was placed in the provincial Gazette, the *Cape Argus* and *Die Burger*, inviting members of the public to submit written representations on or objections to the draft WC IWMP (commenting period: **16 September 2026 to 19 October 2026**) and to invite them to attend upcoming public participation workshops. The draft Plan was made available at municipal

offices, the departmental website and via email, upon request. The Plan will also be made available to all those who registered on the database. The schedule for the public participation workshops is as follows:

DISTRICT	VENUE	DATE
Central Karoo	Kwa-Mandlenkosi Hall (Youth Hub), Beaufort West	5 Oct 2026
Garden Route	Blanco Community Hall, George	6 Oct 2026
Overberg	Moffat Hall, Mount Pleasant, Hermanus	7 Oct 2026
West Coast	Community Hall, Clanwilliam	13 Oct 2026
City of Cape Town/ Cape Winelands	Parrow Council Chambers, Cape Town	15 Oct 2026

The draft Plan was circulated to municipal managers for comment. Furthermore, the draft Plan was distributed to all the relevant stakeholders in accordance with section 72 of the NEM:WA, which states that the MEC is required, to “consult all members of the Executive Council whose areas of responsibility will be affected by the exercise of these powers”, the Minister, and any national organs of state that may be affected.

Proof of public participation is included in **Appendix A**.

1.4 Layout of the WC IWMP

The WC IWMP is divided in several sections as indicated below:

SECTION	OVERVIEW
1. Introduction	Provides a background to the WC IWMP, including method and approach undertaken.
2. Legislative Framework	Provides an overview of legislation that informs integrated waste management.
3. Strategic Alignment and Key Waste Management Linkages	Provides the strategic context for waste management and cross-cutting linkages.
4. Status Quo	Provides an overview of the socio-economic context and waste management in the Western Cape.
5. Review of the WC IWMP 2023-2027	Provides feedback on the implementation of activities as indicated in the WC IWMP 2023-2027.
6. Gaps and Needs Analysis	Summarises the gaps identified thus far. Will be updated to include gaps and needs identified during public participation. The section will also be updated to include prioritised needs.
7. Implementation Plan	Provides the waste management Vision, Mission, Strategic Goals and activities for Implementation.
8. Monitoring, Review and Reporting	Provides information regarding how the Plan will be monitored, reviewed and reported on.

2 Strategic Alignment and Key Waste Management Linkages

2.1 Global Strategic Framework

2.1.1 Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprise 17 goals that were adopted by the United Nations member states in 2015 with the aim to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth and tackle environmental issues (Figure 2). The key SDG to which the WC IWMP is aligned to is **SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production**, which aims to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns with the goal of achieving sustainable development. The goal is based on technological advancement, resource efficiency and waste minimisation (StatsSA, 2023). Many of the other goals are relevant and interconnected with waste management. Additional SDGs that the WC IWMP is aligned to include:

- **SDG 1:** End poverty in all its forms.
- **SDG 2:** No hunger.
- **SDG 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **SDG 6:** Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.
- **SDG 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.
- **SDG 8:** Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.
- **SDG 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
- **SDG 10:** Reduce inequality between and within countries.
- **SDG 11:** Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- **SDG 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change



Figure 2: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

2.1.2 G20 South Africa Summit: Leaders Declaration

The G20 Leaders Declaration Document was adopted by group 20 major economies during the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, which took place on 22-23 November 2025. The declaration outlines shared priorities, agreed commitments and actions. According to G20(2025), the G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change. Members were encouraged to bring forward nationally determined net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or climate-neutrality commitments in line with national circumstances. The Declaration also calls for scaling up clean energy, efficiency and climate financing. The Declaration explicitly calls for the reduction of food waste as part of making food systems resilient and sustainable. It further refers to reducing food loss and waste including through zero waste and other initiatives.

2.1.3 Agenda 2063

While the SDGs provide a global framework for sustainable development by 2030, Agenda 2063 is Africa's long-term vision for the continent. Agenda 2063 is a continent-wide strategic framework endorsed by African Union (AU) member states to guide Africa's political, social and economic transformation over 50 years (2013-2063). The AU is built around seven aspirations (e.g., prosperous & integrated Africa; good governance; peace & security; people-driven development) and detailed into goals, flagship projects and five 10-year implementation plans (Figure 3).

Agenda 2063 aims to achieve a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. A key goal is to ensure environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities. The priority areas identified in this regard include:

- Sustainable natural resource management
- Biodiversity conservation, genetic resources and ecosystems
- Sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Water security
- Climate resilience and natural disasters preparedness and prevention
- Renewable energy



Figure 3: Foundation, aspiration and goals of Agenda 2063

2.2 National Strategic Framework

2.2.1 The National Development Plan 2030

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 is a long-term strategic framework that envisions a prosperous and inclusive South Africa with reduced poverty and inequality by 2030 through socio-economic transformation, including economic growth, job creation, education, healthcare, and social cohesion. It aims to transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and resilient economy with waste management playing a crucial role. The NDP promotes a circular economy through waste generation avoidance, reuse and recycling initiatives, ensuring the reduction in the total volume of waste disposed of at landfills. It highlights the potential for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in the waste management sector to contribute to poverty alleviation, income inequality and unemployment. The NDP promotes the implementation of a waste management system that will boost economic activity in poor urban communities and build sustainable human settlements through the rapid expansion of recycling infrastructure and organic waste diversion initiatives. The overarching goals of the NDP include the –

- eradication of poverty from 39% of people living below the poverty line (i.e. monthly income below R419 in 2009) to zero;
- reduction of the unemployment rate from 27.6% to 6% by creating 11 million jobs; and
- reduction of inequality from 0.69 to 0.60 Gini coefficient by 2030.

To ensure the NDP objectives and goals are achieved, the government developed the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF, 2019 – 2024), which provides an overview of the performance for targets achieved with respect to the NDP over the 2019 – 2024 period and includes the following outcomes –

- constrained economic growth, unemployment and no participation, ownership or access for women, the youth and persons with disabilities impacting efforts to raise living standards, reduce poverty and inequality.



- new investments deterred by the electricity shortage challenges, while SMME support, which is key for economic transformation and job creation has been hindered by regulatory and administrative burdens (Red Tape); and
- the COVID-19 pandemic worsened economic growth, unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP, 2024 – 2029) provides an analysis of the key objectives of the NDP and aims to ensure that the NDP goals are achieved by 2030. It replaces the MTSF (2019 – 2024) to prioritise these NDP goals for implementation. The MDTP provides priority interventions that are required to address the most critical challenges faced by the country over the next five years.

2.2.2 National Waste Management Strategy

The NWMS aims to minimise waste generation and divert waste from landfill to reach a target of zero waste to landfill by 2050. The strategy promotes the circular economy and the waste management hierarchy, which prioritises waste reduction, reuse and recycling over waste disposal (Figure 4). It focuses on key priorities including waste minimisation, waste prevention, waste as a resource, sustainable strategic partnerships and collaboration between government, private sector and communities as well as environmentally sound socio-economic development. The Strategy also emphasises the importance of raising awareness to educate the public about responsible waste management practices. It provides three strategic pillars namely, (1) Waste minimisation, (2) Effective and sustainable waste services and (3) Compliance, enforcement and awareness.

The NWMS 2026 is currently being developed; the WC IWMP will align to the updated Strategy. The four strategic pillars included are (1) Circular economy and waste minimisation, (2) Effective and sustainable waste services (3) Capacity building and awareness raising and (4) Compliance monitoring and enforcement.

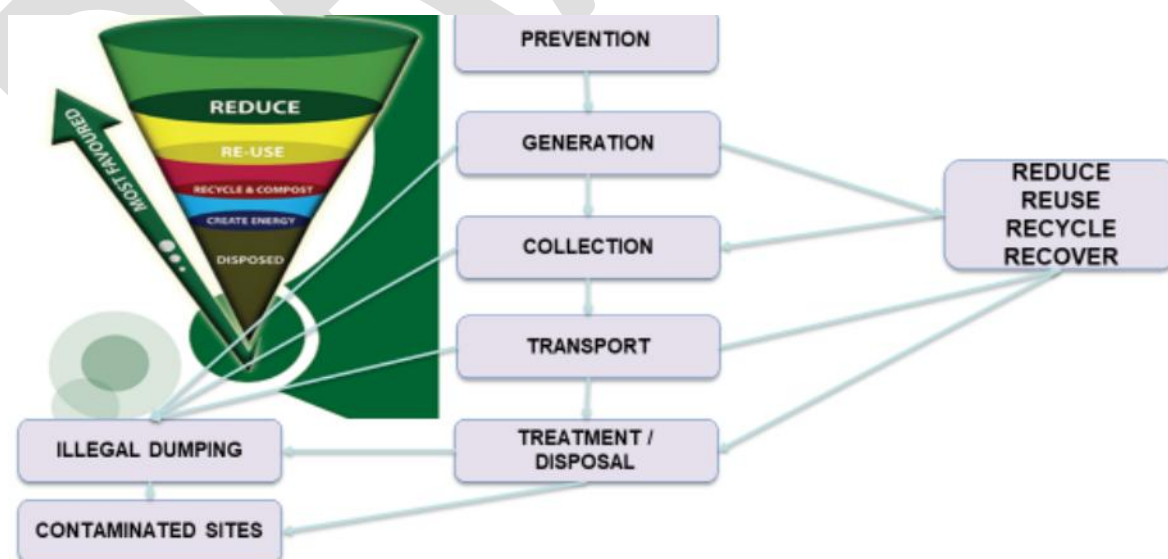


Figure 4: Waste Management Hierarchy

(Source: DFFE, 2020)

2.2.3 National Gender Equality Framework

The framework outlines South Africa's vision for gender equality and sets objectives to achieve this vision across all sectors of society. It focuses on non-discrimination, equality and human rights and outlines strategies and actions needed to address gender inequalities in education, health, employment and politics. The framework promotes gender mainstreaming in all government policies, programs, and practices and includes a system for monitoring and evaluating the progress on gender equality goals.

The National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality (NPF WEGE) emphasises the recognition of women's rights as human rights, the importance of affirmative action, and the promotion of women's economic empowerment. It is guided by the principles of the South African Constitution towards equality, non-sexism, and non-racism.

2.2.4 National Sanitary Dignity Framework

The framework aims to ensure that indigent girls and women have access to sanitary products and accurate information about menstruation to manage menstruation in a safe, knowledgeable, and dignified manner. The framework's goal is to prevent school absenteeism due to a lack of sanitary products and to address period poverty. The framework also makes provision for sanitary waste disposal, mandating safe sanitary waste disposal education, infrastructure (bins, toilets), municipal service provision (with alternatives where needed), proper maintenance, and monitoring to protect both the environment and the dignity of women and girls.

2.2.5 Absorbent Hygiene Strategy

South Africa generates approximately 900 000 tonnes of Absorbent Hygienic Product (AHP) waste annually, including items like nappies and sanitary pads, which constitutes about 6% of municipal solid waste sent to landfill. This material can take between 200 and 500 years to decompose. To address this significant waste stream, the DFFE developed a draft Strategy for the Design and Disposal of AHP Waste. The strategy's overarching purpose is to establish a national framework for the sustainable design, collection, treatment, and disposal of AHPs, aiming to mitigate environmental, health, and socio-economic impacts. For municipalities, as the key implementing agents, the strategy provides guidance for integrating AHP management into sustainable collection, treatment, and disposal practices aligned with national goals. DFFE's draft National Waste Management Strategy NWMS 2026-30 has included AHP as one of a number of priority waste materials to be addressed in coming years. At the moment AHP is classified as general waste, and not health care risk waste (HCRW), and therefore acceptable for disposal at municipal landfills.

2.3 Provincial Strategic Framework

OneCape 2040	<i>The OneCape 2040 aims to transition from an unsustainable carbon-intensive resource-use society to sustainable, low carbon resource use to ensure that the Western Cape Province is recognised as the leader and innovator in the Green Economy. The province supports local government and the private sector to improve the recovery of waste material and its beneficial use thereof.</i>
Green Economy Strategy Framework, 2013	The Strategy has a vision to “position the Western Cape as the lowest carbon province in South Africa and the leading green economic hub of the African Continent”. It aims to grow the commercial waste economy in partnership between public and private sectors as a major source of green jobs. To achieve this, innovation in identifying waste materials, enabling an environment to support the waste economy and developing a market by establishing a province-wide waste exchange to support the expansion and creation of new waste enterprises by improving the knowledge of waste resources.
Western Cape Infrastructure Framework 2050	The Framework centres on building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future. It positions infrastructure as a key driver of social equity, economic growth, and environmental stewardship, while addressing the province's unique spatial challenges. It focuses on the need for integrated infrastructure planning that considers land use, spatial realities, and equitable development across urban and rural areas and prioritises environmental sustainability and acknowledges the impacts of climate change. It highlights the 4th Industrial Revolution as representing a significant shift in technological development and the emergence of the 5th Industrial Revolution, which emphasises the collaboration between humans and machines.
Provincial Strategic Plan 2025-2030 (PSP)	The Plan sets out the WCG's vision and strategic direction. Its apex priority focuses on helping businesses grow, creating jobs and equipping residents to get those jobs. It is underpinned by four strategic portfolios, namely “Growth for Jobs”, “Safety”, “Educated, Healthy & Caring Society”, and “Innovation, Culture & Governance”. The strategic portfolio pertaining to developing an “Educated, Healthy & Caring Society” has the strongest linkage to waste management as it recognises that infrastructure, access to basic services, housing and social spaces must aim to address human needs, reduce inequality and enable social mobility. It also emphasises the One Health approach, stating its aim to improve overall health outcomes by preventing health and well-being threats to humans and animals, protecting the environment, improving human health and well-being, promoting the efficient use of natural resources and improving resilience to climate change.

<i>Living Cape: A Human Settlements Framework, 2017</i>	The Framework aims to improve the quality of human settlements. A key objective of the Framework is to shift the focus from housing delivery to the development of integrated human settlements that enable the sustainable development of communities. This requires alignment of state investments, such as land, social infrastructure and networked infrastructure. The focus of integration efforts must be to create functional and sustainable cities, towns and neighbourhoods.
<i>Western Cape Recovery Plan, 2021</i>	COVID-19 has had a negative impact on the Western Cape economy, and the livelihoods and well-being of people. The Plan was developed in response to these negative impacts. It aligns to and prioritises PSP interventions in light of the greater social and economic challenges, and reduced fiscal resources associated with the pandemic. The Plan is based on key themes, which includes jobs, safety and wellbeing, to achieve dignity.
<i>Western Cape Growth for Jobs Strategy, 2023 and the Growth for Jobs 2025-2023 Implementation Plan</i>	The Growth for Jobs (G4J) Strategic Framework and Strategy has its vision for the economy in the Western Cape as one that achieves break-out economic growth to drive sufficient employment and opportunity, and which is sustainable, resilient, diverse and thriving, generating confidence, hope and prosperity for all . One of the primary principles growth must be uncoupled from wasteful resource usage and fossil fuel dependency so that it can be sustainable over the long term and can meet present needs without further compromising the future. With our natural assets safeguarded, our economy and society will be shielded from the impacts of resource deterioration, climate change and other shocks, while our competitiveness and resilience will be enhanced.
<i>Provincial Spatial Development Framework, 2014</i>	This Plan addresses the lingering spatial inequalities that persist because of the country's apartheid legacy, unsustainable resource consumption and disposal. It identifies regional planning initiatives to address specific economic, social, natural or unique features in a specific area. Three urban and two rural priority areas have been identified. The feasibility of regionalisation of waste management services in the regional planning areas would need to be explored.
<i>Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy: Vision 2050 (2022)</i>	The Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy: Vision 2050 describes a future that the Western Cape province will strive towards. The vision is to be a net-zero emissions and climate-resilient province by 2050, built on an equitable and inclusive economy and society that thrives despite the shocks and stresses posed by climate change. Four guiding objectives, aligned to the aspiration expressed in the vision, give structure to the response strategy, including: 1) responding to the climate emergency; 2) transitioning in an equitable and inclusive manner to net zero emissions by 2050; 3) reducing climate risks and increasing resilience; and 4) enabling a just transition through public sector, private sector and civil society collaboration. Integrated waste management, as one of the four main sectors responsible for GHG emissions, plays a key role in implementing actions that will support the reduction in GHG emissions.

<i>Provincial Organic Waste Strategy, 2020</i>	The vision is to assist in the creation of a circular economy where organic waste is not wasted within the entire value chain and is instead largely prevented or beneficated to reduce the amounts going to landfill and the major impact on climate change. The Strategy includes interventions being implemented by the private sector and other agencies with an aim of forming synergies to create a fully integrated strategy with good collaborative networks amongst all stakeholders. These interventions include Voluntary Agreements as one mechanism to reduce food waste and loss by utilising sector body initiatives (e.g., Industry Waste Management Plans). The strategy also identifies possible policy instruments that can be applied by various organs of state to meet the 50% and 100% organic waste bans for 2022 and 2027 respectively. Good information management, public and private sector awareness, and private sector buy-in are required to achieve the 100% organic waste reduction by 2027 as set out by the Organic Waste Strategy.
<i>Western Cape Air Quality Management Plan, 2021</i>	Aims to ensure the effective and consistent implementation of sustainable air quality management practices, by all spheres of government, relevant stakeholders and civil society to progressively achieve and efficiently maintain clean and healthy air in the Western Cape.
<i>Western Cape Land Transport Framework (Draft) 2024/5-2028/9</i>	The framework informs and guides all provincial and municipal land transport decision-making and delivery in the Western Cape, including for road and rail infrastructure, public transport, non-motorised transport and freight. It operates within an integrated development framework that acknowledges the relationships between transport, land use, the economy and the natural environment. Linkages with waste management include the potential transportation of waste on rail and the use of electrical vehicles to undertake waste collection services.
<i>Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Strategic Plan, 2025-2030</i>	The DEA&DP Strategic Plan has identified environmental quality, which includes waste management as one of its key strategic focus areas. It envisions a sustainable and resilient environment that supports human dignity, health, well-being, livelihoods, ecosystem integrity and the economy.

2.4 Cross-cutting Aspects

The WC IWMP addresses the cross-cutting nature of waste management, recognising its deep connections to sustainable development's environmental, social, and economic dimensions. This links waste management to critical global issues such as climate change, public health, poverty, food security, and resource efficiency (ECD Monrec, 2018). These aspects align with the SDGs and pertinent national and provincial policies. The key linkages identified are summarised as follows.

2.4.1 Job Creation and Poverty Reduction

Poverty persists as a critical challenge in the Western Cape, evidenced by a steady rise over the past decade in those living below the lower-bound poverty line (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The World Bank (2018) attributes South Africa's entrenched poverty and inequality primarily to the legacy of apartheid, alongside high unemployment, wage gaps, and inadequate education. Addressing this requires sustained, effective interventions, as emphasised by the Provincial Treasury (2024). Economic growth is vital for generating rapid, sustained job creation and increasing societal resources, thereby alleviating poverty and enhancing quality of life (DFID, 2015; WCG, 2023)."

The Provincial Strategic Plan 2025-2030 has identified two focus areas namely, improved access to employability and economic opportunities and driving growth opportunities through investment to increase job opportunities. The WCG's Growth for Jobs Strategy 2035 has set the goal which states that by 2035, the Western Cape will be a R1-trillion inclusive economy in real terms and growing at between 4% and 6% per annum. This will be achieved through enabling a competitive business environment in which growth is driven through businesses exploiting opportunities. To achieve this seven priority focus areas have been identified.

The WCG is committed to raising the overall productivity of the Western Cape economy, through horizontal enablement and supporting private-sector-led market stimulation and growth opportunities. The focus on sustainability offers opportunities to enhance productivity, as the circular economy will enable the region to derive greater use from each resource unit and require fewer resource inputs (WCG, 2023). The strategy further identifies a picture of success whereby, circular infrastructure is advanced, enabling circular economy activity (e.g., re-use, recycle or recover waste), and minimising the amount of material used across the infrastructure lifecycle or value chain.

The waste sector has been identified as an economic sector that can significantly contribute towards social and economic development (Godfrey et al., 2014). Moving waste up the hierarchy i.e., away from landfilling and towards avoidance, re-use, recovery and recycling, is not only beneficial for the environment, but provides social and economic opportunities (Godfrey et al., 2014). According to GAIA (2021), disposal and incineration create significantly fewer jobs than repair and recycling. The Institute for Local Self-Reliance (2002) reports that on a per tonne basis, the sorting and processing of recyclables provide 10 times more jobs than landfilling or incineration. They also found that the biggest economic benefit comes from turning old recyclables into new products. GAIA (2021) further emphasises the job creation potential of moving up the hierarchy. In the case of the repair sector, it can create over 200 times as many jobs as landfills and incinerators (Figure 5).

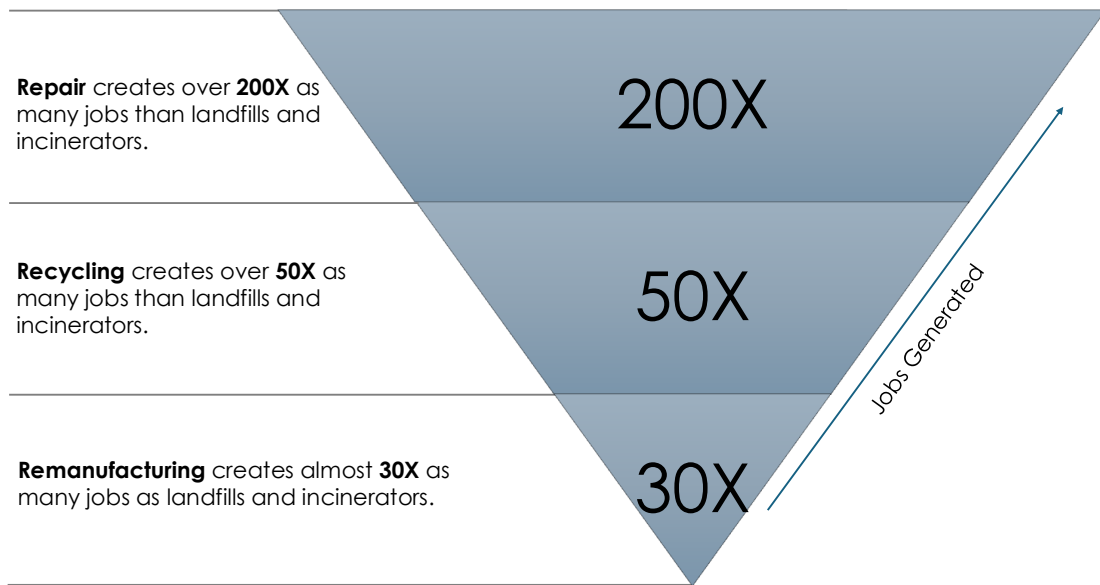


Figure 5: Jobs creation potential of zero waste solutions

Source: Adapted from GAIA, 2021

The Department has in recent years focused on the repair and refurbishment sector to stimulate job creation. A Situational Analysis of the Repair and Refurbish Sector for Household Electrical and Electronic Equipment in the Western Cape reports that it is a growing sector in both the formal and informal economies and through effective sector development strategies, can contribute significantly to skills development and decent job creation opportunities, particularly for the unemployed youth in vulnerable communities (DEA&DP, 2023).

2.4.2 Climate Change

Improper solid waste management practices remain a significant issue for urban environments in sub-Saharan Africa. Poor waste management leads to the emission of GHGs, which is a significant contributor to climate change and poses a significant threat to creating sustainable urban environments (Okorundu et al, 2024). The Provincial Strategic Plan 2025-2030 identifies that climate change could result in more frequent and severe climate hazards which will impact water security, food production, and infrastructure resilience. One of the key Ministerial Priorities of the plan is to future-proof our province through improved disaster and climate change resilience. Some of the key strategies and frameworks to mitigate climate change are the Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy (WCCCRS) and the 2050 Emissions Pathway Analysis for the Western Cape. Climate change adaptation and mitigation is a driver, with the dual aim of reducing GHG emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The promotion of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power reflects a significant step toward transitioning away from fossil fuels and reducing carbon footprints. In parallel, sustainable land management practices, including responsible agricultural methods and urban planning that prioritises green spaces and efficient public transport, are essential to maintaining the region's environmental integrity (DEA&DP, 2024).

According to UNEP (2010), all waste management practices generate GHGs either directly (emissions from the process itself) or indirectly, via energy consumption. Sources of GHG emissions during solid waste management practices include emissions from incineration, composting, anaerobic digestion and mechanical biological treatment (Figure 6); however, landfilling has been identified as a major source of CH₄ emissions compared to other waste management practices (UNEP, 2010). One of the contributing activities to climate change from the waste sector is the emissions of landfill gas into the atmosphere. Landfill gas is a complex mix of gases created by the action of microorganisms within a landfill. The mix of gases typically comprises approximately 40% to 60% Methane (CH₄), with the remainder being mostly Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and trace amounts of other Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) (<1%). Landfill CH₄ is produced when organic materials are decomposed by bacteria under anaerobic conditions (i.e. in the absence of oxygen). Methane production is a function of waste volume, waste composition, moisture content, landfill design and operating practices, and climate. Unless it is captured by a gas recovery system, CH₄ generated by the disposal facility is emitted directly through the landfill cover surface. Landfill gas contributes to the mechanisms responsible for climate change, as CH₄ is a particularly noxious GHG (DEA&DP, 2024). The Department has taken upon itself to do early warning landfill gas monitoring at most of the operating WDFs, where it conducts Departmental audits. This is done to detect high levels of CH₄, which carries an explosive or fire risk, and if detected, this is then communicated to the License Holder, who must implement immediate mitigation measures (DEA&DP, 2024).

Organic waste is a recognised global issue which is also affecting South Africa. South Africa is experiencing severe constraints in terms of the availability of landfill space as well as challenges in operating and decommissioning landfills in a manner that is compliant with licensing conditions and the norms and standards of disposal of waste to landfill. Alternative waste management practices such as composting can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change (UNEP, 2021). The Department took a policy decision in 2017, to institute and set a target of 50% organic waste diversion by 2022 and a full (100%) prohibition of organic waste disposed of to landfill by 2027. The landfill restriction and prohibition on organics will also ensure that national waste diversion targets are met. Furthermore, all licenses issued by the Department have been amended and municipalities are obligated to submit Organic Waste Diversion Plans. An Organic Waste Diversion Plan will enable various organic waste types to be appropriately beneficiated locally or within the district municipality. DEA&DP has developed and workshopped a generic diversion plan aimed at assisting municipalities to develop its own diversion plan (DEA&DP, 2024).

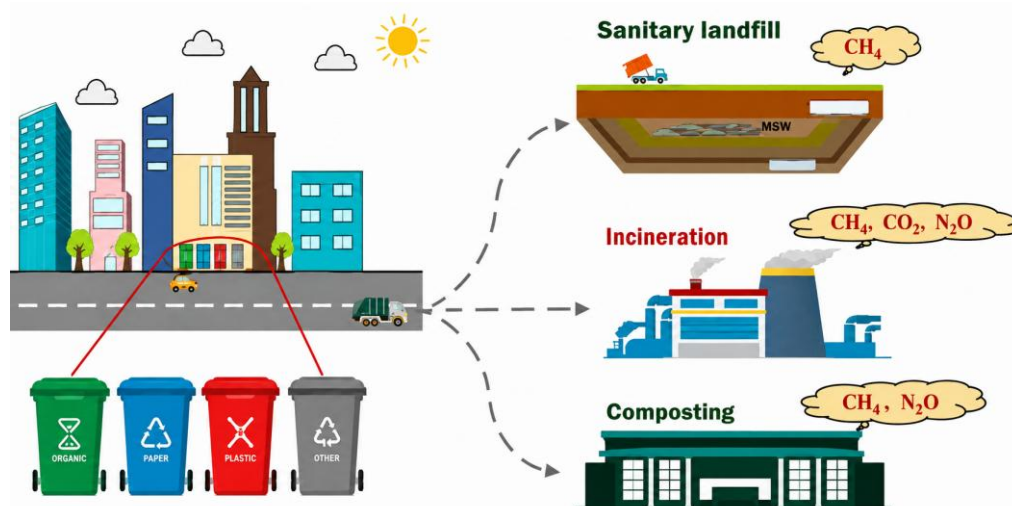


Figure 6: Sources of greenhouse gas emissions during solid waste management practices

Source: Adapted from Li *et al.*, 2022, image edited for clarity

2.4.3 Sustainable Consumption and Production

South Africa is one of the fastest growing emerging economies in the world with a GDP that has grown from US\$159 billion to US\$352 billion between 1980 and 2021 (Matenda *et al.*, 2024). As a result, this industrialisation has led to highest levels of carbon dioxide due to the burning of fossil fuels, making South Africa the 14th carbon dioxide emitter in the world (Matenda *et al.*, 2024). The South African economy is a carbon and resource-intensive economy that is largely dependent on carbon-based fuels and is envisioned to transition to a low-carbon economy by 2030 (RSA, 2012). Osabohien *et al.* (2025) observed that the depletion of natural resources has a negative effect on economic growth, particularly in West Africa, East Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. The depletion of natural resources can have a negative social impact resulting in conflict over access to remaining resources, which can indirectly affect economic stability and growth (Osabohien *et al.*, 2025).

SDG12 is about ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns by 2030, as this is key to sustaining the livelihoods of current and future generations. Sustainable patterns of consumption and production are crucial to overcoming climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is one of the key components of sustainable development that ensures balanced development in environmental, economic and social aspects (Zengi & Çakir, 2024). SCP aims to promote economic growth and social welfare while aiming to minimise waste generation and the efficient use of natural resources (Zengi & Çakir, 2024). South Africa is one of the countries that has agreed to encourage and promote the development of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) in support of SCP (One Planet Network, n.d.). The 10YFP provides a frame and platform towards achieving the shift to sustainable consumption and production (One Planet Network, n.d.). Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production dependent on extracting, processing, using and disposing of natural resources continue to rise at a rate at which extracted materials outpace the population and economic growth as materials are used inefficiently (One Planet Network, n.d.). The One Planet Network (n.d.) intimates that should this continue, the global resource extraction will increase 110% by 2060.

The linear economy (Figure 7), based on a 'take, make, use, discard' approach involves designing products with short lifespans using virgin materials, which are typically discarded

after a single use rather than repaired (One Planet Network, n.d.). This lack of producer responsibility places a burden on the consumer and the state to dispose of the waste at the end of the product's lifetime and there is therefore no incentive for the producer to make products sustainably (One Planet Network, n.d.). This linear economy contributes to environmental and economic impacts such as climate change, biodiversity loss, material scarcity and pollution and as a result there needs to be a shift to an economy that preserves the value of materials and products (One Planet Network, 2023). A shift towards a circular economy is crucial as it focuses on designing products for durability, reuse, and recyclability (One Planet Network, 2023).



Figure 7: Phases of the linear economy model

(Source: Saha & Saha 2024)

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2016, Figure 8) defines the Circular Economy as an economy that *... is one that is restorative and regenerative by design and aims to keep products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, distinguishing between technical and biological cycles.*" The circular economy minimises environmental damage from production and consumption activities while promoting socio-economic development, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation (One Planet Network, 2023). A circular economy therefore minimises the need for the extraction of primary resources, promotes waste prevention and optimises environmental, social, material and economic values (Velenturf & Purnell, 2021). The One Planet Network (2023) groups the circular economy into three approaches such as rethinking product design and manufacturing, extending the lifespan of products and their parts, and the effective reuse of material (Figure 9).

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

an industrial system that is regenerative by design

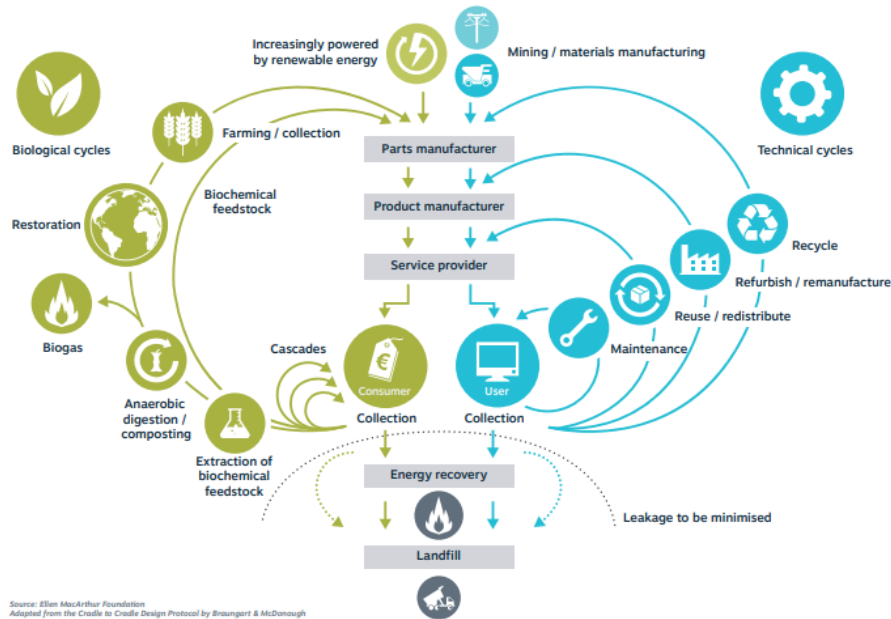


Figure 8: Circular Economy Systems Diagram

(Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2016)

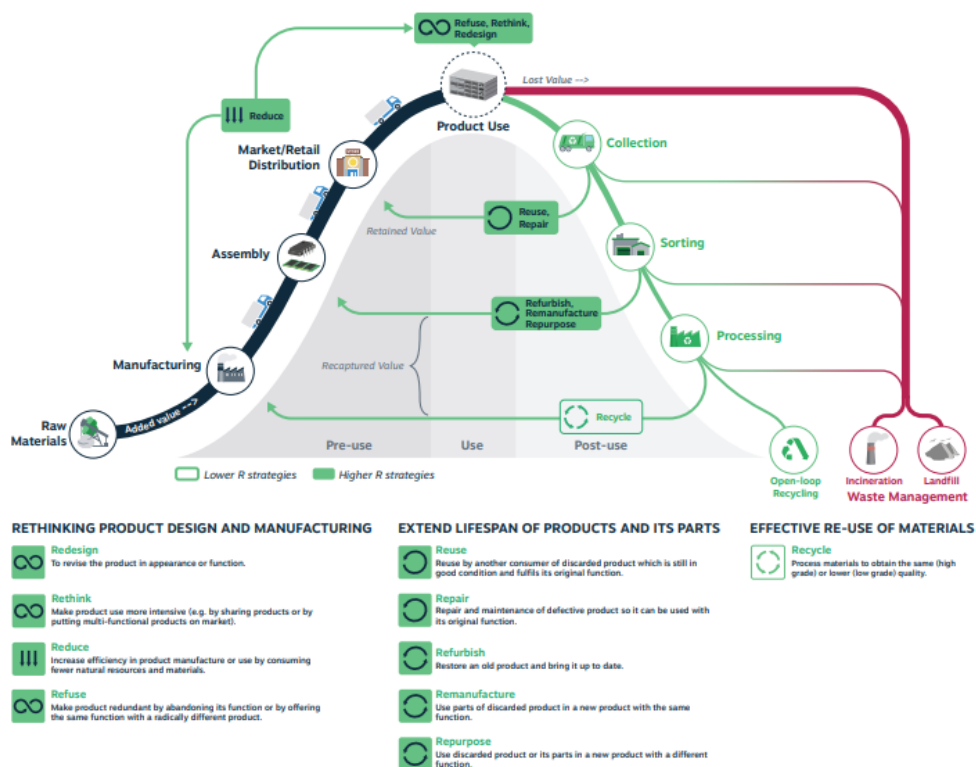


Figure 9: Adapted Value Hill Model with the 9R Framework

(Source: One Planet Network 2023)

The global circular economy was at 7.2% in 2023, dropping from 9.1% in 2018 and 8.6% 2020, because of rising material extraction and use (Saha & Saha, 2024). The circular economy recognises natural capital and the importance of nature within economics; however, further integration of the social pillar of sustainable development is required (Padilla-Rivera et al., 2020). Doughnut Economics (DE) is an alternative economic model that proposes a shift in thinking about economic growth by aiming to integrate social and economic aspects into an economic framework that a thriving world for people and the planet by taking cognisance of planetary and social boundaries (Everett, 2022). The DE model was developed by economist Kate Raworth and it aims to balance environmental limits with essential social needs creating a "safe and just space for humanity". The doughnut (Figure 10) consists of twelve basic human needs that represent the social foundation and nine planetary boundaries with the ecological ceiling, but economic activity needs to take place in "the safe and just space for humanity" to maintain the social foundation without breaking through the ecological ceiling (Wahlund & Hansen, 2022).

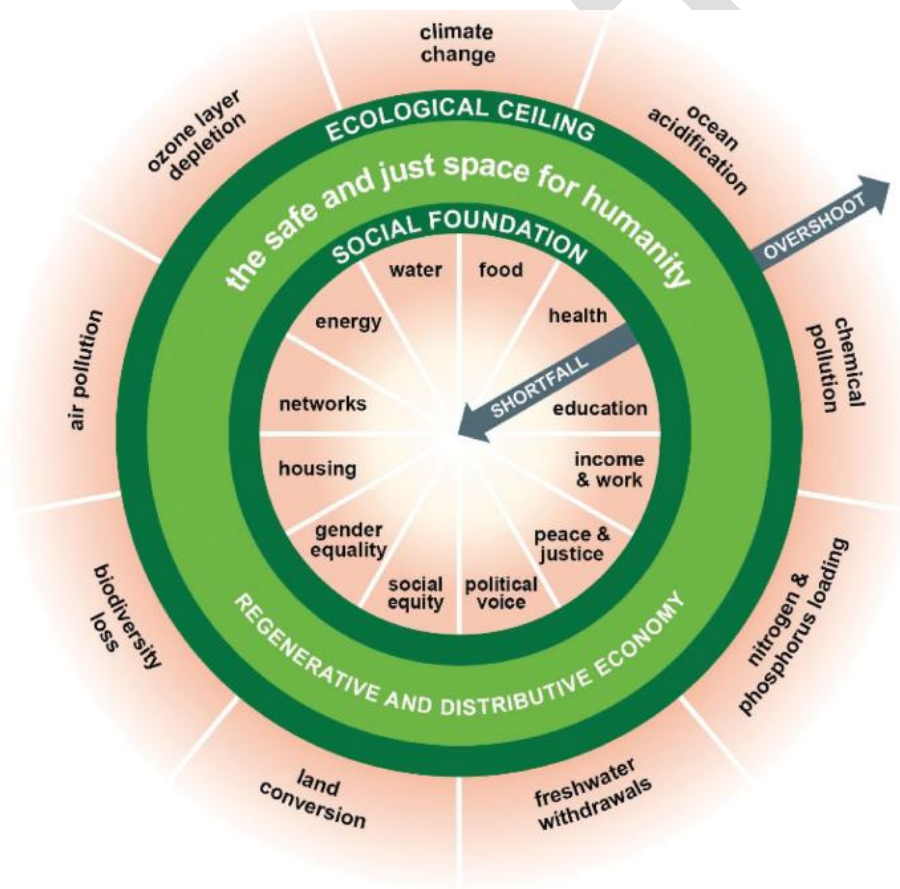


Figure 10: The doughnut of social and planetary boundaries

(Source: Raworth, 2017)

2.4.4 Health and Environmental Impacts

Integrated Waste Management (IWM) is a policy driven by the promotion of a clean, healthy environment as well as to give effect to the public's right to have the environment protected from pollution and degradation. Improper waste management due to inadequate service provision, illegal and informal dumping poses significant health and environmental risks leading

to air, water, and soil pollution, contributes to climate change, and can cause various diseases and ecological damage. These impacts disproportionately affect vulnerable populations in low-income areas, those living in informal settlements and especially caregivers with babies. Burning waste in open dumps or at landfills causes air pollution as harmful pollutants like particulate matter, dioxins and greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere and contribute to climate change and respiratory issues such as asthma and bronchitis. Organic waste at landfills decomposes and produces methane, a greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. Illegally dumped waste can pollute surface and groundwater impacting drinking water quality and aquatic life. Drinking contaminated water can lead to waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever and diarrhea (Raphela et al., 2024). Leachate from landfills can contaminate water and soil. Waste attracts vectors like flies, mosquitoes and rodents, which poses a risk of infectious diseases. Stormwater drains get clogged up by illegally dumped waste and/ or litter including sanitary waste, which is often disposed of with domestic solid waste, but sanitary waste is also flushed down the toilets (Kaur et al., 2018).

Exposure to hazardous waste, including e-waste and pesticides, can lead to various health issues, including developmental problems in children. Waste pickers and workers in waste management facilities (WMFs) face significant health risks from exposure to hazardous materials and infectious agents. Waste pickers generally do not have personal protective equipment (PPE) when sorting waste exposing them to health complications (Alam et al., 2025). Treating illnesses caused by waste-related pollution and diseases places a burden on healthcare systems. Proper management and disposal of hazardous waste is vital to prevent environmental and health impacts and educating communities about responsible waste management practices is key. Plastics production reached 359 million tons in 2018 worldwide, however, mismanagement of plastic waste leads to contamination of the environment for humans and animals (Prata et al., 2021). Microplastics are persistent environmental contaminants as they are less than 5mm in size and are found in freshwater, seawater, sediment, soil, air and biota (Prata et al., 2021). It is estimated that over 5 trillion plastic particles are floating in the oceans from land and they cause feeding disruptions, reproductive impairment and metabolic changes to biota (Prata et al., 2021). Prata et al. (2021) reviewed the impact of microplastic contamination from the perspective of One Health, a collaborative and multisectoral strategy that recognises the interconnectedness of ecosystem health with that of animals and humans. One Health aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystems by addressing complex issues like disease outbreaks, food safety and environmental health threats (Prata et al., 2021).

2.4.5 Human Rights and Inclusivity

A nexus exists between waste management practices and the realisation of fundamental human rights in South Africa. The Constitution guarantees the right to an environment that is not harmful to health or well-being, alongside the right to have the environment protected for present and future generations. It further enshrines the right of access to sufficient food and water. Inadequate waste management jeopardises these constitutional rights by causing environmental degradation, specifically water, soil, and air pollution, and attracting disease vectors, thereby posing significant risks to public health. Moreover, leachate contamination of groundwater resources and the infiltration of microplastics into the food chain directly threaten the rights to water and food security (de La Torre, 2020).

Given South Africa's context of pervasive poverty and inequality, prioritising the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities in waste management governance is imperative. This aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG Target 5.5, which seeks to "Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life." Accordingly, the NWMS incorporates measures to ensure the participation of vulnerable groups by:

- **Addressing their specific roles:** Recognising the contributions of vulnerable groups, waste pickers, and the informal sector, while supporting women, youth, and persons with disabilities within the circular economy framework.
- **Bridging sectoral skills gaps:** Implementing targeted skills development programs with a specific focus on women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Recent policy developments reflect an increased focus on integrating waste pickers into the formal waste economy. Notably, in 2020, the DFFE and the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) developed the "Waste Picker Integration Guideline for South Africa." This guideline aims to enhance working conditions, livelihoods, and the integration of waste pickers in the waste management system. The emphasis on waste pickers intersects with issues of inequality, exacerbated by high poverty and unemployment rates, gender inequality, and labour rights. Waste pickers frequently operate under hazardous conditions without adequate personal protective equipment, facing risks including injury from landfill site plant and equipment, exposure to harmful gases and smoke from waste burning, limited shelter, and insufficient access to clean water and sanitation facilities (DFFE and DSI, 2020). Women waste pickers encounter heightened safety challenges due to the prevalence of crime and gender-based violence in South Africa (DFFE and DSI, 2020).

3 Legislative Framework

3.1 Multilateral Environmental Agreements

South Africa is party to several international environmental agreements and must give effect to the provisions contained in these conventions (Table 2):

Table 2: Multilateral environmental agreements to which South Africa is party to

MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT	DESCRIPTION	DOMESTICATION
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	Regulates the transboundary movement (import and export) of hazardous waste.	Regulations Regarding the Control of the Import or Export of Waste, 2019
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	Aims to facilitate informed decision-making by countries regarding the trade in hazardous chemicals.	Regulations to Domesticating the Requirements of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, 2023.
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Stockholm	Aims to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants	Development of a National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2012. Regulations to Prohibit the Production, Distribution, Import, Export, Sale, and Use of Persistent Organic Pollutants that are Listed by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2023
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Aims to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.	Draft National Regulations for the Management of Mercury in South Africa, 2023

Resolution to “end plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument (not yet finalised)	Recognition that urgent international action is needed by developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (DFFE, 2022)	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on plastic pollution. The INC-5.2 (second part of a fifth session) negotiations aimed to finalise a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment. There has been challenges to reach an agreement. A treaty is vital with global plastic waste expected to reach 1.7 billion metric tons by 2060, costing a cumulative \$281 trillion by some estimates. The Global Plastic Action Partnership, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, serves as a convening force for action on plastic pollution and guides countries in turning commitments into action.
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3.2 Key Legislation Applicable to Waste Management

As indicated in Table 3, several policies govern waste management in South Africa. Recent developments include the Climate Change Act, 2024 (Act No. 22 of 2024), which makes provisions for a National Greenhouse Gas Inventory and includes waste as measurable emissions source. The Industry Waste Tyre Management Plan was approved for implementation after extensive consultation. Furthermore, the scope of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations was expanded in 2023 to include the lubricant oil, portable batteries, and pesticides sectors.

Table 3: Key waste-related legislation in South Africa

LEGISLATION	DESCRIPTION	SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
Acts		
Constitution of South Africa of 1996, as amended	The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It contains the Bill of Rights, which enshrines the rights of all South Africans.	Section 24 provides all citizens of South Africa to the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being and to have the environment protected through legislation and other measures. Sets out principles for co-operative governance, to which all spheres of government must adhere to. National, provincial and local governments are seen as distinctive, interdependent and interrelated.
Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947)	Regulates the importation, sale, acquisition, disposal or use of fertilizers, farm feeds, agricultural remedies (pesticides), and stock remedies. This Act has relevance to compost where it is intended for use as a fertilizer and digestate from anaerobic digestion plants intended as fertilizers. It also regulates the disposal of farm feeds, obsolete agricultural remedies (pesticides) and fertilizers.	Contributes to environmental protection by reducing the potential for environmental contamination.
Hazardous Substances Act 15 of 1973	Aims to address substances that are deemed hazardous, to regulate and prohibit the importation, manufacture, sale,	Controls unauthorised dumping and disposal of dangerous substances, contributing to environmental protection. Reduces public exposure to

	use, operation, application, modification, disposal or dumping of such substances.	toxic chemicals, carcinogens, and radioactive substances through regulation and restricted access.
The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993) and Regulations	The Act provides for the development of regulations that protect workers and the public from exposure to asbestos, hazardous chemicals, hazardous waste and lead. The Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations are of importance to the management of the health and safety of workers responsible for the handling of waste. This Act could also be applicable to waste harvesters, if they are allowed by a municipality to reclaim waste.	Aims to protect waste workers from harm during the waste management process.
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended	Statutory framework to enforce Section 24 of the Constitution.	Provides several principles applicable to waste management i.e., life-cycle approach, producer responsibility, precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle. Requires the equitable access to environmental resources, benefits and services to meet basic human needs and ensure human well-being. States that the vital role of women and youth in environmental management and development must be recognised and their full participation therein must be promoted.
Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998)	Outlines the roles and functions of municipalities, including their responsibilities for waste management service delivery.	Establishes that local municipalities are responsible for refuse collection and local waste management services. District municipalities supplement local functions where scale or capacity demands regional handling.
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004), as amended	Regulates air quality in South Africa.	Aims to protect the environment by enhancing air quality, preventing air pollution

		and ecological degradation, and promoting sustainable development.
National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), as amended	The governing Act for waste management which aims to reform the law regarding waste management to protect health and the environment.	Provides reasonable measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation and for securing ecologically sustainable development. The Act covers a range of issues in integrated waste management including, the requirements for a National Waste Management Strategy, the need for and composition of Integrated Waste Management Plans for organs of state, as well as Industry Waste Management Plans. Key definitions for waste, the licensing of activities and addressing contaminated land are also covered by the Act.
Integrated Coastal Management, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008)	Regulates human activities that take place on the coast with the aim of achieving its conservation and sustainable use.	One of the aims is to control dumping at sea, pollution in the coastal zone, inappropriate development of the coastal environment and other adverse effects on the coastal environment.
Carbon Tax Act, 2019 (Act No. 15 of 2019)	Provides the imposition of tax on the CO ₂ equivalent of GHG emissions.	Gives effect to the polluter-pays principle and aims to ensure that associated costs are considered in future production, consumption and investment decisions. The aim is to reduce GHG emissions.
Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000)	Provides the framework for planning, performance management, and service delivery by municipalities in South Africa.	Municipalities must provide services in a sustainable and equitable manner, including refuse removal and overall waste management. Waste services must be planned and budgeted for, including capital and operational costs.
Climate Change Act, 2024 (Act No. 22 of 2024)	Aims to establish a coordinated national response to climate change. Commits the country to making a fair contribution to	Provides that the Minister may identify a list of activities and thresholds for which measurements or estimations of

	global climate change efforts, fulfilling international obligations.	GHG emissions and carbon sinks from stationary, mobile, fugitive, process, agriculture, land use and waste sources must be carried out.
Regulations		
National Domestic Waste Collection Standards (GN 21 of 2011)	Provides standards relating to the collection of general waste.	Distinguishes between the levels of service relating to waste collection whilst emphasising that equitable waste collection services must be provided to all households within the jurisdiction of the Municipality.
National Waste Information Regulations (GN 625 of 2012)	Aims to regulate the collection of data and information to fulfil the objectives of the National Waste Information System as set out in section 61 of the NEM: WA.	Specify registration and reporting requirements to the South African Waste Information System.
Waste Classification and Management Regulations (GN 634 of 2013)	Aims to regulate the classification and management of waste in a manner that supports and implements the provision of the NEM: WA.	Provides a mechanism and procedure for the listing of waste management activities that do not require a Waste Management License. Prescribes requirements for; disposal to landfill, timeframes for management of certain wastes and general duties of waste generators, transporters and managers.
Norms and Standards for the Assessment of Waste for Landfill (GN 635 of 2013)	Prescribe the requirements for the assessment of waste prior to disposal at landfill.	Provides a standard assessment methodology for waste prior to disposal at landfill and advises on the total and leachable concentration limits.
National Norms and Standards for Disposal of Waste to Landfill (GN 636 of 2013)	Prescribe the requirements for the disposal of waste to landfill.	Provides detail on the different classes of landfills, the containment barrier requirements and the types of waste acceptable at the different classes of landfill. It further stipulates waste disposal restrictions and provides timeframes by which listed waste types would not be allowed on landfills.

National Norms and Standards for the Storage of Waste, (GN 926 of 2013)	Sets minimum requirements for the safe and compliant storage of waste in South Africa.	Helps to reduce pollution and environmental degradation by ensuring proper containment, labelling, and management of stored waste.
National Pricing Strategy for Waste Management (GN 904 of 2016)	Aims to provide the basis and guiding methodology or methodologies for setting waste management charges in South Africa to increase diversion from landfill and encourage reduction, reuse and recycling of waste.	Identifies and details three economic instruments for waste management namely; downstream instruments, upstream instruments and subsidy-based instruments.
Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations (GN 1184 of 2020), as amended	Provides a framework for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EPR schemes by producers in terms of section 18 of the NEM: WA.	To facilitate the effective and efficient management of identified end of life products and to encourage and enable the implementation of circular economy initiatives. Details and the roles and responsibilities of producers as well as the minimum requirements and criteria for EPR schemes.
Notices in terms of the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations (GN 1184 of 2020), as amended Extended producer responsibility scheme for the electrical & electronic equipment sector (GN R1185 of 2020) Extended producer responsibility scheme for the lighting sector (GN R1186 of 2020) Extended producer responsibility scheme for paper packaging and some single use products (GN R1187 of 5 November 2020).	Provides a list of identified products that require producers of those products to implement specified EPR measures.	Requires the producers of the identified products to form part of EPR schemes with the aim to reduce the environmental impact of those products. Producers are required to take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products. The aim is to reduce waste, promote recycling, and prevent pollution.

Extended producer responsibility scheme for the lubricant oil sector (GN R3178 of 2023). Extended producer responsibility scheme for the portable battery sector (GN R3179 of 2023). Extended producer responsibility scheme for the pesticide sector (GN R3177 of 2023).		
National Norms and Standards for Organic Waste Composting (GN 561 of 2021)	Provides a consistent, national framework for managing organic waste composting at facilities that meet the threshold (i.e. processing over 10 tonnes per day) to avoid disparities across provinces	Aims to minimise the negative bio-physical and socioeconomic impacts of composting activities (e.g. odour, leachate, pests, pollution) by prescribing design, operational, security, monitoring, and emergency response requirements.
National Norms and Standards for the Treatment of Organic Waste (GN 1984 of 2022)	Provides a uniform national approach to regulating organic-waste treatment facilities across South Africa	Supports diversion of biodegradable waste from landfills, thus reducing methane emissions (a key contributor to South Africa's waste-sector GHG emissions).
Industry Waste Tyre Management Plan (GN 4542 of 2024)	Provides requirements for the implementation of effective and efficient waste management of tyres.	Aims to reduce the negative environmental impacts of waste tyres by facilitating and expanding waste tyre processing in South Africa.

4 Status Quo

4.1 Western Cape Economy¹

According to the latest Provincial Economic Review and Outlook, the Western Cape is a highly attractive destination for investment, with an emphasis on the business services and fintech sectors where the province aims to be a leading destination (Provincial Treasury, 2024). In recent years, tourism in the province has exploded with record numbers of visitors arriving in 2023. The province does however face many challenges such as structural energy, logistics, and mobility constraints linked to the Eskom energy crisis, Port of Cape Town inefficiencies, and the deterioration of the transport system (including rail) which hamper breakout economic growth.

Over the past decade (2014-2023), the Western Cape economy has expanded by 9.1%, at an average annual growth rate of 0.9%. In 2023, the province contributed 14.2% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As in the case of South Africa, the GDP per capita in the Western Cape declined during the 2014-2023 period (Figure 11). During this time, the province experienced a decline in real GDP per capita of 9.2 %. This implies that population growth in the region has outpaced real GDP expansion, potentially leading to a decline in standards of living for some.

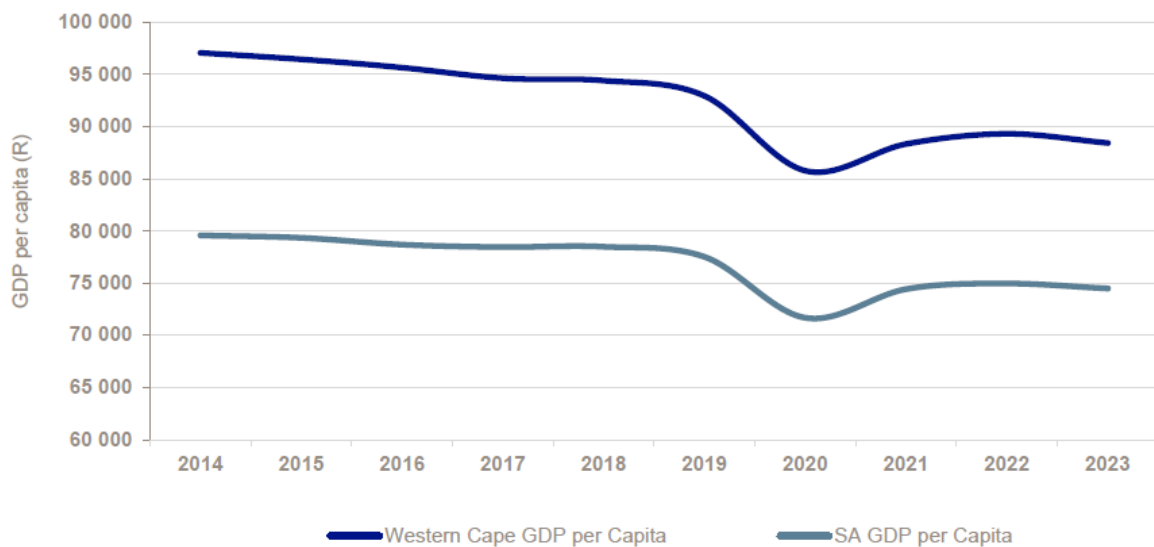


Figure 11: Real GDP per capita in the Western Cape, 2014-2023

(Source: Provincial Treasury, 2024)

The Western Cape economy is considered a service-based economy, dominated by finance, real estate and business services (WESGRO, 2024). While the share of the services sector to gross value added (GVA) increased during the 1995: Quarter 1 to 2023: Quarter 3 period, the

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, the source for information included in this section is Provincial Treasury (2024)

secondary services sector declined, while the primary sector remained constant (WESGRO, 2024).

Primary sector: Agriculture, forestry, and fishing dominate the Western Cape's primary 1995 to 2022 (WESGRO, 2024). Between 2014 and 2023, agriculture was the fastest-growing component, expanding by 31.1%, driven largely by increased exports to key markets in Europe and East Asia.

Secondary sector: Manufacturing is the largest industry in the secondary sector, followed by construction (WESGRO, 2024). The manufacturing sector was dominated by the food and beverages industry, followed by the petroleum and metal industries during the 2005-2023 period. During 2014-2023, the construction sector (-27.2 per cent) contributed to the contractions in economic growth. The slowdown in the construction sector could be attributed to an increasingly fiscally constrained environment and lacklustre economy; high interest rates; the infamous construction mafia; and the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

Tertiary sector: The finance sector contributed the largest share (33.5%) to provincial GDP in 2023, ahead of transport (11.8%) and community services (11.2%). Provincial economic growth reached an estimated 0.7% for the year². The finance sector was the primary growth driver, contributing 0.6 percentage points. Transport added 0.5 percentage points and community services 0.2 percentage points. In contrast, retail trade significantly hampered growth. Its 2.1% contraction translated to a -0.3% contribution, primarily linked to reduced consumer spending caused by rising living costs, debt, high interest rates, and inflation.

The province has become the premier destination for venture capital in the country and comprises a well-developed local network of technology organisations. The Western Cape is home to major multinational technology companies (e.g. Amazon and Panasonic) and start-ups, such as Luno, Yoco, Jumo and SweepSouth. The Province must continue its focus on making it easier to do business within the fintech industry through measures such as efficient building permitting, improved infrastructure networks, and enhanced access to critical skills.

² GDP data are in Constant 2015 Prices (real)

4.2 Socio-economic Profile

4.2.1 Demographics

Demographic trends, including increasing household numbers, changing age structures and urban expansion, have important implications for waste management. Smaller household sizes and higher consumption levels often result in waste generation increasing faster than population growth alone. These trends place growing pressure on waste collection services, recycling infrastructure, treatment facilities and landfill capacity, highlighting the need to incorporate demographic projections into integrated waste management planning.

Population dynamics, urbanisation and migration patterns heavily influence the generation of waste as more people move to developed cities for job opportunities resulting in increased consumption of goods and resources as well as the demand for waste services. Waste generation is also influenced by income, with higher-income households producing more domestic waste per person due to higher consumption and purchasing power compared to low-income households. These demographic trends

The Western Cape (12.15%, 7.63 million) remains the third most populated province in South Africa (63.10 million) after Gauteng (25.5%, 16.10 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (19.4%, 12.23 million) (StatsSA, 2025). The province continues to experience population growth, driven primarily by rapid urbanisation and in-migration for better living conditions and job opportunities rather than natural population increase (StatsSA, 2025).

Figure 12 shows a slight decline in the population from 7.743 to 7.627 million between 2024 and 2025 (DWS, n.d.). According to StatsSA (2025), the average total fertility rate has been declining across all provinces from 2001 to 2026 with higher total fertility in rural provinces including Limpopo and the Eastern Cape and lower rates of fertility in urban provinces like Gauteng and the Western Cape. The average total fertility rate of the Western Cape declined from 2.27 between 2001 and 2006 to an estimate of 1.79 from 2021 to 2026 (StatsSA, 2025).

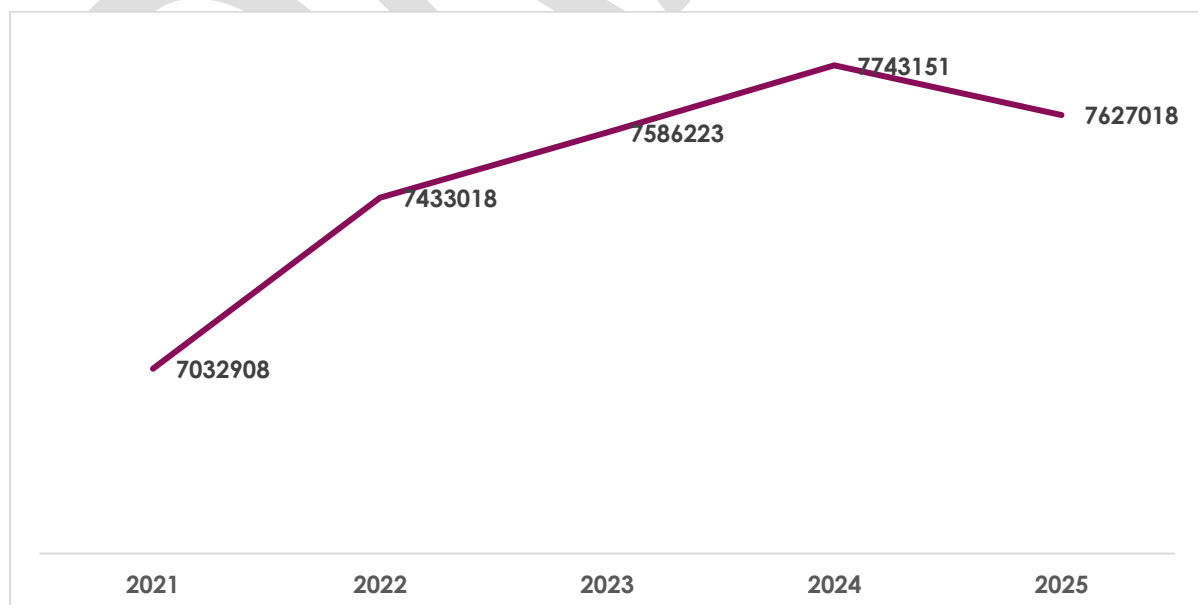


Figure 12: Western Cape Total Population between 2021 – 2025

(Source: DWS, n.d.)

Males account for 49.9% (3 803 million) of the population while females were at 50.1% (3 824 million) (StatsSA, 2025). The population has grown by 19.6% between 2015 - 2024 and is estimated to grow by an additional 1.196 million people over the next decade between 2025 – 2034 (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The Coloured population remains predominant, followed by the African, White and Indian/ Asian population groups at 47%, 37.8%, 14.4% and 0.8% respectively (Provincial Treasury, 2024). Between 2019 – 2024, the African and Indian/ Asian population groups expanded while the Coloured and White population groups declined, largely due to net in-migration (Provincial Treasury, 2024).

Between 2021 – 2026, the Western Cape continued to have the highest life expectancy at birth for both males and females (67.6 and 72.2 years respectively) followed by Gauteng at 65.3 years for males and 71.2 years for females (StatsSA, 2025). The Western Cape's older labour force in 2024 was at 58.5% compared to the youth labour force at 41.5% with more growth experienced by the African female of older age (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The Province has seen notable population growth in the 60+ age cohort and although the dependency ratio remains fairly stable, the demographic shift towards an older population has implications for social systems, pension systems and service delivery (Provincial Treasury, 2024).

According to StatsSA's (2024) report on Profiling the Socio-economic Status and Living Arrangements of Persons with Disabilities in South Africa 2011-2022, the Western Cape recorded a slight increase in overall disability prevalence between 2011 (13.9%) and 2022 (16%) when using the broad disability measure (Table 4), while the prevalence of more severe disability remained stable or declined. Compared to the rest of South Africa, the Western Cape continues to have relatively lower levels of severe disability i.e. 3.4% nationally compared to 2.9 % in the province during 2022. According to the report, during 2022, severe disability was more prominent in the elderly population (at 33.5% in the 85+ population), amongst women (3.9% compared to 2.9% for men) and amongst the White population (4.1%).

Table 4: Disability prevalence based on three models of disability measurement in 2011 and 2022

	BROAD MEASURE		UN MEASURE		SEVERE MEASURE	
	Census 2011	Census 2022	Census 2011	Census 2022	Census 2011	Census 2022
Western Cape	13,9	16,0	5,3	5,4	3,2	2,9
South Africa	17,2	15,7	7,4	6,0	4,3	3,4

Source: Adapted from StatsSA (2024)

4.2.2 Urbanisation

Provincial Treasury (2024) estimates between 2022 and 2026, net migration will account for 51.2% of the total population growth in the Western Cape. The Gauteng and Eastern Cape provinces account for most of the estimated migration at 67 846 and 55 147 people between 2021 – 2026 (StatsSA, 2024). The Gauteng and Western Cape provinces are estimated to experience the largest inflow of migrants of approximately, 1 416 204 and 500 347 respectively, between the period 2021–2026 (StatsSA, 2025).

Most of the population in the Western Cape is in the CoCT (64.9%) followed by the CWDM (13.8%), GRDM (9.2%), WCDM (6.7%), ODM (4.4%) and CKDM (1.1%) (Figure 13). The Central Karoo continues to experience comparatively slow population growth, dispersed settlement patterns and an ageing population (DSD, 2026). These contrasting demographic trends indicate that future waste management challenges will vary significantly across municipalities, requiring differentiated and context-specific planning responses (DSD, 2026). The population in the CoCT is expected to grow at an average annual growth rate of 1.7% between 2025 and 2030 (Provincial Treasury, 2026). According to DWS (n.d.), the urban population has been estimated to be 92.4% compared to 7.6% in the rural areas between 2023 – 2025. The higher population density in the CoCT increases pressure on government resources compared to the more rural CKDM with a smaller, more dispersed population. Most of the population is concentrated in the CoCT (Figure 13) due to economic development and political stability as people move to urban areas for access to better education, healthcare and employment (Provincial Treasury, 2024). This also leads to increased consumerism as more people are employed and consume more goods and services, placing pressure on municipal infrastructure and generating more waste.

Beyond the metropolitan area, rapidly growing regional cities such as George, Mossel Bay, Paarl (Drakenstein), Stellenbosch, Worcester (Breede Valley) and Saldanha Bay are becoming increasingly important economic and service centres (DSD, 2026/ StatsSA, 2024). Coastal municipalities, including Overstrand and Bitou, have also experienced significant population growth, largely driven by tourism, lifestyle migration and retirement migration (DSD, 2026/ StatsSA, 2024).

Census 2022 data indicated that 83.7% of international migrants were from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region with a decrease in migrants from the United Kingdom and Europe from 22.3% in 2001 to 4.9% in 2022 (StatsSA, 2024). Internal migration between 2011 and 2022 was due to the search for paid employment for both men (13.7%) and women (9.4%), however, men move for job transfers or new employment while women move to live closer to a spouse, family or friends (StatsSA, 2024). According to StatsSA (2024), this highlights the influence economic factors have on male migration while female migration is driven by social and family ties.

Regional centres are increasingly developing as important economic and service hubs, while coastal areas experience seasonal variations in waste generation driven by tourism and migration (DSD, 2026). In contrast, rural municipalities face challenges associated with dispersed settlements, long collection distances and ageing populations, requiring context-specific, cost-effective and sustainable waste service models (DSD, 2026).

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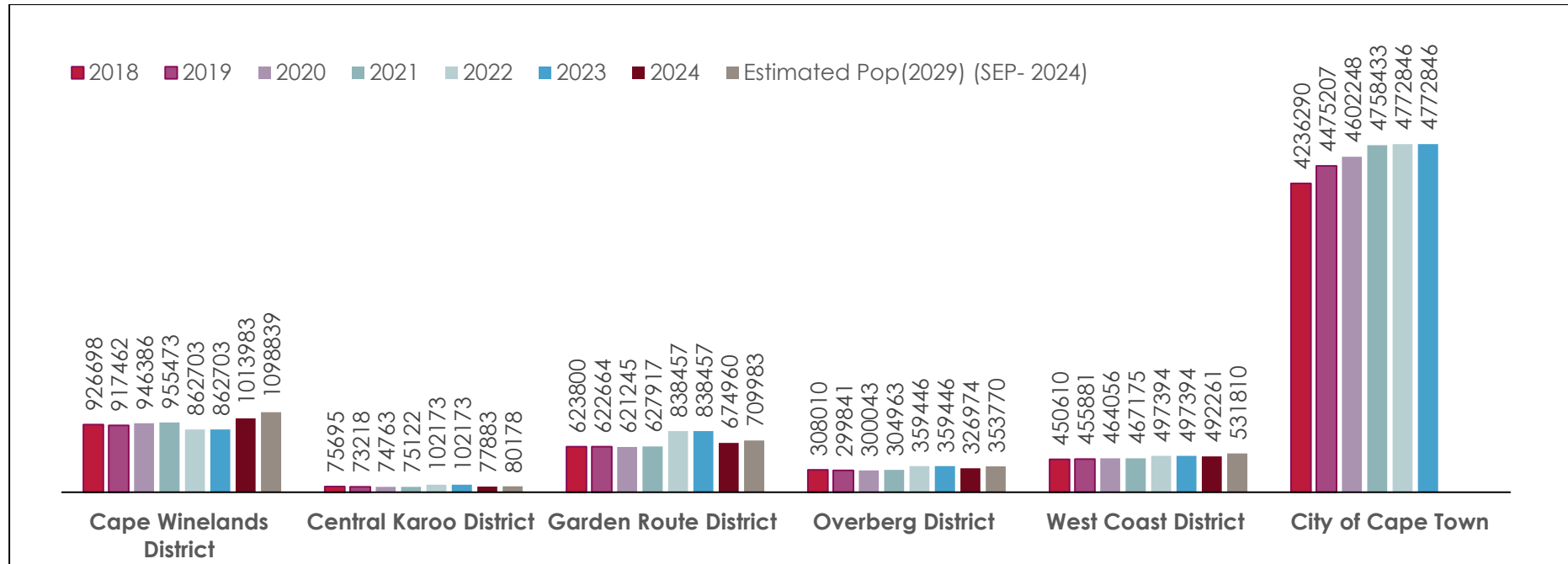


Figure 13: Population per District 2018-2024 and Estimated Population by 2029

(Source: Provincial Treasury 2018-2024)

4.2.3 Housing and Informal Settlements

The Provincial Treasury (2024) identifies that it is crucial to address the impacts of in-migration through proper planning as it places pressure on urban infrastructure, widens economic inequality and leads to environmental as well as social challenges. The rapid urbanisation, population growth and in-migration to the province have increased demand for the delivery of services including housing, healthcare, education and employment (Provincial Treasury, 2024). In 2024, the Western Cape had the third largest number of households (2 195 000 million) after Gauteng (5 981 000 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (3 387 000 million) (StatsSA, 2025). Most of the households in the province are formal dwellings (80.8%), 18.6% are informal dwellings, 0.2% are traditional dwellings and 0.4% described as other dwellings (StatsSA, 2025). The province had the highest percentage of informal dwellings in 2024, followed by Gauteng and North West (both 17.2%), and 81% of the households in the CoCT are formal dwellings, with 18.8% informal dwellings (StatsSA, 2025). In 2025, the number of formal dwellings in the Western Cape increased slightly to 82% while the informal dwellings decreased to 17.6% compared to North West (19.2%) and Gauteng (18.9%) (StatsSA, 2026). Traditional dwellings decreased to 0.1% while other dwellings remained 0.4% for the Province and in 2025, the COCT had 83.7% of its households in formal dwellings, 16.2% in informal dwellings (StatsSA, 2026).

Provincial Treasury (2024) emphasises the need for accelerated provisioning of affordable housing to curb the challenge of informal dwellings in the province. The housing crisis remains a challenge as the demand outweighs the supply and this is compounded by budgetary constraints at the municipal level (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The total registered housing demand between 2015 – 2024 increased by 292 529 (83.2%) to 644 177 in 2024 with most of the demand in the CoCT (60.8%) followed by the CWDM (12.6%) and GRDM (11%) (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The housing demand in the Western Cape increased by 14.6% between 2022 and 2025, from 591 191 to 643 377 units, a slight decline from 2024 figure above (Provincial Treasury, 2025). The GRDM (17.2%) and WCDM (45.8%) achieved the most reduction in housing demand in the same period while CKDM had an alarming 490.6% increase in demand from 8 309 units in 2021 to 49 077 units in 2025 (Provincial Treasury, 2025). According to Provincial Treasury (2025), this highlights the systemic challenges faced by rural areas, including capacity constraints, infrastructure and service delivery disparities, as well as urban and spatial development challenges.

There was a decline in the number of households built by the WCG between 2015 – 2024, with 3 315 houses built in 2024 for low-income beneficiaries (Provincial Treasury, 2024). Provincial Treasury (2024) partially attributes this decline to poor contractor performance, community disruptions, construction cartels, policy decisions and budget constraints. Between 2015/16 and 2024/25, the provision of serviced land declined by 57.8%, highlighting a significant reduction in the availability of serviced land, which is essential for long-term spatial planning and the implementation of incremental housing solutions (Provincial Treasury, 2025). Annual housing output has also declined significantly, decreasing from nearly 20,000 housing opportunities in 2017/18 to 7,486 in 2024/25 (Provincial Treasury, 2025). This reduction highlights growing challenges in meeting housing demand and addressing the province's increasing need for serviced land and adequate housing.

Comparing the growth in housing demand with the growth in housing opportunities, between 2022/23 and 2024/25, housing demand increased by 67,507 opportunities, while the Province delivered 23,224 housing opportunities, representing approximately 34.4% of the additional

demand (Provincial Treasury, 2025). This indicates a significant gap between the growth in housing demand and the Province's capacity to provide adequate housing opportunities.

Housing opportunities have largely been funded through the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) and the introduction of the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) in 2021/22 further directed funding towards in-situ upgrading projects (Provincial Treasury, 2025). Over the past decade, there has been a gradual increase in housing subsidies, alongside a decline in the number of serviced sites, however, in 2024/25, a sharp increase in serviced sites contributed to a 51.9% rise in total housing opportunities (Provincial Treasury, 2025).

Between 2015/16 and 2024/25, the Western Cape delivered 78 851 title deeds as part of its broader human settlements strategy and delivery peaked at more than 10 000 title deeds in both 2017/18 and 2018/19, before declining significantly between 2020/21 and 2022/23 to a low of 3 727 (Provincial Treasury, 2025). Provincial Treasury (2025) attributes this decline to funding constraints, project delays, the COVID-19 pandemic and administrative backlogs. In 2024/25, delivery recovered to 6 515 title deeds, exceeding the annual target of 2 900, largely due to enhanced efficiencies, data-driven processes and improved project management (Provincial Treasury, 2025).

The WCG's Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP) aims to provide government subsidies to poor, low- to middle-income households earning between R3 501 and R22 000 per month and has an estimated backlog of 425 000 households (Provincial Treasury, 2024). Households in this bracket do not qualify for fully subsidised housing or home loans from banks and the WCG acknowledges the need for more integrated settlements to deal with the housing challenge in the province (Provincial Treasury, 2024). Quality and affordable housing is a basic human right that is essential for survival and well-being, as it provides physical security and comfort.

4.2.4 Employment

Employment in the Western Cape increased by 7.1%, 5% more than national between the second quarter of 2019 and 2024 and contributed 52.2% of all new net employment in the country (Provincial Treasury, 2024). Employment levels increased by 9.6% between the first quarter of 2020 (pre-COVID-19) to the first quarter of 2024 (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The largest contributions to the employment levels were from the Finance (5.2%), Construction (1.9%) and the Trade and Community (1.7%) sectors (Provincial Treasury, 2024). Informal employment increased by 5.9% in the province between 2019 and 2024 (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The province has a lower youth unemployment rate compared to the national rate at 10.2% and only increased by 0.3% between 2019 and 2024 (Provincial Treasury, 2024).

The Western Cape's labour force increased by 6.4% in the African and 5.5% in the Coloured population between the second quarter of 2019 and 2024 and shown in Table 5.

In the second quarter of 2024, more of the Coloured population was employed at 43.4%, followed by the African population at 42.1%, however, employment for the African population increased while employment for the Coloured and White populations decreased (Provincial Treasury, 2024).

Table 5: Composition of the Western Cape Narrow Labour Force 2Q2019-2Q2024

	2Q2019		2Q2024		Change	
	Number (000's)	Share %	Number (000's)	Share %	Number (000's)	%
Narrow labour Force	3 182	100.0	3 439	100.0	257	8.1%
By Race						
African	1 233	38.7%	1 447	42.1%	214	17.3%
Coloured	1 439	45.2%	1 494	43.4%	55	3.8%
White	491	15.4%	465	13.5%	(26)	-5.3%
By Gender						
Male	1 720	54.0%	1 812	52.7%	92	5.4%
Female	1 420	44.6%	1 628	47.3%	208	14.7%
By Age						
Youth (15 - 34 years)	1 361	42.8%	1 429	41.5%	68	5.0%
Older (35 - 64 years)	1 821	57.2%	2 010	58.5%	189	10.4%
By Education						
Less than Secondary	1 481	46.5%	1 411	41.0%	(70)	-4.7%
Secondary	1 072	33.7%	1 293	37.6%	221	20.6%
Tertiary	592	18.6%	656	19.1%	64	10.8%

(Source: Provincial Treasury, 2024)

According to Provincial Treasury (2024), unemployment contributes to poverty, inequality and social unrest as people struggle to meet basic needs without a stable income. Between 2019 – 2024, the Western Cape unemployment rate increased by 1.8% to 22.2% but still had the lowest unemployment rate in the country followed by KwaZulu-Natal (31.1%) and Limpopo (34.1%) (Provincial Treasury, 2024). Over the same period, unemployment rates in the province increased the most for the African population group, youth, females and people with less than a secondary education (Provincial Treasury, 2024). Figure 14 shows the most rural district, CKDM, had the lowest number of unemployed people while the CoCT had the highest and this has been attributed to greater competition for job opportunities in the urban area (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The Human Development Index (HDI), which is a measure of development in health, education, and income per capita, for the Western Cape continues to outperform the national average with the highest HDI recorded for the CKDM in 2022, which implies improvement in the living conditions for people in the region (Provincial Treasury, 2024).

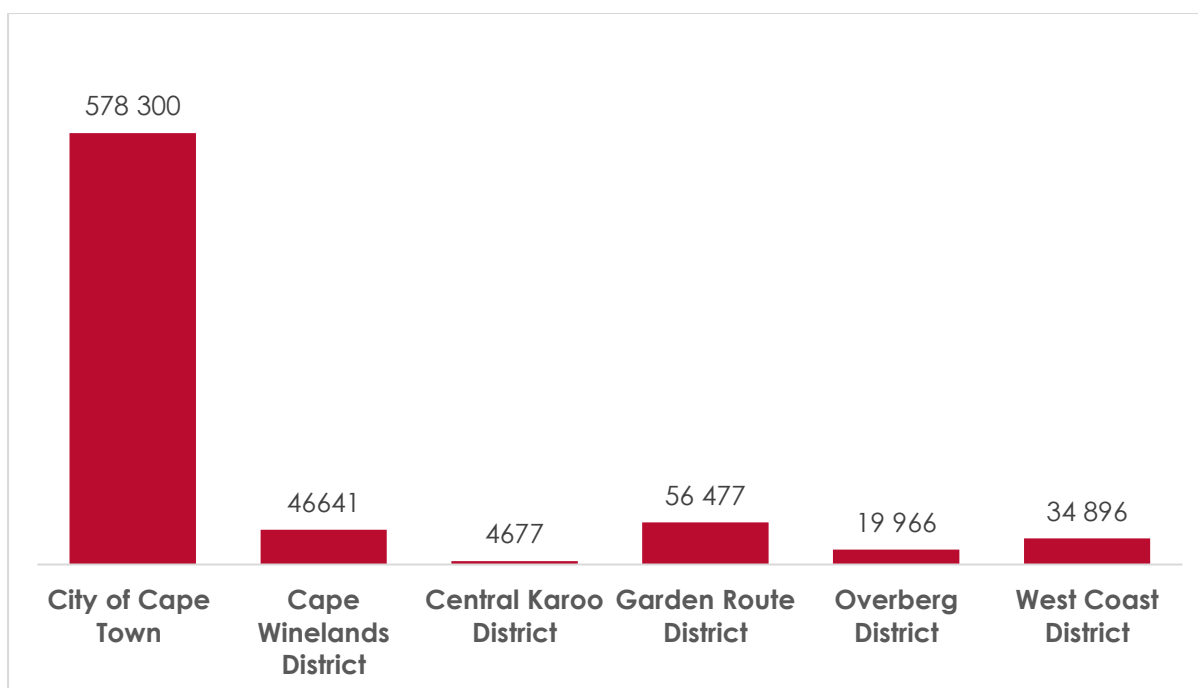


Figure 14: Total no. of unemployed persons by district and metropolitan municipality in 2023

(Source: Provincial Treasury, 2024)

4.2.5 Income

Income levels in the Western Cape are generally higher than the national average, with salaries being the primary source of household income. However, significant income inequality and poverty persist across the province. High inflation disproportionately affects low-income households, which spend a larger share of their income on essential goods and services such as healthcare and education. Spatial inequality also contributes to high transport costs, with low-income households earning an average of R3,500 per month spending approximately 38% of their income commuting between home and work (Provincial Treasury, 2024).

Between 2019 and 2023, the COCT recorded the highest average monthly income in the province at R9,659, while the ODM recorded the lowest at R6,021 (Provincial Treasury, 2024). According to Provincial Treasury (2025), between 2015 and 2024, the ODM recorded the largest increase in monthly median income (17.1%), followed by the CWDM (3.0%) and the COCT (2.5%) while the median income declined in the GRDM (-1.8%) and WCDM (-5.6%) districts. In the Cape Metro, median monthly income increased slightly from R12,203 in 2023 to R12,290 in 2024 and these trends indicate that changes in household income do not necessarily correspond directly with changes in GDP over the same period (Provincial Treasury, 2025).

Income inequality in the Western Cape has shown a modest improvement, with the Gini coefficient declining from 0.66 in 2002 to 0.59 in 2022 (Provincial Treasury, 2024). The Gini coefficient data for South Africa, the Western Cape and its districts between 2015 and 2024 indicate a gradual decline in income inequality across the province (Provincial Treasury, 2025). The Western Cape's Gini coefficient decreased from 0.61 in 2015 to 0.59 in 2024, with similar modest improvements observed across most districts. The WCDM (0.55) and ODM (0.54) recorded some of the lowest levels of inequality in 2024, indicating relatively more equitable income distributions. In contrast, the CKDM continued to experience high levels of inequality,

with a Gini coefficient of 0.71, highlighting persistent and deeply entrenched income disparities (Provincial Treasury, 2025).

Salaries remain the main source of household income in the province, accounting for 74.7% of income, compared with 62.2% nationally. The Western Cape also has the lowest reliance on social grants in the country, at 14%, compared with 23.8% nationally (Stats SA, 2025). Food insecurity remains a concern, with 19.5% of households in the Western Cape experiencing inadequate access to food in 2024, compared with 22.2% nationally and 23% in the City of Cape Town (Stats SA, 2025). Despite the province's relatively stronger income profile, poverty remains a significant challenge. In 2022, approximately 53% of the provincial population was estimated to be living below the lower-bound poverty line, highlighting persistent socioeconomic vulnerabilities and disparities across the province (Provincial Treasury, 2024).

4.2.6 Municipal Services

In 2024, the Western Cape had 99% of households with access to piped water in their dwellings, the highest for all provinces with the CoCT at 99.8% and 89.6% of the households in the province believe the water is safe to drink (StatsSA, 2025). Households with access to improved sanitation were the highest in the Western Cape (97.1%) and lowest in the Limpopo (62.2%) in 2024 (StatsSA, 2025). In 2024, 96.7% households had access to flush toilets in the Western Cape, which is higher than the National of 66.7% and Limpopo had the highest electricity connections at 96.6% followed by the Western Cape at 96% (StatsSA, 2025). South Africa has 63.6% of its households with access to refuse removal at least once a week, which is much lower than the 91.5% of households in the Western Cape for the year 2024 (StatsSA, 2025). Households using a communal refuse dump in the province were at 7.1%, with 1% using their own refuse dump and 0.3% using other methods (StatsSA, 2025).

4.3 The Waste Landscape

4.3.1 Institutional Arrangements and Waste Management Planning

Cooperative governance between national, provincial, and local government, together with industry and Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs), is fundamental to achieving effective and sustainable waste management in South Africa. This collaboration is guided by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, particularly Chapter 3, which mandates cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations to ensure alignment and mutual support across spheres of government. Under the NEM:WA, stakeholders work together through joint planning, policy development, compliance monitoring, and resource sharing. This collective effort ensures the realisation of constitutional environmental rights, including Section 24 of the Constitution, which guarantees everyone the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being, while advancing the principles of waste minimisation, recycling, and the circular economy.

4.3.1.1 Institutional Framework of the Waste Sector

The Constitution establishes three interrelated spheres of government i.e. national, provincial, and local, bound by the principle of cooperative governance (Sections 40–41). In waste service delivery, the national government sets policy and legislative frameworks, provincial governments oversee implementation and provide support to municipalities, and local governments are directly responsible for refuse removal, recycling, and the operation of waste facilities (Schedules 4 & 5; Chapter 7, Sections 151–164). This framework ensures the coordinated, accountable, and sustainable delivery of waste management services nationwide.

- At the provincial level (Variable 1) (Figure 15) the Integrated Waste Management Officers' Forum (Provincial WMOF) plays a key role in coordinating waste management functions across districts and local municipalities. This forum provides alignment between provincial priorities and national direction, while also feeding into the District Waste Management Officers' Forums. These district forums ensure that waste management officers (WMOs) at local and district levels engage in knowledge sharing, capacity building, and joint implementation of waste management initiatives.
- The Ministerial Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (MINMEC), which brings together national and provincial environmental authorities, provides oversight and high-level political guidance on waste management. Supporting this structure is the Ministerial Technical Committee (MINTECH), a technical committee that ensures strategic decisions are informed by robust technical input. Working Group 8 (Chemicals and Waste Management) under MINTECH (Variable 3) further refines focus areas, engaging sector experts and specialists to address technical challenges and support implementation. This information informs discussions at provincial and municipal strategic engagements (Variable 2).
- There is a strong emphasis on collaboration with stakeholders through the Industry Forum and Recycling Action Group (Variable 4). These platforms facilitate dialogue between the government and the private sector, particularly recycling industries and other key players in the circular economy. Through this mechanism, industry perspectives are integrated into policymaking and implementation processes, ensuring practical, market-driven solutions to waste challenges.

- The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Municipal Infrastructure Forum provides a platform for municipalities to share experiences, address challenges in infrastructure delivery, and promote peer learning. It enables municipal leaders to collaborate on practical solutions for financing, governance, and service delivery improvements.
- The Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) MIG Forum, on the other hand, focuses on the management and oversight of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). It ensures that funds are used effectively for basic services such as water, sanitation, specialised waste vehicles and WMFs and roads, while also providing technical support to struggling municipalities and enforcing accountability where performance is weak.
- Together, these forums strengthen municipal capacity by combining collaboration and peer support (SALGA) with funding oversight and accountability (DCoG). The SALGA working group on water and sanitation together with environmental management and climate resilience are important platforms for Municipal portfolio councillors, technical officials and Provincial officials to discuss waste issues.
- In response to fragmented government operations, the President introduced the District Development Model (DDM) in 2019 to promote integrated service delivery. In the Western Cape, it is implemented as the Joint District and Metro Approach (JDMA). The JDMA enhances coordination between national, provincial, and local governments through District Coordinating Forums (DCFs) for joint planning, budgeting, and implementation. The model aims to improve service delivery, project management, and alignment with municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). The Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) actively participates in JDMA processes, integrating outcomes into its municipal support plans.
- PGMTEC reviews provincial budgets to ensure alignment with national priorities and fiscal sustainability. It helps departments like DEA&DP plan targeted, needs-based support. Municipalities influence these budgets indirectly by clearly expressing their needs through tools like the JDMA and IDPs.
- SIME 1, led by the Department of Local Government (Sept–Nov), focuses on planning priorities and service delivery challenges, promoting co-planning and budgeting. DEA&DP uses outcomes to inform its draft budget and support plans.
- SIME 2 (formerly LGMTEC), led by Provincial Treasury (Apr–May), is a legislative process to assess municipal draft budgets and IDPs, as required by the MSA and MFMA. DEA&DP participates to ensure environmental and planning needs are addressed.
- The process identifies issues to be resolved before adoption of IDPs and budgets, and highlights improvements needed for the next fiscal year.
- Technical Integrated Municipal Engagements (TIME) in the Western Cape Government are structured technical forums between provincial departments and municipalities aimed at strengthening governance, financial management, planning, and service delivery. These engagements focus on aligning municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), budgets, and performance systems with provincial priorities, while identifying risks and support needs early. TIME serves as a collaborative mechanism to improve coordination, enhance accountability, and ensure municipalities are technically supported to achieve sustainable and effective service delivery outcomes.

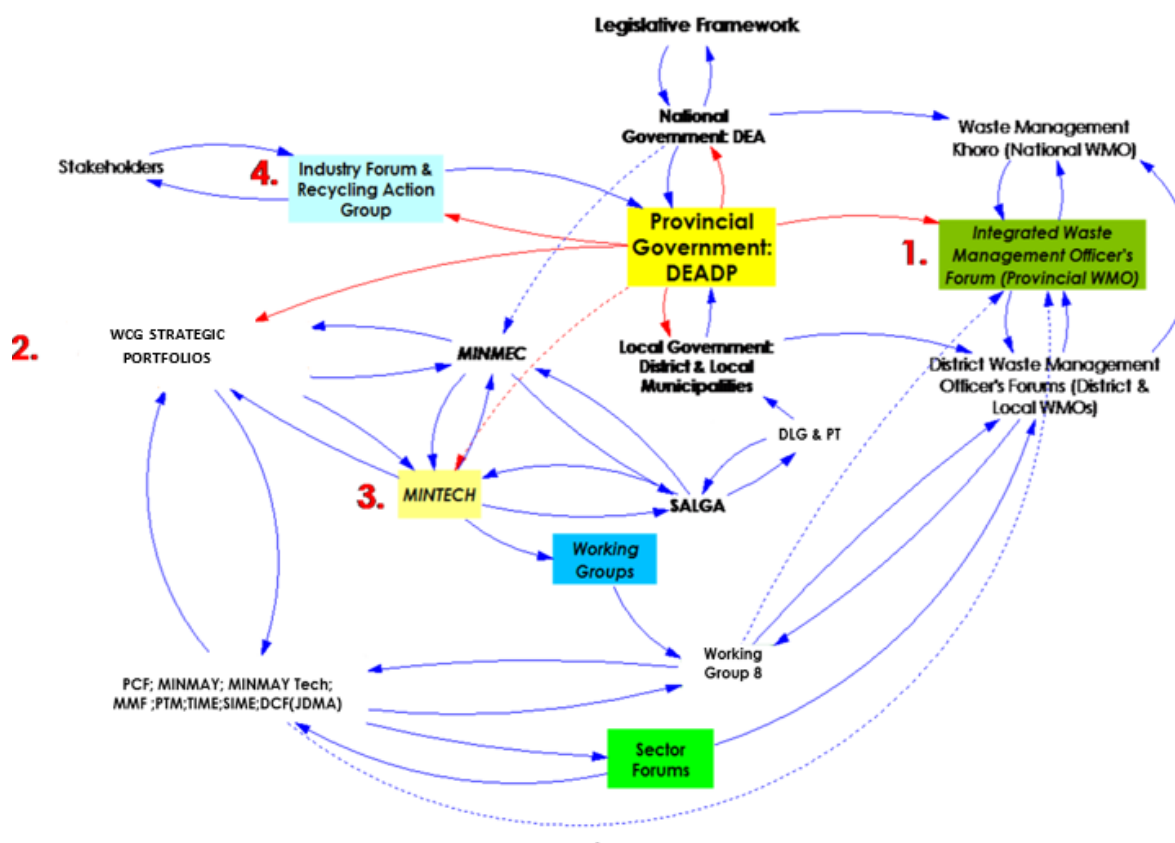


Figure 15: Waste management institutional arrangements

4.3.1.2 The Role of Provincial Government in Waste Management

The NEM: WA requires provincial departments responsible for waste management to develop IWMPs. According to the National Waste Management Strategy, 2020, the primary functions of provincial IWMPs are to plan and guide public and private investment in regional WMFs, to address waste management issues that are specific to the provincial, economic, social and environmental profile and to support municipalities by providing guidelines for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of IWMPs. Provincial governments have several other functions pertaining to waste management. Within the Department, the following key functions are undertaken:

- **Integrated waste management planning and information management:** working with municipalities and industry to improve how waste is managed and reported in the Western Cape.
- **Regulating WMFs:** technical assistance to municipalities is provided with the aim to improve the construction, management and operation of WMFs in the Western Cape.
- **Policy and waste minimisation:** working with municipalities, industry and the community to promote waste minimisation through awareness campaigns, interventions and capacity building in the Western Cape. Facilitation, development and implementation of waste management policies which will minimise waste and reduce its environmental impacts as well as stimulate the waste economy and job creation.

The Department's **Directorate: Waste Management** is responsible for the development of the provincial IWMP and is located within the Chief Directorate: Environmental Quality (Figure 16).

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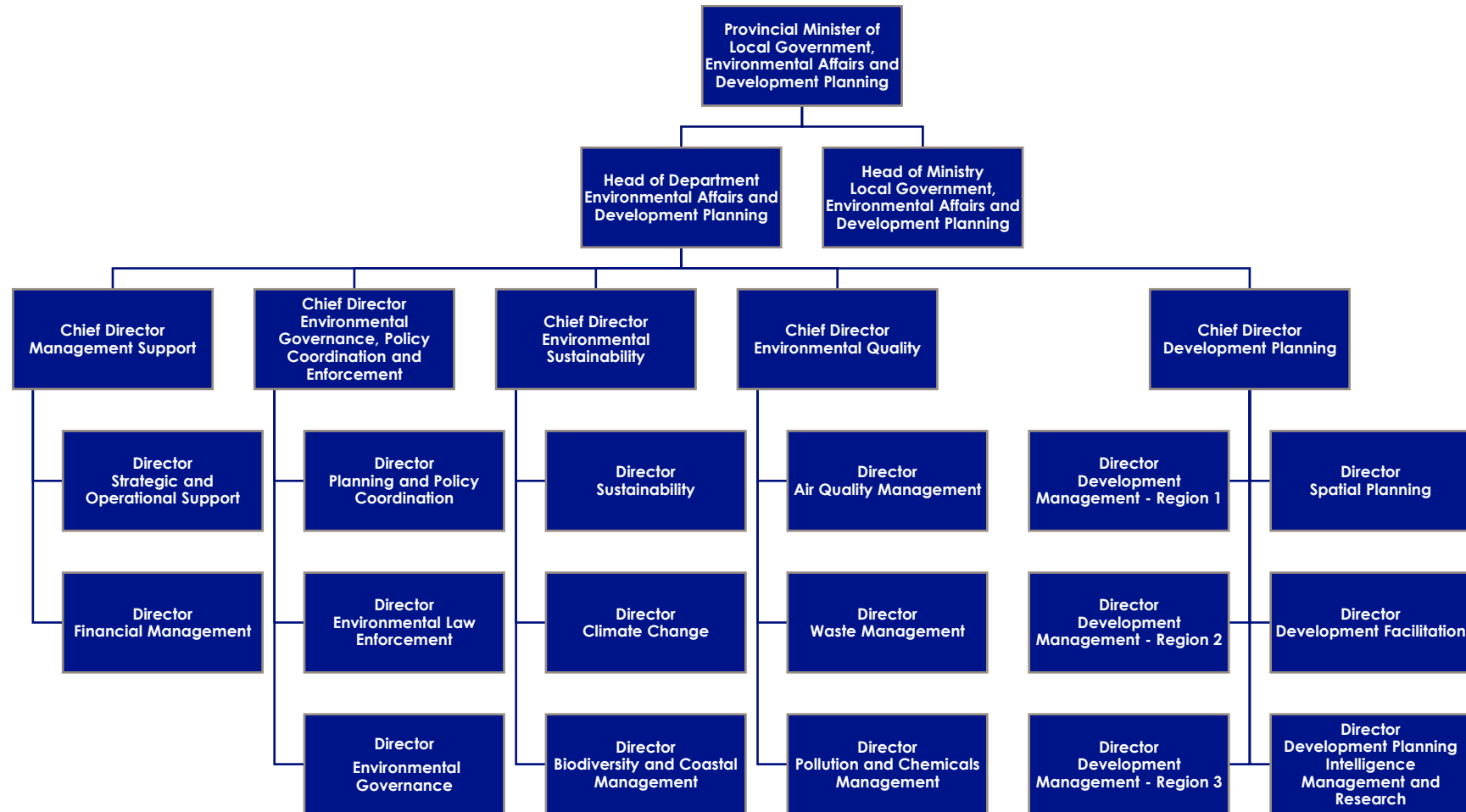


Figure 16: DEA&DP organisational structure

The Directorate: Waste Management consists of the following sub-directorates (Figure 17).

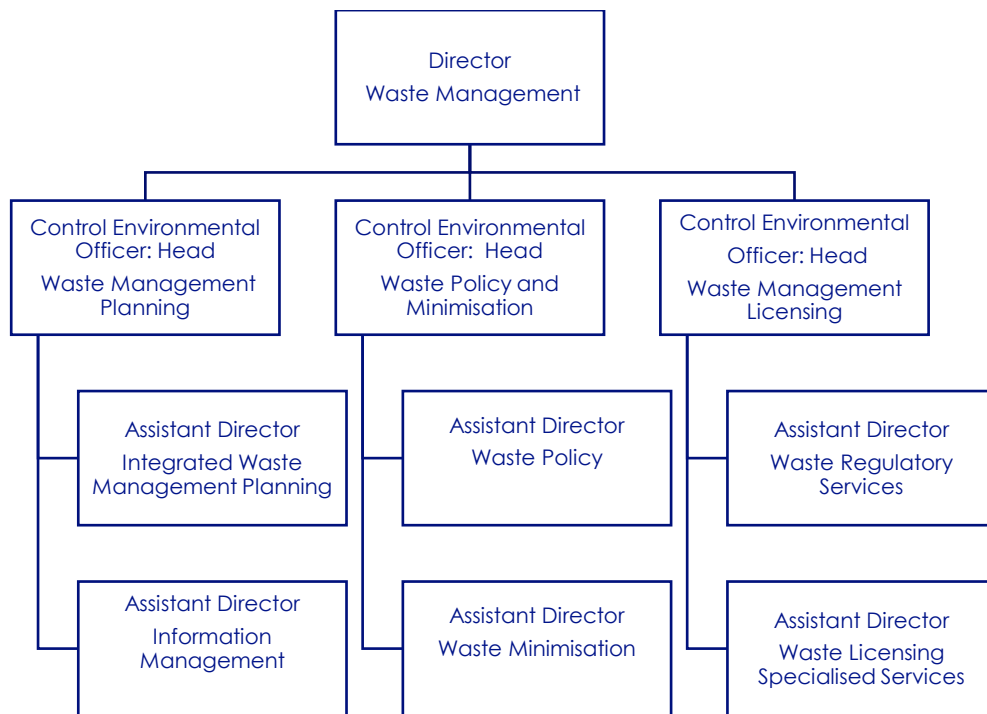


Figure 17: Directorate: Waste Management organisational structure

4.3.1.3 Designation of Waste Management Officers

The designation of WMOs at the national, provincial and local levels is a requirement of the NEM: WA. The key duties of a municipal WMO includes to:

- Ensure reliable and effective waste collection and disposal services through policy development, tariff setting, and bylaw implementation.
- Support planning and budgeting for sustainable waste services
- Lead the implementation of the municipality's Integrated Waste Management Plan
- Promote waste reduction, recycling, and private sector involvement
- Oversee waste facilities, vehicles, and equipment
- Manage contracts and monitor waste service providers
- Monitor and report on service provider performance
- Promote clean, healthy, and safe communities
- Ensure compliance with waste and environmental laws

The designation of WMOs within the Western Cape indicates generally high levels of compliance across municipalities. Full compliance (100%) has been achieved by DEA&DP, the CKDM, and the CoCT (**Appendix B**). The CWDM recorded 83% compliance, while the Garden GRDM achieved 75%, and the ODM attained 80%. The WCDM reflected the lowest compliance at 67%, due to outstanding designations in the District and Cederberg LM.

Overall, 80% of municipalities have a designated WMO, which is lower compared to a

compliance rating of 87% achieved in 2023 (Table 6). Targeted support and follow-up are required with Breede Valley LM, Knysna LM, Oudtshoorn LM, Theewaterskloof LM, West Coast DM, and Cederberg LMs to achieve full compliance across the province. Compared to 2023, the current number of designated WMOs that are female is higher i.e. three female WMOs in 2023 compared to the current four, representing 12% compared to 17%, respectively.

Table 6: Number of municipalities with designated Waste Management Officers

DESIGNATED WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICERS	2023		CURRENT	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Municipalities with designated WMOs	26	87%	24	80%
Municipalities without designated WMOs	4	13%	6	20%
Female designated WMOs	3	12%	3	13%
Male designated WMOs	23	88%	21	87%

4.3.2 Integrated Waste Management Plan Status

4.3.2.1 Provincial

The NEM: WA requires provincial departments responsible for waste management to develop IWMPs. These plans must be reviewed annually and updated every 5 years in line with the IDP cycle and must be submitted to the Minister of the DFFE for endorsement. The current 3rd Generation WC IWMP was published in 2023 for the 2023/24-2026/2027 period. Once developed the 4th Generation WC IWMP will replace the 3rd Generation WC IWMP and will be applicable to the 2027/28-2031/32 period.

The implementation of the IWMP is reviewed annually and reported on in the Annual State of Waste Management Report (SoWMR).

4.3.2.2 Municipal

All municipalities are required to develop IWMPs, review them annually and update them every five years, in line with the IDP cycle. IWMPs must be submitted to the MEC for endorsement. All Municipalities in the province have developed IWMPs, which have been endorsed, however not all Municipalities have reviewed and updated their latest IWMPs after the five-year expiration period and their IWMPs are thus no longer valid. Currently, five municipalities/districts have invalid IWMPs. This is fewer compared to 2023, when ten municipalities did not have valid IWMPs. Nine Municipalities requested extensions to enable them to align their IWMP timeframe with the next IDP cycle namely, GRDM, ODM and Hessequa, Kannaland, Bitou, Knysna, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn, George, Drakenstein and Overstrand Municipalities. Extensions were allowed with the proviso that their IWMP Implementation Plans be reviewed and amended and submitted to the Department for assessment. Their Implementation Plans must contain activities for implementation, targets, timeframes and financial and human resources.

The WCDM and Beaufort West Municipality have submitted draft IWMPs to the Department to comment on as part of their public participation process.

MUNICIPAL IWMP STATUS	2023	CURRENT
Municipalities with endorsed IWMPs	30	30
Municipalities with valid IWMPs:	20/30	26/30 CoCT, CWDM, Drakenstein LM, Stellenbosch LM, Witzenberg LM, Langeberg LM, Cederberg LM, Saldanha Bay LM, Bergrivier, Swartland LM, ODM, Theewaterskloof LM, Cape Agulhas LM, Swellendam LM, Overstrand LM, GRDM, Hessequa LM, Kannaland LM, Bitou LM, Knysna LM, Mossel Bay LM, Oudtshoorn LM, George LM, Laingsburg LM, Prince Albert LM, CKDM.
Municipalities without valid IWMPs:	10/30	4/30 Breede Valley LM, WCDM, Matzikama LM and Beaufort West LM.

Municipal IWMP Annual Reporting

Section 13(3) of the Waste Act requires Municipalities to report annually on the implementation of their IWMPs. Section 13 (2) sets out the information requirements that must be included when reporting. Most Municipalities however have either not been reporting or have been reporting partially. The Department has been in discussion with the National DFFE and WMOs of the municipalities to improve reporting. The Department has developed a template to ensure consistent reporting, which is expected to be rolled out in the 2026/27 financial year. Municipalities who have been consistently reporting include Overstrand and Langeberg Municipalities.

4.3.3 Integrated Waste Management By-Law

Municipal By-Laws across the Western Cape revealed that most are aligned with the NEM: WA, although the degree of alignment varies. Consequently, the remaining by-laws are categorised as partially aligned with the NEM: WA (Figure 18). While some municipalities still rely on older by-laws with limited recognition of waste minimisation, others incorporate extensive and explicit provisions that mandate recycling and assign this responsibility to all waste generators.

Furthermore, district municipalities often integrate their waste management clauses into broader municipal health by-laws. Because district municipalities are generally not responsible for direct local waste collection services, adopting a standalone waste by-law is often

optional. However, implementing one is highly recommended to enhance regional waste regulation and environmental protection, particularly in supporting local municipalities to align with provincial waste diversion targets. Currently, 28 municipalities (approximately 93%) have waste by-laws in place, while two (approximately 7%) – Matzikama and the West Coast District do not (Table 7), Encouragingly, Matzikama Municipality has begun developing their own by-law, guided by the DEA&DP's Model By-Law.

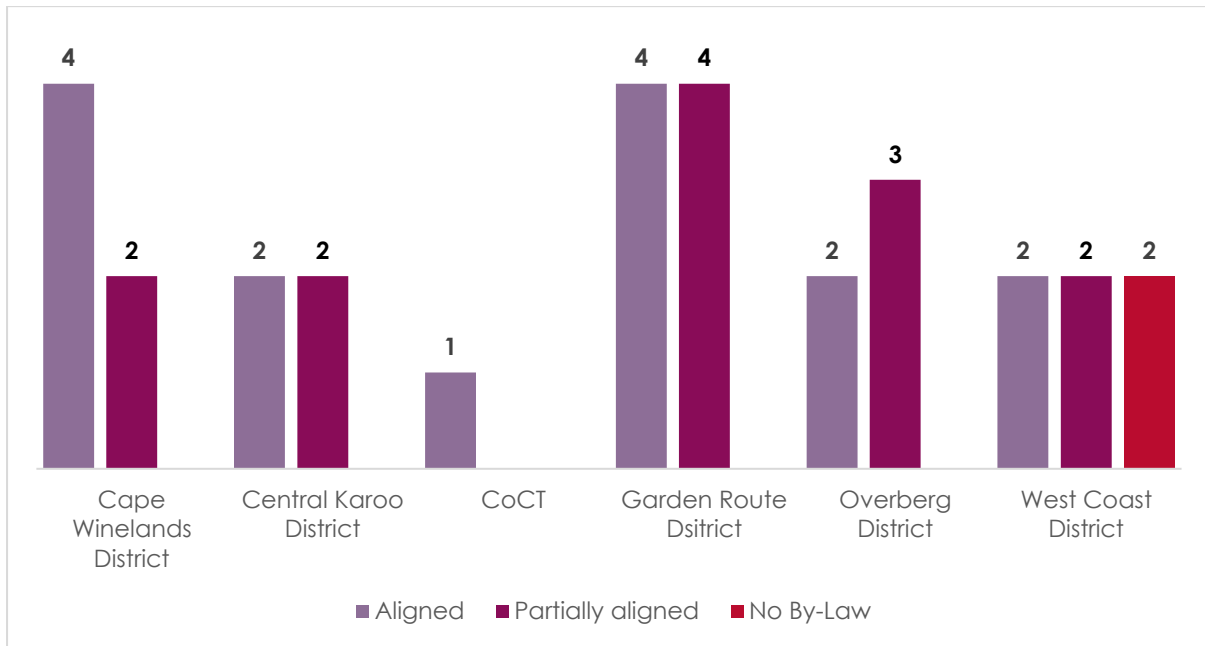


Figure 18: Number of municipalities per district with municipal by-laws aligned to the NEM:WA

Table 7: Waste by-law status

METRIC	COUNT / STATUS
Total Municipalities Evaluated (incl. Districts)	30
Municipalities with By-Laws	28
Municipalities without By-Laws	2
NEM: WA Alignment Status (of 30 total muns.)	
Fully Aligned	15
Partially Aligned	13

4.3.4 Summary of Municipal Waste Compliance

During the 2025/26 period, most Western Cape municipalities had the core waste governance framework in place, however significant gaps remain in IWMP implementation reporting, compliance auditing, by-law alignment, and WMO designation.

Based on the compliance criteria in Table 8 for 2025/26, the strongest overall compliance was demonstrated by the following municipalities, who generally have valid IWMPs, designated WMOs, aligned by-laws, and ensure IPWIS registration and reporting, internal and external auditing systems, and submission of audit reports to DEA&DP:

- City of Cape Town
- Stellenbosch
- Drakenstein
- Witzenberg
- Langeberg
- Saldanha Bay
- Bergervier
- Overstrand
- Swartland

Based on the number of gaps identified, the municipalities requiring the greatest support are:

- WCDM
- Breede Valley
- Matzikama
- Cederberg
- Theewaterskloof
- Knysna
- Beaufort West
- Prince Albert
- Key support areas include:
 - IWMP validity and implementation reporting.
 - WMO designation.
 - Waste by-law development and NEM: WA alignment.
 - Internal and external compliance auditing.
 - Submission of audit reports to DEA&DP

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Table 8: Municipal compliance 2025/2026

DISTRICT /LOCAL MUN.	ENDORSED IWMP	VALID IWMP	OWDP	REPORTING ON IWMP	DESIGNATED WMO	WASTE BY-LAW	BY-LAW ALIGNMENT TO NEM: WA	ALL MUNICIPAL WMFS REGISTERED ON IPWIS	REPORTING ON IPWIS	INTERNAL /QUARTERLY COMPLIANCE AUDITS DONE AT ALL WMFS	EXTERNAL (ANNUAL) COMPLIANCE AUDITS DONE AT ALL WMFS	INTERNAL & EXTERNAL AUDITS SUBMITTED TO THE (DEA&DP)
CoCT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cape Winelands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Partly	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stellenbosch	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Drakenstein	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Witzenberg	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Langeberg	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Breede Valley	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
West Coast	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	N/A
Matzikama	Yes	No	Yes	Partly	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Cederberg	Yes	Yes	Partly	Partly	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Saldanha Bay	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bergrivier	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Swartland	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Overberg	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes			
Overstrand	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Theewaterskloof	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	No	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Partly	No	Partly
Cape Agulhas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Partly
Swellendam	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partly
Garden Route	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hessequa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Partly	No	No
Kannaland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

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Bitou	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Knysna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Mossel Bay	Yes	Yes	N/A	Partly	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Partly	Partly	No
Oudtshoorn	Yes	Yes	Partly	Partly	No	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Partly
George	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Partly
Central Karoo	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Partly	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beaufort West	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Partly	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Prince Albert	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Laingsburg	Yes	Yes	Partly	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

4.3.5 Waste Management Finance

4.3.5.1 Provincial Waste Management Finances

The Department's Directorate: Waste Management is responsible for promoting, implementing, and improving integrated waste management in the province. It comprises three sub-directorates, namely, Waste Management Planning, Waste Policy and Minimisation, and Waste Management Licensing, each with distinct areas of focus. Key activities include implementing legislation, policies, norms and standards, and systems that support communities, municipalities, industry, and the private sector through targeted projects and initiatives.

Although the budget for goods and services has increased from 2022/23 to 2024/25, employee costs have decreased due to staff losses (retirements and resignations) and unfilled posts (Table 9). Ongoing financial constraints and budget cuts have limited the Directorate's ability to meet legislative mandates. Staff costs remain the main budget driver. While these increased between 2022/23 and 2023/24, there was a significant decline in 2024/25 as posts remained vacant and unfunded. This situation continues to constrain capacity, and limits focus on key areas such as hazardous waste management. The transfers and subsidy figure of R1.8M for the 2024/25 financial year was in support of local municipalities for the borehole monitoring project.

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Table 9: Budget and expenditure for the Directorate: Waste Management

	2022/23		2023/24		2024/25		2025/26	
	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure
Cost of Employment	R20 782 500	R20 514 627	R21 629 700	R21 569 760	R19 368 900	R19 392 599	R20 154 600	R19 942 385
Goods and Services	R999 800	R746 505	R1 713 300	R1 555 015	R1 572 950	R1 492 275	R687 720	R615 039
Departmental Agencies	0	R506	R500	R554	R400	R506	R0	R0
Households	R29 000	R85 210	R55 000	R71 011	R186 200	R186 057	R0	R0
Capital	R254 000	R261 325	R127 000	R105 851	R322 000	R367 815	R0	R0
Payments (financial assets)	R0	R0	R0	R0	R0	R3 020	R317 000	R246 572
Transfers and subsidies	R0	R0	R0	R0	R1 800 000	R1 800 000	R0	R0
Grand Total	R22 065 300	R21 608 174	R23 525 500	R23 302 191	R23 250 450	R23 242 271	R21 159 320	R20 803 996

4.3.5.2 Municipal Waste Management Finances

Municipal waste management finances include capital expenditure, operational expenditure and revenue. Capital expenditure for waste management infrastructure for all local and district municipalities is shown in Figure 19. Operational expenditure provides the costs of rendering the waste management service. The revenue indicated is from Municipalities actively generating their own income via e.g. property taxes, service charges, traffic fines. Municipalities also receive funding from either government grants and subsidies or public donations and contributions.

As per Figure 19, capital expenditure for waste management infrastructure has increased steadily since 2021/22, post-COVID. Operational expenditure across the Province has decreased since 2021/22, whilst the revenue has increased steadily until 2023/24, followed by a decline in 2024/25.

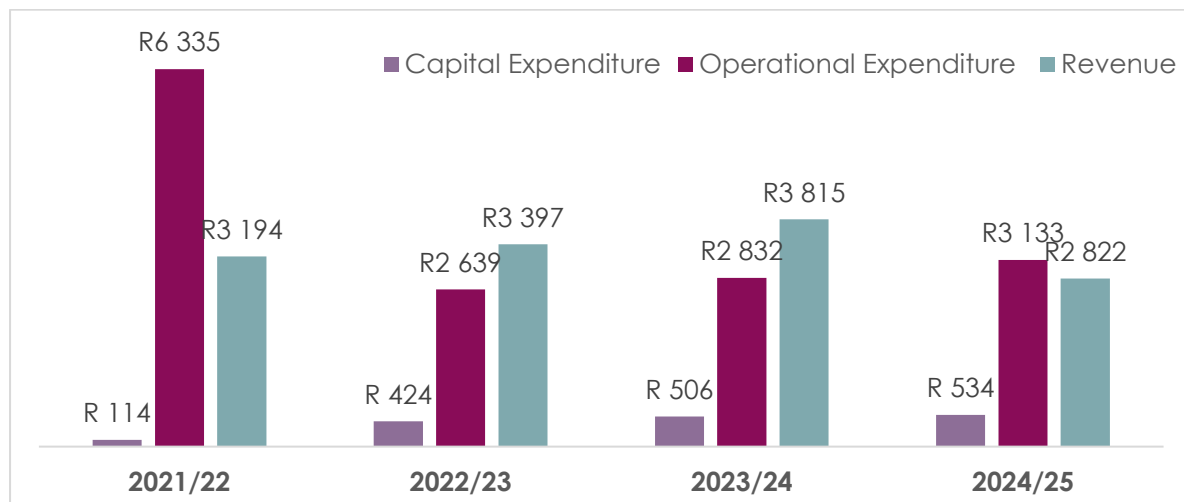


Figure 19: Municipal waste management finances R (M)

● Refuse Collection Tariffs

Local Municipalities render weekly refuse collection services to households and charge monthly tariffs for these services. The monthly refuse collection tariffs were extracted from municipal tariff documents and are shown in Figure 20. During the 2024/25 financial year, Bergrivier LM had the highest tariff rate i.e. R400 p/m. During the same timeframe, Beaufort West LM had the lowest tariff rate i.e. R95 p/m. Since Beaufort West LM has two different tariff rates i.e. R89,45 and R99,75, depending on the area, an average rate was calculated. Municipalities increase tariffs annually to ensure that they can continue to deliver refuse collection services. Figure 21 compares the latest tariff increases with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rates of 6% during 2023/24 and 4,9% during the 2024/25 financial year. During the 2023/24-2024/25 financial year, only eight municipalities had a tariff rate increase of 6% or below.

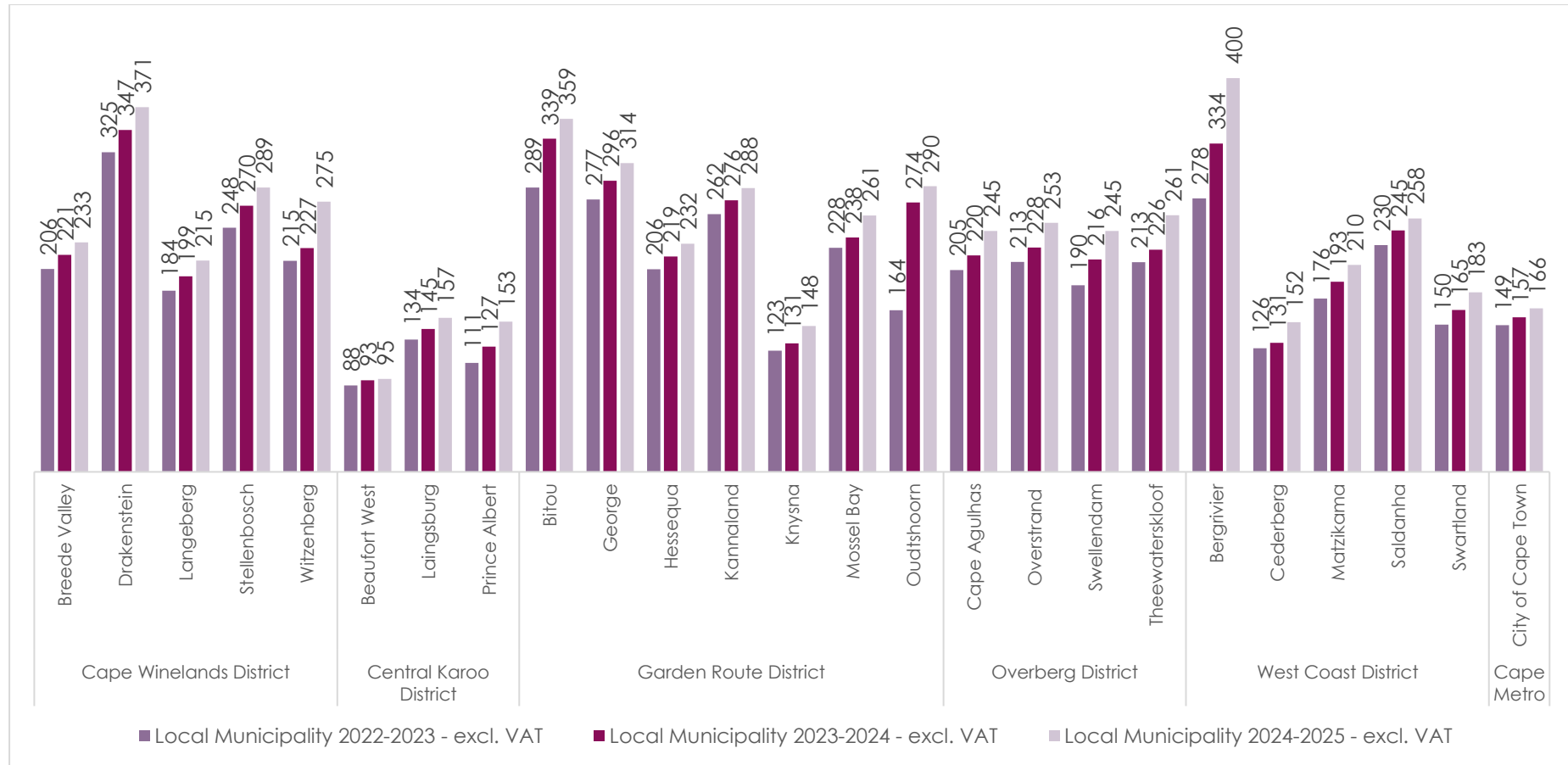


Figure 20: Monthly refuse collection tariffs per municipality (R)- excl.. VAT

(Source: DEA&DP, 2025)

WESTERN CAPE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2027-2032

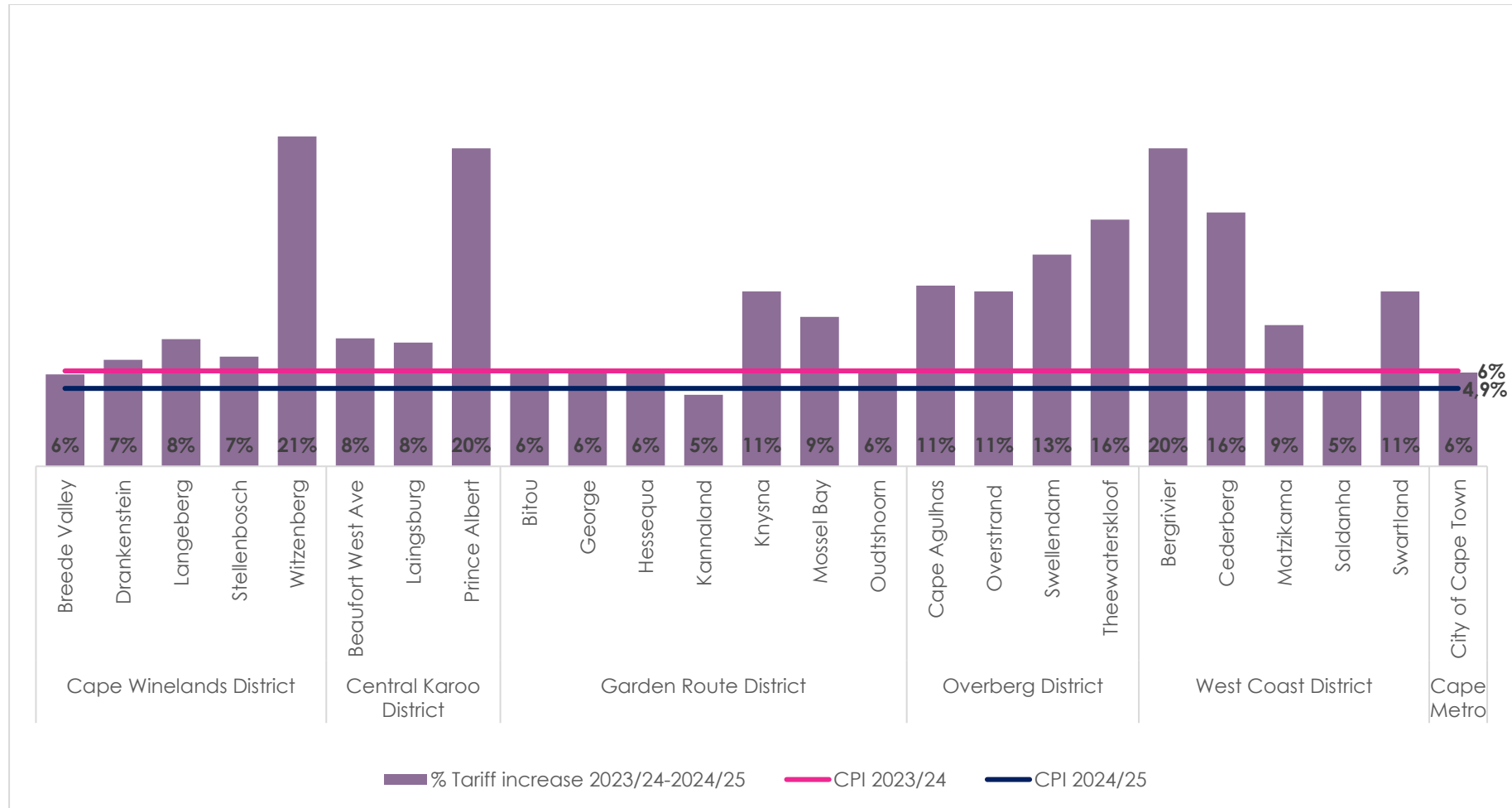


Figure 21: Tariff increase from 2023/24 and 2024/25 vs Consumer Price Index

(Source: DEA&DP, 2025)

● Free Basic Services

Municipalities play a crucial role in providing a package of free basic services to financially vulnerable households struggling to cover service costs. Municipalities maintain an indigent register of households who apply and meet the criteria (Figure 22). The following information was extracted from the Socio-Economic Profiles for each District (Provincial Treasury, 2024).

Cape Winelands (Provincial Treasury, 2024)

The number of households benefiting from these services in the CWDM witnessed a decline from 2021 to 2022. The prevailing economic stress is expected to heighten household income challenges, potentially increasing the demand for free basic services and the number of indigent households. However, the specifics of this scenario are contingent on area-specific conditions and the criteria employed for qualification.

Central Karoo District (Provincial Treasury, 2024)

The number of households receiving free basic services in the CKDM between 2019 to 2023 fluctuated. In 2023, indigent households were recorded at 7 570. As expected, Beaufort West has the highest number of indigent households at 5 985, followed by Prince Albert municipal area 1 115 and Laingsburg 470 in 2023. The stressed economic conditions are expected to exert additional pressure on household income, which will likely increase the demand for free basic services and in turn the number of indigent households.

Garden Route District (Provincial Treasury, 2024)

There was a significant surge in registered indigent households in 2020 attributable to the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in income losses impeding households' capacity to cover their municipal service expenses. In 2021, a slight reduction occurred, and by 2022, a return to levels resembling the pre-COVID period was evident. As per the 2023/24 Municipal Economic Review and Outlook, in 2022, 43.7 per cent of households in Kannaland LM were registered as indigents, followed by 36.9 per cent in Oudtshoorn LM, underscoring heightened poverty levels in these municipal areas. The stressed economic conditions will continue to exert pressure on household incomes and thereby keep demand for free basic services at elevated levels.

Overberg District (Provincial Treasury, 2024)

In the Overstrand LM, the number of households receiving these free basic services, categorised as indigent households, experienced a notable decline in 2023, influencing the district total.

West Coast District (Provincial Treasury, 2024)

In the WCDM, the demand for these services has been increasing as economic pressures on households rise. In 2023, municipalities in the region have continued to offer free access to basic services such as water, electricity, and sanitation to qualifying indigent households. These

services are crucial for alleviating financial burdens and ensuring that all residents have access to essential amenities regardless of their economic situation.

Given the ongoing economic challenges, the number of households qualifying for free basic services is expected to grow. This rising demand underscores the need for municipalities to secure the resources necessary to sustain and expand these services, which are essential for improving the quality of life and supporting long-term socio-economic development in the region. Moreover, maintaining and expanding free basic services will be critical for addressing inequalities and ensuring that vulnerable households are not excluded from accessing vital infrastructure.

City of Cape Town (Provincial Treasury, 2024)³

The data on indigent households unveils a fluctuating trend from 2018 to 2022. Notably, the number of indigent households in the CoCT has exhibited a decline, from 225 217 in 2018 to 201 707 in 2022. This may suggest varying economic circumstances or interventions aimed at ameliorating indigent conditions. The prevalence of informal dwellings and the nuanced trends in indigent households underscore the need for targeted socio-economic policies and interventions to enhance living conditions and address disparities within the community.

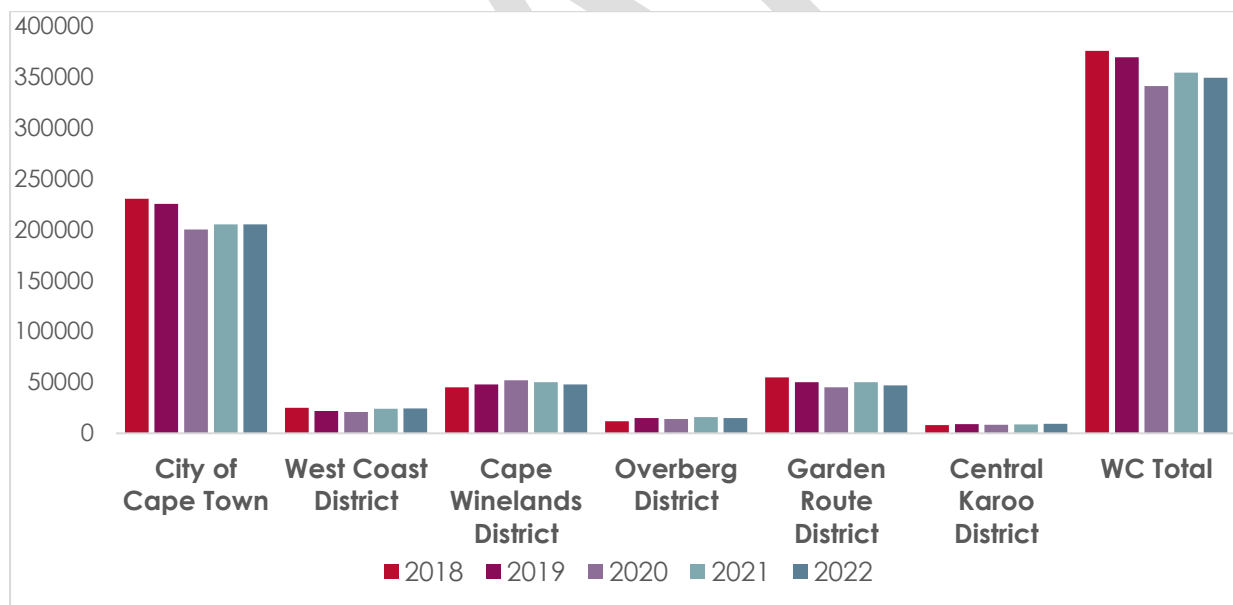


Figure 22: No. of households registered on the indigent database 2018-2022 (estimated)

³ The figures cited by Provincial Treasury are drawn from two subsets: those registering annually as indigent based on HH income and those deemed indigent based on property value. The increases in property value and adjustment of the indigent threshold in a General Valuation year (as implemented in 2022) would lead to some fluctuation in the numbers, with those indigent HHs falling out of the deemed-indigent category needing to apply to register as indigent based on income. The number also excludes free basic services recipients living in informal settlements.

4.3.6 Waste Data and Reporting

The National Waste Information Regulations (R625 of 2012) (WIR) requires all waste generators and handlers triggering certain thresholds to register and report waste figures to either the national DFFE, through the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS) or the Integrated Pollutant and Waste Information System (IPWIS). The WIR divides waste into two main categories, namely, hazardous and general waste and further outlines more categories that waste generators can report on.

4.3.6.1 Waste Data

An overview of the waste generation and disposal data, which includes general and hazardous waste information submitted on the IPWIS over the 2018-2024 period provided is in Table 10.

Table 10: Overall waste data for the Western Cape 2018-2024 (tonnes)

GW+HW	2 018	2 019	2 020	2 021	2 022	2 023	2 024
Total Waste Disposal	2 463 537	2 500 176	2 288 951	2 365 591	2 404 767	2 341 136	2 450 646
Total Waste Diversion	891 227	740 740	635 338	855 970	950 932	1 098 196	1 110 586
Total Waste Generation	3 354 764	3 240 916	2 924 289	3 221 560	3 355 699	3 439 332	3 561 232
Diversion Rate	27%	23%	22%	27%	28%	32%	31%

The IPWIS is aligned and submits reported information to the SAWIS, administered by the DFFE. All public and private entities who are regarded as waste holders by the WIR are required to report on general and/or hazardous waste as the minimum requirement. Municipalities and industry in the province are required to report waste disposal and diversion data on the IPWIS monthly. WMFs who do not have weighbridges to ensure accurate reporting, must use the Department's Waste Calculator tool and the Gate Control Sheet (estimated tonnage) to record their data. To promote recycling and reuse, municipalities must track not just disposal, but also diversion - how much waste is being diverted from landfills to do recycling, recovery, or composting, and monitor if waste diversion targets are being met by the municipality.

The reported data is then uploaded to the national SAWIS. The Department publishes a State of Waste Management Report (SoWMR) on an annual basis, which analyses and incorporates the waste data captured on the IPWIS. Waste data from the 2024 SoWMR (including the latest updated data extract⁴) forms the basis of this waste information presented in section 4.3.

⁴ Date of last data extract: 14 January 2026. Data will be updated once the latest extract becomes available.

Data limitations as indicated in the annual SoWMR are provided as follows:

- Municipal general waste data should be considered with a degree of caution due to inconsistencies in definitions, data collection methodologies, data corrections made by municipalities on the IPWIS and completeness of data;
- Tonnages for general waste disposed and as reported by municipalities on the IPWIS, is mostly based on estimation of the total quantity of municipal solid waste disposed in the municipal area;
- The tonnages of general and hazardous waste reported as waste generated is based on quantities of waste recycled, recovered, treated and/or disposed of;
- The tonnages of waste diverted is calculated and as reported by municipalities on the IPWIS, using the reported waste diversion (recycled, recovered and treated) total divided by the sum of waste generated;
- Data collection at municipalities is initially captured by gate controllers at the Waste Disposal Facilities (WDFs). The data is then recaptured by data capturers, for which the accuracy could not always be verified, and this data was used;
- Given the variations in the data accuracy of the different waste types, it is not possible to assign an overall level of accuracy to the calculated tonnages of general and hazardous waste disposed of;
- While many municipalities have calculated and reported on waste diversion in their respective municipalities, these waste diversion calculations and methods differ from municipality to municipality. The data might indicate an over or underestimation of diversion taking place at municipalities.
- The data extracts provided is the latest data verified by the Department at the time this report was approved and is **subject to change due to revision and outstanding reports that are submitted to the IPWIS.**

4.3.6.2 Integrated Pollutant and Waste Information System Reporting Rates

The Department utilises various platforms to engage and liaise with municipalities to ensure compliance to the WIS regulations and to provide an accurate account based on waste disposal and diversion. Inconsistent and irregular waste reporting to the IPWIS still remains a problem and is being dealt with to negate the gaps in reporting and gain momentum in monthly reporting to the IPWIS. The Department validates the waste information being reported to the IPWIS and this is done by conducting IPWIS waste data verifications annually at various identified facilities. Waste data verifications are also carried out at facilities with erroneous data thereby making the data questionable. Once the verifications were completed, feedback was provided to the facilities with stipulated timeframes where data had to be corrected and resubmitted to the IPWIS. IPWIS reporting frequencies for private facilities are indicated in Table 11 and Municipalities are indicated in Table 12; a summary of each district is provided below:

- **Cape Winelands District:** The reporting frequency for WMFs within the CWDM is generally high, except for Breede Valley LM during 2023 and 2024, which had a reporting rate of 78% and 72%, respectively. Private facility reporting is inconsistent, with low rates reported for most years, except for 2021 and 2024, where the reporting rates were 92% and 85%, respectively.
- **Central Karoo District:** The reporting frequency of municipal WMFs within the Laingsburg Municipality is high, with a 100% rate achieved between 2018-2024. **Beaufort West Municipality's** compliance rate with the WIR has been inconsistent over the 2018-2024 period, with good reporting rates only occurring in 2018 and 2023. This is due to non-

reporting by three facilities in the Beaufort West LM. Similarly, one facility in Prince Albert LM has not been reporting, resulting in large gaps in data. Regarding private facilities, there are either no private WMFs operating in the area or registered on the IPWIS.

- **Overberg District:** The reporting frequency of municipal WMFs within the ODM is relatively high, with the exception for Swellendam Municipality, which had a low reporting rate of 79% in 2023 and 67% in 2024. Reporting frequencies of private facilities have declined in 2023 and 2024, with a rate of 0% and 58%, respectively.
- **Garden Route District: Knysna Municipality** had a high reporting rate in 2018, but since then have become non-compliant with the Waste Information Regulations, with 0% reporting in 2024. There has been an improvement in private facilities reporting within the district over time, with a reporting rate of 95% achieved in 2024.
- **West Coast District:** Swartland and Bergrivier Municipalities had high reporting rates during the 2018-2024 period. **Matzikama Municipality** has a very low reporting frequency for 2020 to 2024. This low reporting rate in Matzikama Municipality is because of facilities not being fully staffed and/or utilised for waste management purposes. Currently the Department is in discussions with the Municipality to improve their waste reporting and remove sites that are no longer actively accepting waste onto the working face. Private facilities generally have good reporting rates, ranging between 82%-100% over the same period.
- **City of Cape Town:** The reporting frequency for WMFs within the CoCT during 2018-2024 was relatively high, ranging between 93%-100%. Private facilities generally have good reporting rates, ranging between 86%-98% over the same period.

Table 11: IPWIS private facility reporting rate 2018-2024

DISTRICT	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
West Coast	100%	97%	99%	99%	82%	98%	98%
CoCT	86%	91%	86%	95%	95%	94%	98%
Overberg	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	58%	N/A
Garden Route	58%	98%	88%	83%	92%	92%	95%
Central Karoo	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cape Winelands	0%	0%	58%	92%	63%	60%	85%

Table 12: IPWIS municipal facility reporting rate 2018-2024

DISTRICT	MUNICIPALITY	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
West Coast	Swartland	100%	87%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Bergrivier	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Cederberg	79%	100%	98%	100%	95%	82%	100%
	Saldanha Bay	100%	72%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Matzikama	84%	84%	37%	28%	69%	46%	63%
CoCT	CoCT	99%	93%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Overberg	Cape Agulhas	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Overstrand	100%	89%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Swellendam	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	79%	100%
	Theewaterskloof	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Garden Route	Oudtshoorn	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	54%	100%
	Kannaland	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	96%
	George	92%	54%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Mossel Bay	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%
	Bitou	92%	79%	92%	67%	100%	100%	100%
	Knysna	97%	58%	42%	25%	0%	17%	0%
	Hessequa	90%	99%	95%	98%	100%	100%	100%
Central Karoo	Laingsburg	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Prince Albert	100%	100%	58%	100%	92%	58%	100%
	Beaufort West	88%	54%	0%	33%	35%	100%	44%
Cape Winelands	Drakenstein	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Langeberg	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Breede Valley	100%	100%	97%	100%	97%	78%	72%
	Stellenbosch	100%	100%	89%	100%	100%	97%	100%
	Witzenberg	100%	100%	100%	88%	100%	93%	100%

4.3.7 Waste Generation

Waste generation data in this report is based on the waste classifications of general and hazardous waste that is disposed of and diverted. The waste generation figure is the addition of waste disposal and diversion data that was reported to the IPWIS over the 2018-2024 period. Waste is broadly categorised into two main categories i.e., general or hazardous, based on the risk it poses. General waste includes waste that does not pose an immediate hazard or threat to health or to the environment. Whereas hazardous waste contains organic or inorganic elements or compounds that may, owing to the inherent physical, chemical or toxicological properties of that waste, have a detrimental impact on health or the environment. The total waste generated in the Western Cape between 2018-2024, fluctuated between 2.92 million tonnes during 2020 and 3.36 million tonnes in 2024 (Table 13). The sharp drop in waste generated during 2020 can be attributed to the slowdowns linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. The lockdown measures would have led to a slowdown in the production and manufacturing of goods for local consumption and export. Health and safety took precedence over environmental concerns, resulting in significant changes in municipal solid waste management. The impact of job losses and reduced income on consumer spending because of lockdown measures and restrictions would have likely further reduced consumption. If the year 2020 is excluded, then the average waste generated during the 2018-2024 period was 3 370 041 tonnes per year. Waste generation increased by 6.6 % between 2018 and 2024; this increase is driven by a 12% growth in general waste generation during that period. Over the same period, hazardous waste dropped sharply by 43.7%.

Hazardous waste is increasingly being processed to render it non-hazardous or to recover valuable materials. The fluctuations in the generation of hazardous waste over the years can be attributed to policy-driven diversion and improved management at the various facilities to reduce waste. The trend reflects a shift in how the hazardous waste is managed, not necessarily a reduction in the initial generation of hazardous substances. There is a strong national and provincial push to treat, recycle, and recover hazardous waste, diverting it from landfill disposal. The Extended Producer Regulations (EPR) and its associated EPR schemes for waste oil, lighting, and Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) are key in diverting hazardous components (e.g., mercury, PCBs, heavy metals, etc.).

Table 13: Waste generation data for the Western Cape 2018-2024 (tonnes)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total General Waste Generated	3 009 412	2 901 145	2 679 467	3 044 647	3 146 293	3 263 161	3 381 695
Total Hazardous Waste Generated	345 352	339 771	244 821	176 913	209 406	207 861	194 591
Total Waste Generated	3 354 764	3 240 916	2 924 289	3 221 560	3 355 699	3 471 021	3 576 287

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As per Figure 23, general waste constituted between 90-95% of the waste generated in the province during 2018-2024 and hazardous waste made up the remainder. It is also evident that the amount of hazardous waste has decreased since 2018, when it accounted for 10% of the total waste generated to 5% generated in 2024.

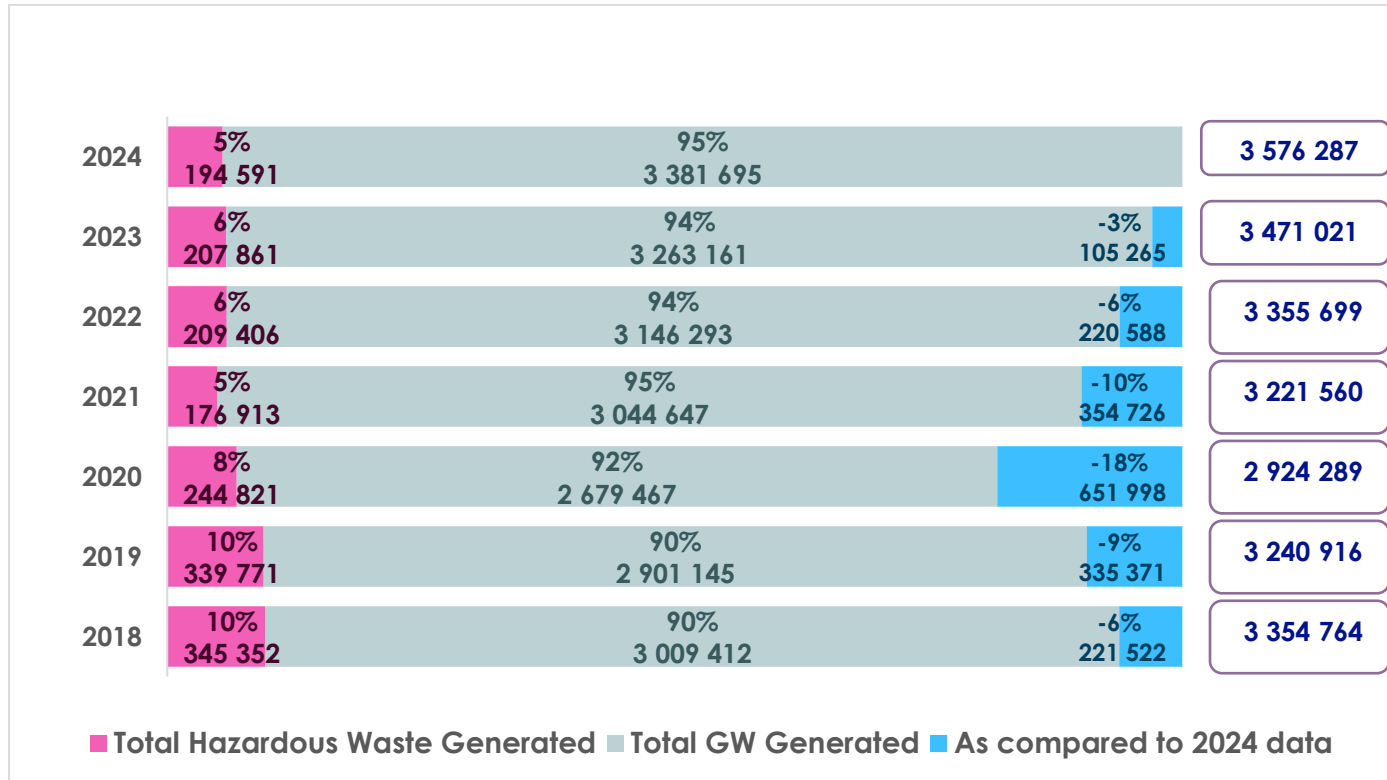


Figure 23: Total waste generated in the Western Cape during 2018-2024

4.3.7.1 General Waste

Figure 24 displays the trend in general waste generation for the 2018-2024 period for all the districts and the province overall. General waste generation in the province has increased from 3 009 412 tonnes in 2018 to 3 381 695 tonnes in 2024, which is an overall growth rate of 12% over the time period. The declared State of Disaster lockdown Risk Adjusted level 5 that was implemented at the end of March 2020 correlated with a reduction in waste generated in most of the districts in April and May 2020. After May 2020, the amount of waste generated gradually increased once the lockdown regulations were relaxed and the risk levels were adjusted downwards, with a steady increase in waste generation observed from 2021. General waste generated is largely driven by the CoCT, which contributed 2 212 186 tonnes in 2024, contributing approximately 65% of the general waste generated in the province. The lowest contributor in that same year being the CKDM, which contributed 12 688 tonnes.

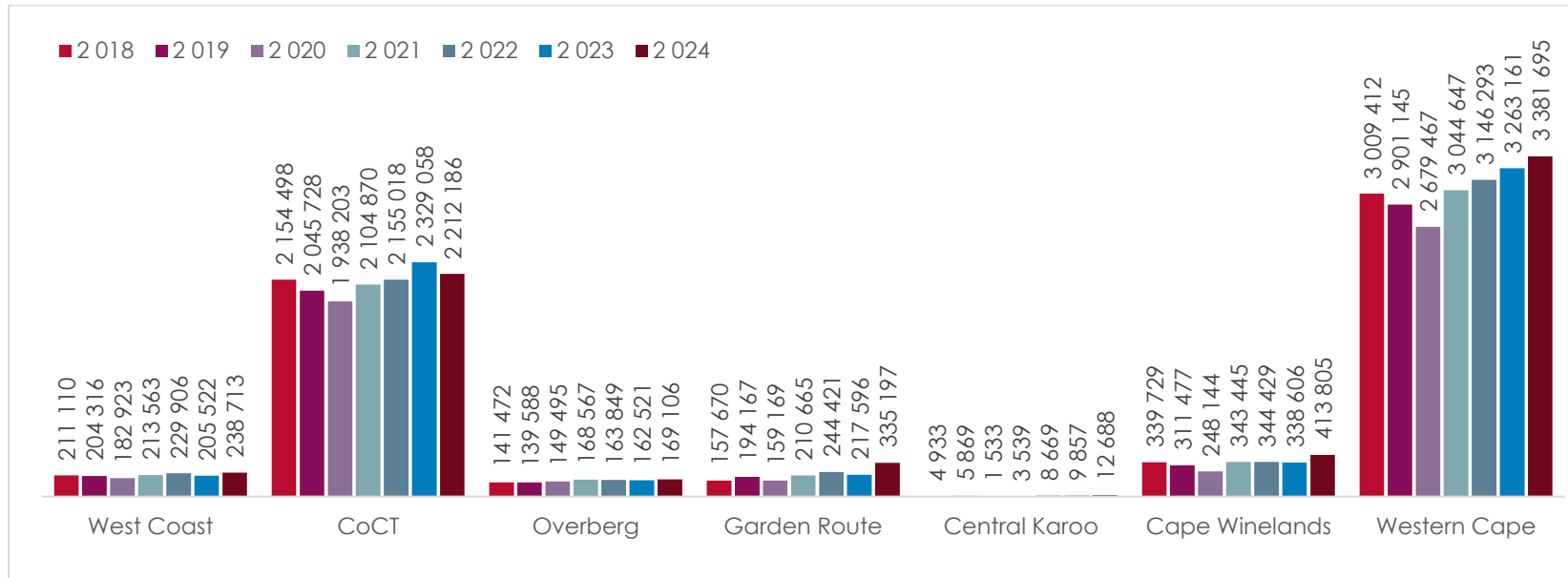


Figure 24: General waste generation per district 2018-2024

4.3.7.2 Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste generation has declined sharply in the Western Cape over the 2018-2024 period. Previously, hazardous waste generation in the province was mainly due to three (3) main waste types namely, sewage sludge, and inorganic/organic industrial waste streams. In 2024, this has changed where most of the waste is categorised as sewage sludge, miscellaneous and tarry & bituminous waste (Table 14). The decrease in solid inorganic waste is largely attributed to Atlantis Foundries (PTY) Ltd, Faure Water Treatment Plant and Tronox Mineral Sands. The waste being reported by Vissershok (Enviroserv) WDF has sharply fallen in 2022. The waste streams classed as "Other organic waste without halogens" has decreased over the years from 2021, while sewage sludge appears to increase from 2022. When analysing the IPWIS data, it is observed that at times sewage waste can be reported as "Other organic waste without halogens or sulphur" instead of "Sewage waste" because it has gone through some form of treatment. Miscellaneous waste has increased between 2018 and 2024 where the main contributor to this waste stream rise from SA Metal Group (Pty) Ltd, Atlantis Foundries (Pty) Ltd and Saldanha Steel (PTY) Ltd. The ***Combined** category are waste streams that amount to less than 200T per annum and come from industries that generate the following waste types:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Gaseous waste | 5. Organic halogenated and /or sulphur containing solvents |
| 2. Mercury containing waste | 6. Fly ash and dust from miscellaneous filter sources |
| 3. Batteries | 7. Slag |
| 4. Persistent Organic Pollutants waste | |

The CoCT is the dominant generator of sewage sludge in the Western Cape, compared to less populated areas in more peripheral municipalities. However, there are secondary⁵ urban/industrial clusters (notably in the Cape Winelands) and local wastewater treatment technologies. The CoCT contains approximately 65% of the Western Cape's population and is the seat of the majority of its industrial, commercial, and tourism activity. Wastewater generation is directly proportional to these factors. Provincial policy pushes for sludge to be treated as a resource (biosolids) where quality permits. The CoCT's scale makes it a potential candidate for large-scale composting or energy recovery (e.g., biogas from anaerobic digestion) projects, but contamination risks from industrial effluent remain a key constraint.

⁵ These clusters are "secondary" because they are not part of the dominant CoCT, but they are large and influential enough to have a substantial impact on the provincial economy, infrastructure demands, and waste generation profiles (e.g., Stellenbosch, Paarl/Wellington, Worcester, Somerset West/Strand, Tulbagh, Franschhoek, etc.).

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Table 14: Hazardous waste generation quantities and types (tonnes)

HAZARDOUS WASTE TYPES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sewage sludge	47 541	48 788	45 806	60 778	83 829	81 259	85 166
Miscellaneous	19 886	13 831	14 888	11 885	9 536	44 904	44 166
Tarry and bituminous waste	919	1 412	1 473	2 352	2 555	3 140	23 280
Asbestos containing waste	8 163	9 161	11 432	8 399	14 536	12 231	10 452
Waste oils	22 338	31 500	25 767	19 705	18 908	16 834	7 971
Inorganic waste	117 267	111 751	25 541	16 724	20 417	10 175	7 212
Healthcare risk waste	3 775	4 696	6 139	7 226	20 186	14 873	7 087
Other organic waste without halogens or sulphur	119 981	117 609	111 756	47 283	28 332	17 979	5 213
Brine	-	36	-	280	9 577	5 183	1 608
Organic solvents without halogens and sulphur	91	472	795	1 195	710	565	689
Mineral waste	5 097	171	376	441	235	223	611
Organic halogenated and /or sulphur containing waste	22	21	5	-	1	109	442
Waste of electric and electronic equipment (WEEE)	0	30	101	34	161	276	258
Bottom ash	78	99	212	73	-	-	222
* Combined	196	195	529	539	422	110	214
Total	345 056	339 427	243 974	176 268	208 822	207 366	193 455

4.3.8 Waste Collection

Once waste is generated, it needs to be collected and transported for the purpose of waste recovery, recycling or disposal. Municipalities are responsible for ensuring a refuse removal service is provided to the communities they serve as specified in Schedule 5b: South Africa Constitution Act No. 108 of 1996. The National Domestic Waste Collection Standards, 2013 provide standards for waste collection with the aim to redress past imbalances. The Standards state that equitable collection services must be provided to all households within the jurisdiction of the municipality. Refuse removal levels were obtained from the SEPs and Municipal Economic Review and Outlook for each municipality/district are indicated (Table 15). The Provincial Strategic Plan 2020-2025 set a target refuse removal level for the province at 95%. The National Waste Management, 2020 set a target of 95% for urban and 75% for rural areas. Refuse removal levels remained consistent in the province at 89.8% in 2021 and 90% in 2024. Over the same time period, most municipalities have either remained consistent or improved, however there are a few exceptions. Municipalities such as Beaufort West, Mossel Bay, Theewaterskloof and Saldanha Bay have shown a decline in service over the 2021-2024 period.

Table 15: Refuse removal levels (at least once a week) per municipality (%) (2021-2024)

District	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cape Winelands District	Breede Valley	73,1	83,4	84,1	84,3
	Drakenstein	81,8	89,2	92,1	92,2
	Langeberg	84,2	85,7	86,6	93,2
	Stellenbosch	82,1	87,3	87,6	87,4
	Witzenberg	62,9	75,6	75,6	76,6
Central Karoo District	Beaufort West	92	79,6	79,6	80
	Laingsburg	67	80	80	80,4
	Prince Albert	86,2	90,4	90,4	90
Garden Route District	Bitou	80,5	85,2	88,3	89,2
	George	90,5	88,3	90,3	90,4
	Hessequa	86,8	92,3	92,3	93,9
	Kannaland	79,1	78,8	78,8	82
	Knysna	91,6	89,3	89,3	92,6
	Mossel Bay	94,6	92,5	92,5	93,2
	Oudtshoorn	82,3	86	89	89,4
Overberg District	Cape Agulhas	84,6	92,8	92,5	93,2
	Overstrand	87,6	91,4	93,3	93
	Swellendam	81,6	79,8	81,5	81,5
	Theewaterskloof	81,1	74,7	75,4	76
West Coast District	Bergrivier	77,7	85,4	88,6	88,8
	Cederberg	66,9	71,4	77,5	78,1
	Matzikama	78,9	82,3	86,7	86,9
	Saldanha Bay	98,1	89	92	92,1
	Swartland	78,3	82,8	86,7	93,2

Cape Metro	City of Cape Town	89,1	90,2	86,3	91,2
	Western Cape	89,8	88,7		90

Municipalities face several challenges when delivering refuse removal services. Several reasons could be attributed to lower refuse removal levels experienced in some municipalities.

- **Rapid urban growth:** The CoCT and surrounding municipalities face increased waste generation without proportional infrastructure upgrades.
- **Informal settlement expansion:** High-density informal areas often lack permanent service points or bins, complicating collection. Narrow roads, which limit the accessibility of refuse collection vehicles to collect waste from individual households.
- **Geographical spread:** Remote rural towns in districts like CKDM face logistical challenges and high fuel costs.
- **Seasonal population surges:** Tourism and agricultural seasons increase waste volumes temporarily, exceeding capacity.
- **High cost of infrastructure:** Landfill development, transfer stations, and fleet maintenance are expensive and often delayed due to funding shortfalls.

4.3.8.1 Waste Collection Services to Informal Settlements and Rural Households

Informal settlements and rural households often pose challenges to municipalities in terms of refuse collection. In informal settlements, effective refuse collection is more challenging due to the physical characteristics of these areas e.g. high density and narrow roads, which limit the accessibility of refuse collection vehicles to collect waste from individual households. Where municipal refuse collection is undertaken, various options are utilised including on foot door-to-door collection, smaller collection points (e.g. mini drop-offs) and communal collection points (e.g. skips and shipping containers).

■ Informal Settlements

In 2024, the Western Cape was home to 1 229 informal settlements, according to data from the Department of Infrastructure. Of these, 828 were located within the Cape Metro, while 423 were spread across other districts. It is important to note that these figures may have increased since then. These settlements collectively comprised of 477 952 structures (2024) in comparison to 382 039 in 2022, including several backyard dwellings. Given the scale and complexity of these communities, it became essential to assess how municipalities were providing basic services, particularly waste management.

Figure 25 shows the waste services delivered by municipalities to informal settlements across the Western Cape. This data is based on a survey that received 21 responses from 25 municipalities. Survey results indicate that refuse bags are the primary method of waste service provision for informal settlements and backyard dwellers, cited by 48% of municipalities. This points to their status as the most accessible and practical solution in these communities. Supplementary methods include skips, which 14% of respondents provide alongside bags, and a combination of refuse bags, skips, and wheelie bins, reported by 9%. The presence of wheelie bins may reflect varying stages of settlement upgrading, though this was not explicitly confirmed. Waste collection in these areas is typically weekly, though two municipalities

reported more frequent services, including daily pickups. Collections generally occur from communal drop-off points like skips, with some highly densified areas implementing door-to-door programmes for more effective service. Despite these efforts, illegal dumping persists, underscoring that the current level and frequency of service provision remain insufficient. The findings highlight a pressing need for more consistent, comprehensive waste infrastructure and service delivery across informal settlements in the Western Cape.

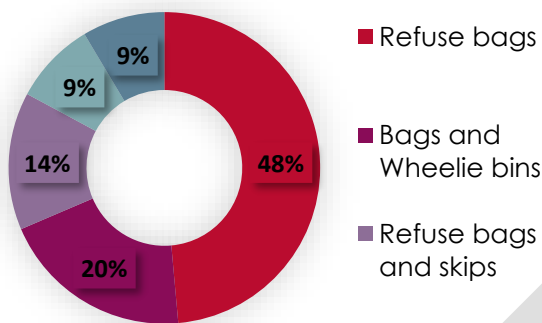


Figure 25: Waste services in informal settlements

Additional dwellings units

While informal settlements pose unique challenges due to their density requiring non-traditional collection methods, the proliferation of small-scale rental units and backyard additional dwellings require a particular focus. According to Scheba (2019), backyarding is one of the fastest growing housing segments in South Africa, in response to the dire need for affordable rental housing in urban areas. According to the CoCT, the City provides for the first weekly bin collection per indigent property free, but the number of households per property in some areas means that this is inadequate. It is often not as simple as supplying more bins, as there is not necessarily space to store them. The City is piloting a higher frequency of collection in certain areas to understand the financial and operational implications. Part of this consideration is understanding the cost of collection, processing and disposal of different waste streams. If the alternative to providing a higher frequency of service in these areas is a higher rate of illegal dumping, it may in fact be more cost-effective to provide the higher level of service without needing to raise further revenue.

Rural Households

The remote locations of rural areas make it more costly for municipalities to provide a refuse collection service to these areas. Many rural households do not receive a weekly refuse collection service; however, some municipalities do provide this service. In many instances, residents are required to drop-off their waste at a landfill or waste drop-off facility (Table 16).

Table 16: Waste collection services provided to rural households

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY	LOCAL MUNICIPALITY / METRO	WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES
Cape Winelands District	Breede Valley	Not indicated
	Drakenstein	- Mini drop-off facilities have been built in rural areas (Drakenstein Municipality, 2019). - All rural households receive refuse collection services.
	Langeberg	Households in rural areas do not have access to refuse collection services. Farmers may bring waste to the closest drop-off or transfer station.
	Stellenbosch	Some removal services exist in rural areas and farming communities. Communities also have access to drop-off facilities (Stellenbosch Municipality, 2024).
	Witzenberg	The Municipality does not provide waste collection services to farms (Witzenberg Municipality, 2021). A landfill or drop-off is available.
Central Karoo District	Beaufort West	All 2527 rural households in the areas of Murraysburg, Nelspoort and Merweville receive a refuse collection service. There are also drop-offs in Murraysburg.
	Laingsburg	All 150 households receive waste collection services in the areas of Matjiesfontein and Vleiland. Drop-offs are also available.
	Prince Albert	The rural municipality provides waste collection to most households. Households have the option to drop off their waste at the waste disposal facility.
Garden Route District	Bitou	Households in rural areas such as Bitou Non-Urban (NU), Bosluiskop and Bossiesgerf typically do not receive a weekly collection service. (Bitou Municipality, 2020) There are waste collection points on the main routes close to rural villages. A waste drop-off facility, transfer station and Skip bins are available where collection is not available.

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	George	The lag in the development of formal housing underscores the challenges faced by the Municipality in keeping pace with the growing demand for services, as well as the difficulties associated with extending services to rural farmlands and informal settlements (George Municipality, 2023).
	Hessequa	Households that are in rural areas do pose a major challenge in terms of service delivery as they are not connected to any form of municipal basic service (Hessequa Municipality, 2023). The Municipality places 32 refuse containers in the different rural areas - eight different routes are serviced with weekly refuse removal. Waste Disposal Facilities are also available to drop off waste.
	Kannaland	Households in rural areas such as Kannaland NU typically do not receive a weekly collection service (Kannaland Municipality, 2020).
	Knysna	- Residents living on farms and in outlying areas can place their refuse along the roads for collection by municipal trucks (Knysna Municipality, 2020). - Brackenhill (appointed service provider for the collection of refuse); Diepwalle - Municipality collects once every second week; Karatara- receives a collection service once a week including surrounding areas which bring their refuse to the nearest main road for collection.
	Mossel Bay	Households in rural areas such as Mossel Bay NU and Jonkerberg State Forest typically do not receive a weekly collection service. A contractor has been appointed to collect waste from rural areas (Mossel Bay Municipality, 2020).
	Oudtshoorn	Households in rural areas such as De Hoop, Oudtshoorn NU and Armoed typically do not receive a weekly collection service (Oudtshoorn Municipality, 2020).
Overberg District	Cape Agulhas	Seventy households in the rural areas of Protem and Klipdale receive refuse collection services. The Municipality does not render refuse removal services to the rural farm areas (Cape Agulhas Municipality, 2023).
	Overstrand	- Drop-off facilities are provided (Overstrand Municipality, 2023). - Households in the rural towns of Baardskeerdersbos and Buffeljachtbaai receive a refuse collection service. The farms in the rural areas do not receive a waste collection service except for farms in the lower Hemel-en-Aarde Valley which have the option to sign up for a collection service. All farms are

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		however allowed to dispose of their general waste at either the Landfill, waste drop-offs or transfer stations. If it is under 1 tonne it is free loads over 1 tonne are charged for.
	Swellendam	Rural areas include Swellendam, Suurbraak, Barrydale and Infanta. Central waste drop-offs and door-to-door collection are available. Basic services are provided to some villages, but not to farms (Swellendam Municipality, 2023).
	Theewaterskloof	Not indicated.
West Coast District	Bergrivier	Collection services are not rendered to farms and rural households due to transport distances (Bergrivier Municipality, 2019). The total number of households in the Municipality is about 19 600. Of the total, about 10 400 households form part of the larger towns and rural towns of Redelinghuys, Aurora, Eendekuil and Dwarskersbos. All these households receive waste collection services from the Municipality. The various farms on the outskirts of the towns and Moravian Church settlements receive private waste collection services. Only Aurora and Eendekuil have drop-offs.
	Cederberg	The rural areas of Khayelitsha, Riverview and Kompong receive waste collection services; the number of households receiving refuse collection services in each area is 4500, 4725 and 201, respectively. Skips and a Waste Disposal Facility are available for residents to drop off their waste.
	Matzikama	- The Municipality does not deliver door-to-door waste collection services to farms due to the large transport distances and remote residence locations. - Households in the rural areas of Molsvlei, Kliprand and Stofkraal receive waste collection services.
	Saldanha Bay	- Waste from farms is not collected by the municipality and farmers take their waste to the landfill and transfer station (Saldanha Bay Municipality, 2022). - Green Village and Koperfontein receive weekly door-to-door waste collection services. Vergelee residents make use of Vredenburg Landfill site, and the Small Holdings in the Hopefield area make use of the Hopefield waste drop-off facility.
	Swartland	- Households outside of urban areas have access to landfill sites, transfer stations and skips. - All rural households can dispose of waste in the nearest communal skip or transfer station.

(Source: DEA&DP, 2025)

4.3.9 Waste Minimisation

Waste minimisation in the Western Cape is supported by a range of municipal, private sector, community-based, and Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) initiatives, with a strong emphasis on waste diversion and organic waste management. Key interventions include separation-at-source (S@S) programmes, material recovery facilities (MRFs), drop-off facilities, buy-back centres, swap shops, and organic waste diversion projects. These initiatives demonstrate ongoing improvements in waste minimisation infrastructure; however, service quality and diversion performance continue to vary significantly across municipalities.

While progress can be seen, it is not always noted in waste minimisation data reporting and considerable efforts are still required to meet the WC IWMP needs and National Waste Management Strategy targets.

Recycling and diversion, while happening, does not reach peak levels of participation and thus contributes to low levels of waste diversion. Additionally, infrastructure for diversion might be available, but there are areas of expansion to be explored in most municipal waste diversion systems, and across varying community types. The most notable of these are within S@S programmes, especially in the split bag systems rolled out by several municipalities.

For organic waste this also means keeping food waste and green waste away from the recyclables and keeping this resource clean, the need to divert food waste and green waste from municipal refuse bags has seen an extensive roll out of home composting bins especially in the CoCT since 2015 which is made freely available to residents on a first come first served basis. Although organic waste diversion initiatives are taking place within municipalities the implementation of municipal OWDPs are slow and limited to implementable projects that offers low costs.

Waste pickers are also not integrated into municipal waste systems, yet they offer an opportunity to service underserved, unreachable areas of concern where illegal dumping is highest.

Waste diversion implementation differs due to differentiated capacity levels, infrastructure, funding, market access, and other reasons. However, through establishing partnerships in the municipal and private sector space, creating larger community connections and implementing large-scale awareness programmes, waste minimisation efforts can progress even further. While the Department is still promoting the establishment of a recycling economy in some municipalities, the Western Cape through its initiatives will transition from a recycling economy to a circular economy

4.3.9.1 Overall Waste Diversion (Hazardous and General Waste)

The NWMS has set diversion targets of 40% within 5 years (i.e. to be reached by 2025), 55% within 10 years (i.e. 2030); and 70% within 15 years (i.e. 2035). The Department encourages, facilitates, and supports local government efforts to minimise waste generation and diversion of waste from landfills. During 2018-2023, there was a steady increase in overall waste diversion (i.e. hazardous and general waste) in the Western Cape. The highest diversion rate was achieved in 2023 at 32%, with a 1% decline to 31% in 2024, see Figure 26.

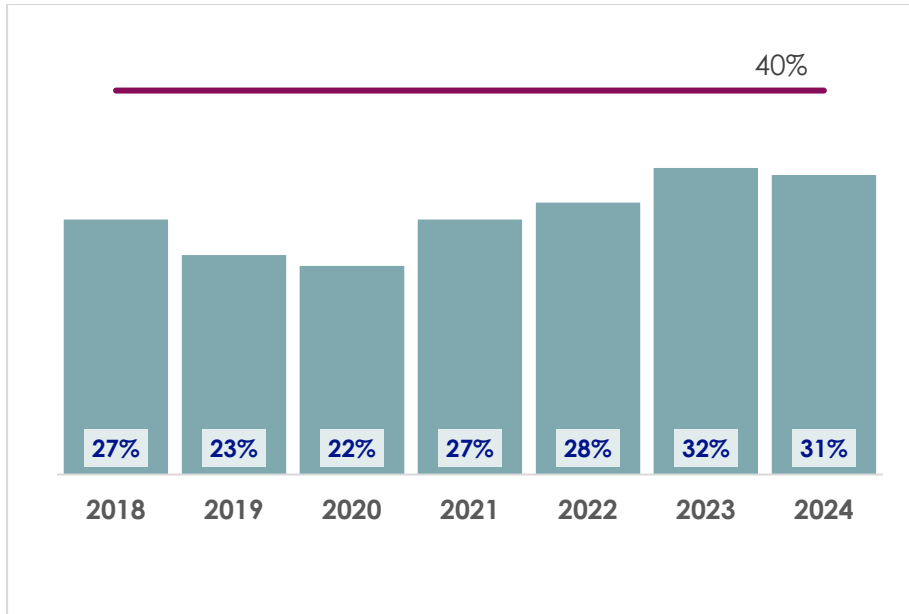


Figure 26: Diversion rate during 2018-2024 compared to NWMS, 2020 target of 40% by 2025 (general and hazardous waste)

The draft NWMS, 2026 is proposing new waste diversion targets i.e. 40% waste diversion within 5 years (i.e. by 2031), 50% within 10 years and at least 60% within 15 years.

4.3.9.2 General Waste Diversion

Table 17 presents the general waste diversion tonnages and associated diversion rates for each district. From 2018 to 2024, there has been a steady long-term improvement in overall waste diversion performance. In 2024, the WCDM and ODM recorded the highest diversion rates, each achieving 39%. The CoCT, ODM, GRDM, and CWDM all show notable increases in diversion when comparing 2018 to 2024. In contrast, both the WCDM and CKDM reflect declines over the same period, with CKDM reporting a 0% diversion rate in 2024 due to the limited waste minimisation initiatives implemented within the district. In 2024, the CoCT diverted 67% of the province's total diverted general waste i.e., 743 912 tonnes, making it the main driver of provincial performance.

Table 17: General waste diversion and rate per district municipality 2018-2024

DISTRICT/ YEAR	DIVERSION (T)							DIVERSION RATE (%)						
	2 018	2 019	2 020	2 021	2 022	2 023	2 024	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
WCDM	89213	78354	65932	70577	77177	78911	92502	42%	38%	36%	33%	34%	38%	39%
CoCT	647506	466802	423162	541082	582426	777649	743912	30%	23%	22%	26%	27%	33%	34%
ODM	50458	48939	39147	64795	68989	62883	65453	36%	35%	26%	38%	42%	39%	39%
GRDM	10464	15448	20029	39920	38167	40331	63018	7%	8%	13%	19%	16%	19%	19%
CKDM	100	56	0	0	395	0	0	2%	1%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%
CWDM	74702	96689	56362	111112	143272	111692	139944	22%	31%	23%	32%	42%	33%	34%
Western Cape	872443	706289	604632	827487	910425	1071466	1104829	29%	24%	23%	27%	29%	33%	33%

4.3.9.3 Organic Waste Diversion

Since 2018, the West Coast, Overberg and Cape Winelands Municipalities and private entities have made great strides in diverting organic waste by supporting and implementing organic waste initiatives in the province. Figure 27 displays organic waste diversion targets with the Departmental organic waste target of 50% by 2022 and the municipal organic diversion rates in relation to meeting the set target.

Achieving maximum utilisation of organic materials through diversion and beneficiation not only reduces contamination in other waste streams and cuts GHG emissions but also conserves valuable landfill airspace. To this end, several municipalities have implemented initiatives such as household garden waste collections, dedicated drop-off sites, and home composting bin programmes. The collected material is typically processed into wood chip/mulch or compost, which is then often provided to the public free of charge, supporting a circular economy. The strategic importance of this diversion is multifaceted. Environmentally, it mitigates potent methane emissions and leachate pollution while extending landfill lifespans. Regulatory compliance, driven by national mandates and the Western Cape's ambitious 100% diversion target by 2027, adds further imperative. Economically, it transforms waste into valuable resources like compost and biogas, stimulates green employment, and generates long-term cost savings.

However, achieving these targets presents significant, interconnected challenges for municipalities. Key barriers include high upfront infrastructure costs, severe budget constraints competing with other essential services, and inconsistent data reporting that undermines accountability. Service delivery gaps - particularly in informal settlements, hinder access to separation systems, while developing sustainable markets for end-products remains difficult. Additionally, institutional fragmentation across departments and the need for sustained public behavioural change pose ongoing hurdles. Consequently, progress remains vulnerable, as evidenced by recent declines in reported diversion rates, underscoring the systemic effort required to translate strategic goals into scalable, practical outcomes.

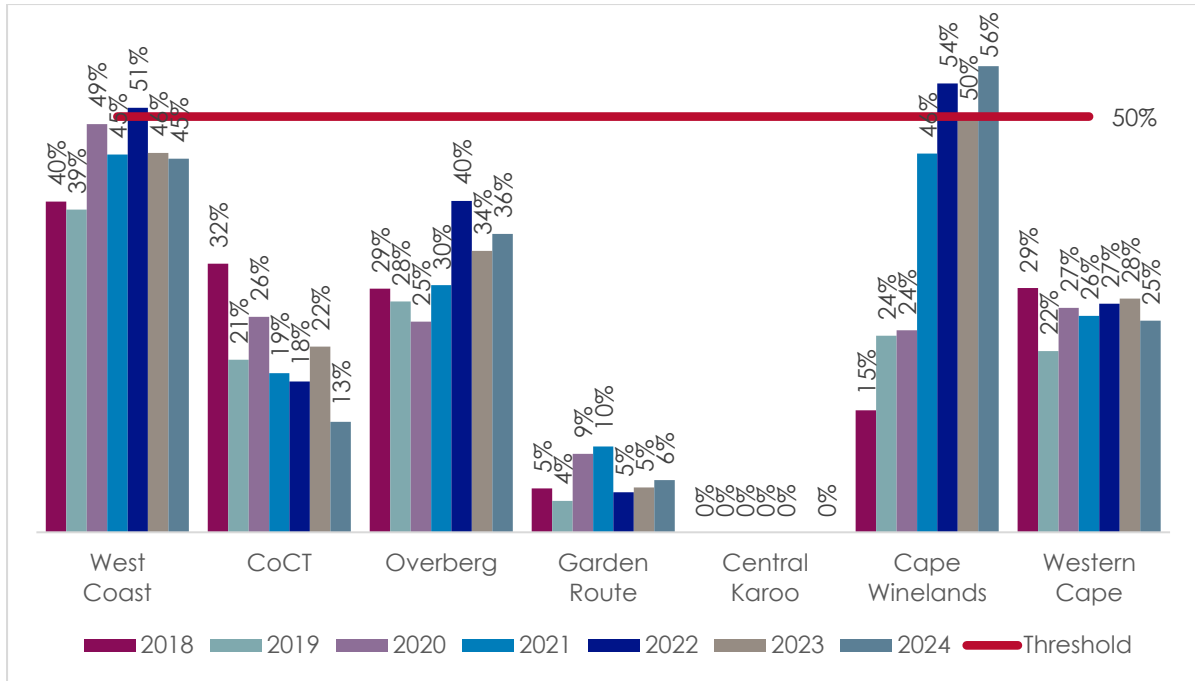


Figure 27: Organic waste diversion in the Western Cape 2018-2024 (with 35% assumption⁶)

Organic Waste Diversion Plans (OWDPs)

Municipalities are required to develop OWDPs to address organic waste diversion in their areas. As of 2025, the Department has received OWDPs from 27 of the 30 municipalities. Of these submissions, 21 are finalised and 6 remain in draft form. Two municipalities have yet to submit their plans, while the Central Karoo District has been granted an exemption as they do not operate a regional waste disposal facility. Included in the finalised count are three district-level plans from the Overberg, Cape Winelands, and Garden Route districts. Detailed information is available in Table 18.

Table 18: Organic Waste Diversion Plan status of municipalities in the Western Cape

DISTRICT	MUNICIPALITY	OWDP STATUS
Cape Winelands	Breede Valley	Draft
	Drakenstein	Final
	Langeberg	Final
	Stellenbosch	Final
	Witzenberg	Final
	Cape Winelands District	Final
Central Karoo	Beaufort West	Draft
	Prince Albert	Draft
	Laingsburg	Final

⁶ The total disposed value per year is the sum of disposed organic waste and 35% of the municipal waste fraction comprises organic waste, based on previous waste characterisation studies.

	Central Karoo District	None (will be exempted from submitting an OWDP)
CoCT	City of Cape Town	Draft
Garden Route	Bitou	Final
	George	Final
	Hessequa	Final
	Kannaland	Final
	Mossel Bay	Final
	Oudtshoorn	Final
	Knysna	Final
	Garden Route District	Final
Overberg	Overstrand	Final
	Swellendam	Draft
	Cape Agulhas	Draft
	Theewaterskloof	Final
	Overberg District	Final
West Coast	Bergrivier	Final
	Cederberg	Final
	Saldanha Bay	Final
	Swartland	Final
	Matzikama	None
	West Coast District	None

The six OWDPs that are still in draft as well as the lack of two (2) OWDPs within the West Coast District are of a concern. The six draft OWDPs would need to be finalised, one of the challenges mentioned by the WMOs is the lack of funding to have them completed. Additionally, an extended period would also be required for completion as council approval of these OWDPs would be needed.

4.3.9.4 Circular Economy Initiatives

Extended Producer Responsibility

EPR is an environmental policy approach where producers are given significant responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products. The goal is to ensure producers pay for the identified material they have placed onto the market at the end of life and to co-invest in municipal infrastructure projects. EPR schemes currently exist for the Paper & Packaging, Electrical & Electronic Equipment (EEE), Lighting, Lubricant Oils, Pesticides and

Portable Batteries industries. There are several PROs and producers registered on the DFFE EPR system across South Africa.

There are 1 889 registered PROs and Producers spread across South Africa, with Gauteng being most concentrated with 896 EPR producers and PROs, while the Western Cape stands at 530, which is the second highest in the country. The Paper and Packaging sector is at 73% and Electrical and Electronic Equipment sectors at 14% are well represented across South Africa. EPR representation in the Western Cape has shown consistent growth, rising from 392 in 2022 to 530 by 2024 (Figure 28). New registrations in 2024 were predominantly from producers, who accounted for 98% of new registrants (equating to 82 producers). The Paper and Packaging sector constitutes the majority (81%) of provincial EPR registrations, followed by the Electrical and Electronic Equipment sector at 8%.

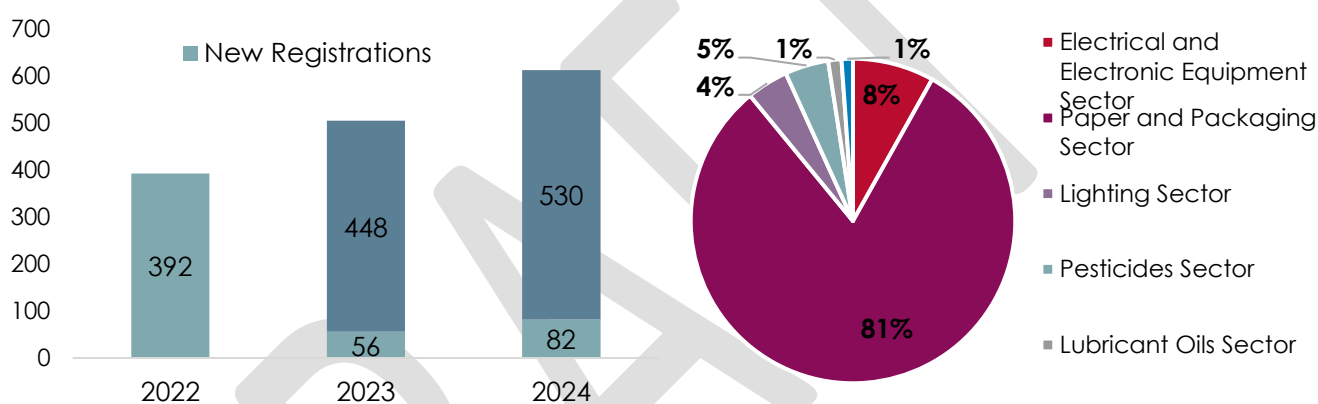


Figure 28: Western Cape EPR growth 2022-2024

Recent DFFE roadshows have highlighted several persistent challenges in EPR implementation. These include ongoing difficulties with the registration process, a lack of transparency in financial reporting, unclear management of surplus funds, problematic payment systems for waste pickers, insufficient progress on environmental labelling, and a notable deficit in infrastructure investment at the municipal level. Furthermore, there are still unknown numbers of producers who have not yet registered as producers or with an EPR scheme, thus making them free riders⁷. DFFE have liaised with the Department of Trade & Industry to ascertain the number of producers for each sector, but this detail is still pending. In the interim, measures are in place to ensure that known free riders are issued with compliance notices to ensure participation in the recovery of their produced materials and increase waste diversion.

EPR/PRO Support to Municipalities

Nine out of 25 municipalities (36%) in the Western Cape benefit from the EPR schemes implemented, highlighting an opportunity to further build and strengthen these partnerships. Despite this, several valuable partnerships have been established to strengthen waste minimisation initiatives. Various PROs have been at the forefront of driving awareness and

⁷ EPR free riders refer to companies that benefit from the environmental and economic advantages of EPR policies without contributing to the costs and efforts of implementing these policies.

education, working with municipalities. Some PROs have sponsored environmental education and awareness programmes, supplying PPE and machinery. Further support to municipalities is being explored as some municipalities indicated engagements that are ongoing with PROs. Polyco has facilitated a buy-back centre development and donated 200 recycling bins to schools, while eWASA has provided waste containers, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and is supporting applications for PPE for waste pickers. Furthermore, an MOU has been signed with Henque Waste, and Extended Producer Responsibility Association (ERA) has contributed two steel bins for the safe collection and disposal of e-waste. These partnerships demonstrate the important role that EPR and PRO organisations play in supporting recycling infrastructure, waste diversion, and community-based waste management initiatives across the Western Cape.

■ Repair and Refurbishment Sector

The Repair and Refurbishment (R&R) sector has the potential to slow down the generation of waste and positively impact consumption patterns. In 2023, the Department developed a Situational Analysis and a "Strategy and Action Plan of the Repair and Refurbish Sector for Household Electrical and Electronic Equipment in the Western Cape". Both documents assisted the Department in obtaining the status quo, looking at functionality and opportunities within the sector benefitting economic growth, job creation and skills development. The key findings of the study are that:

- Many formal repairers and refurbishers are centralised within the CoCT, presenting a need for more formal and informal repairers, refurbishers and recyclers throughout the other districts and local municipalities
- E-waste management by municipalities was limited to open days for the collection of household waste EEE (WEEE) and have partnered with the private sector for the collection and recycling of EEE. The intent is to ensure growth and development of the household EEE repair and refurbishment sector, considering challenges that current members of the value chain experience.
- The informal repair sector is undermined by a preference for new goods and is male dominated. In response, the Department launched a Repair and Refurbishment Skills Training Programme to build on the skills development pillar of the subsequent Strategy and Action Plan. This initiative targets youth from impoverished, high-crime areas, particularly women, to provide skills, mentoring, and equipment for entering the sector, thereby stimulating job creation.

In 2024, the Department completed its first e-waste repair and refurbishment skills development programme, training 15 young women as kitchen appliance repairers. Following graduation, participants were placed in experiential learning opportunities through ERA-NPC and its partners. Lessons from the programme highlighted the importance of selecting candidates with strong commitment and a clear vision for applying their skills, particularly where workplace placements may be limited.

Building on these insights, in 2025, the Department expanded recruitment province-wide, attracting over 500 applications. A rigorous merit-based selection process was implemented, assessing applicants against criteria such as age, qualifications, and location. The final 15 participants were selected following comprehensive screening, including assessments of workplace ethics, professionalism, documentation compliance, and commitment to completing the programme. Unlike the 2024 cohort, which consisted entirely of female

participants, the new intake includes both male and female youth, reflecting a broader and highly competitive recruitment process

4.3.9.5 Municipal Waste Minimisation Initiatives

Waste diversion is largely dependent on the presence of waste minimisation systems specifically designed to facilitate the recovery of post-consumer materials. Municipalities across the province employ a combination of systems tailored to meet the needs of their residents. Figure 29 illustrates the availability of these systems within each municipality. Both Figure 29 and Table 17 demonstrate a clear correlation between system availability and diversion rates; for example, the Central Karoo region reflects limited waste minimisation system, which is mirrored in its low diversion performance. Additional factors including system scale, reporting capacity, and data accuracy, also play a critical role in determining diversion outcomes, and these are acknowledged throughout the document.

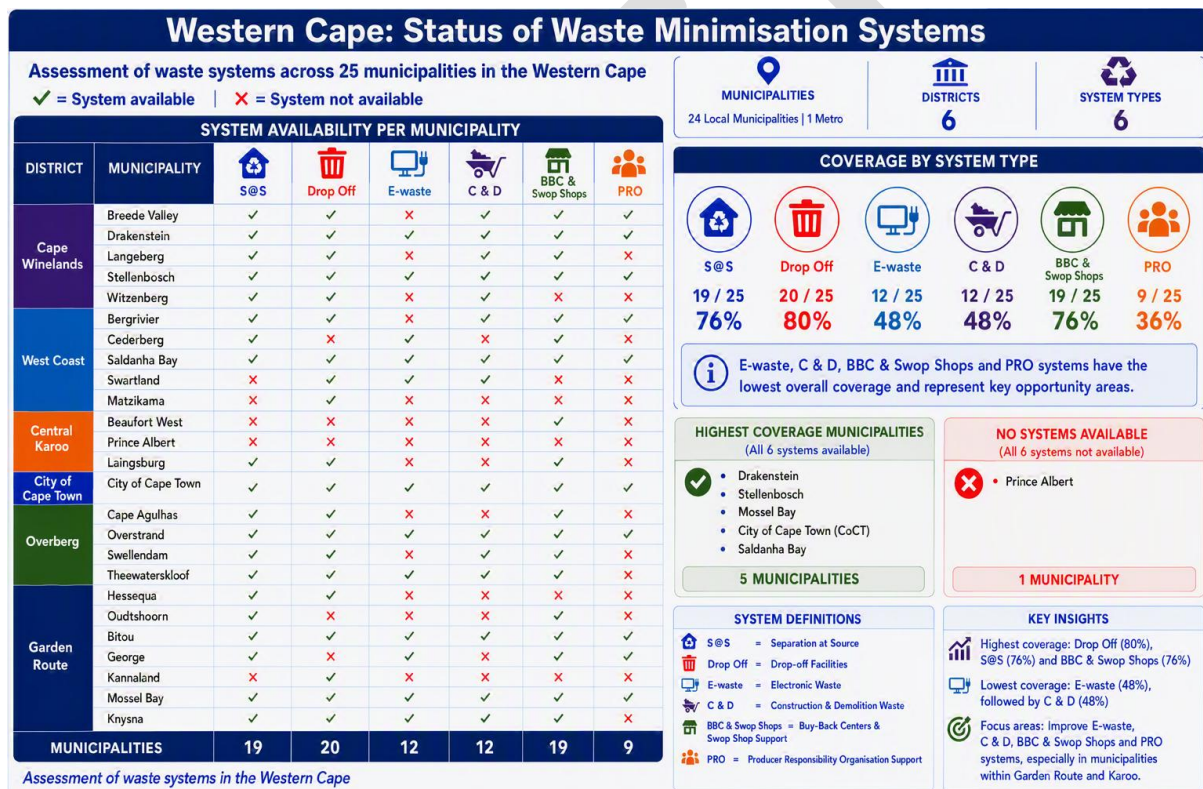


Figure 29: Status of waste minimisation systems across the Western Cape

Separation at Source (S@S) initiatives across the Western Cape municipalities highlight a significant imbalance between highly institutionalized urban, peri-urban and resource constrained rural municipalities. The CoCT drives pilot S@S programmes that are limited to certain areas, while the George, Saldanha Bay, Bergrivier, Overstrand and Cape Agulhas local municipalities manage a structured, multi-tier three-bag collection program rolled out directly to residential zones to separate dry recyclables and organic green waste at the household level. Municipalities such as Oudtshoorn have maintained a steady implementation of its small-scale S@S programme which is promising scalability based on municipal resource availability. Although S@S programmes have been introduced, most projects are implemented in selected residential areas, pilot projects or formal housing developments. Infrastructure availability and

financial constraints continue to be the determining factor for most the under-resourced municipality and this presents an opportunity to capitalise on the opportunities presented by EPR regulations.

Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) across the Western Cape municipalities highlight a sharp operational divide, varying from highly advanced technological pilots to notable structural failures and total infrastructural deficits. Some municipalities such as Overstrand, Saldanha Bay, Langeberg, Bergrivier and the CoCT have shown considerable progress; notably, the Witzenberg Municipal MRF in Ceres and the CoCT municipal MRF in Kraaifontein show greater strides by employing AI technology to actively monitor sorting efficiency. Conversely, rural municipalities, such as those in the Central Karoo reveal severe resource gaps and asset vulnerabilities. Lack of functional MRFs, active S@S programs, or municipal sorting facilities resulting in a high-risk operational reliance where 100% of collected municipal waste is routed directly to landfills.

Across the Western Cape, public drop-off facilities municipalities are broadly available, serving as vital operational hubs for separation of recyclable material. These widely provide a free service of roughly 1-1.5 tonnes for garden and recyclable waste and areas like the Witzenberg municipality, have successfully provided an incentive to residents whereby residents receive a R3 rebate on utility accounts when dropping off garden waste at the drop-off. Various municipalities including Bergrivier, Saldanha Bay and Swellendam have leveraged the EPR support and acquired specialised e-waste containers and household kitchen caddies provided by PROs like EWASA, PETCO, and METPAC. Conversely, drop-off facilities in less resourced; rural municipalities are experiencing localised operational challenges and accessibility. Areas facing severe infrastructural backlogs like the Cederberg, Oudtshoorn, Matzikama and the Central Karoo, has a reliance on open public skips at temporary drop-off sites, which are targeted by vagrancy, illegal dumping, and arson.

Buy-back Centres and Swop Shops are the third most prevalent waste minimisation systems in the Western Cape, after separation at source and drop-off systems with coverage in 18 out of 25 municipalities (72%). Their strong presence across the province demonstrates a significant commitment to promoting recycling, waste diversion, and community participation in the circular economy. However, support remains absent in several municipalities, particularly in parts of the Central Karoo and some West Coast and Garden Route areas, highlighting opportunities to further expand these facilities and improve access to recycling initiatives throughout the Western Cape. This is especially vital for areas that have challenges reaching informal areas due to spatial limitations. These systems provide a benefit to the communities by assisting with diverting waste from the area and providing an income especially to waste pickers and also provide access to essential goods via the swop shops.

Waste Minimisation in priority areas:

- **C&D Waste:** A lack of alternative use for C&D waste in the province is ongoing and continues to contribute to illegal dumping. Forty-eight percent of municipalities in the province have indicated reuse of C&D waste mainly through crushing and utilising the waste as landfill cover.
- **e-Waste:** The PRO interventions across the province have presented an increase in municipalities accepting e-waste for drop-off, thus seeing an increase in diversion initiatives of e-waste from landfill including a decrease in stockpiling. Forty-eight percent of municipalities implemented a form of e-waste recovery in 2025. Majority of these municipalities indicated collaborations with PROs, mainly the provision of collection bins for public drop-off.

- **Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHPs):** Currently classified in the draft NWMS 2026 as a priority waste stream. In research undertaken in 2025, it is evident that many municipalities are not prepared for the strategy as most do not have waste characterisation data that include an AHP waste category. This further implies that large quantities of AHP waste are mainly discarded as general waste bound for landfilling.
- **Organic Waste:** Organic waste is a recognised global issue, also affecting South Africa which creates significant environmental, social and economic challenges. With the provincial organic waste prohibition from landfill by 2027 in effect, municipal OWDP implementation is still slow, and initiatives were mainly aimed at chipping and composting with little to no attention given to food waste diversion. The large organic waste portion found in municipal waste bags represents potential for increased diversion efforts.

4.3.9.6 Integration of Waste Pickers into the Waste Management System

Waste pickers play a pivotal role in ensuring that valuable materials are not being landfilled. Many operate in the streets, going through waste bins and removing waste from open areas and others are operating on landfills, where they remove the recyclables before it is compacted. In doing so, however, they face many dangers and threats and there is a need to integrate this sector to negate possible future litigation against the Municipality in relation to the conditions of the waste management authorisations. The need to integrate has been realised on a national level, and the NWMS requires municipalities to integrate them into their waste collection services. Furthermore, recent EPR regulations require producers/PROs to integrate waste pickers into post-consumer collection value chains and importantly, compensate them through a collection service fee. For these waste pickers to be remunerated, they must be registered on the National Registration Database. The Department is providing ongoing support to municipalities to support this requirement and linking with buy-back centres and PROs to ensure that support reaches the waste pickers. To date, integration efforts have been slow and challenged as many municipalities are struggling to engage with this sector, as waste pickers prefer to work on their own, without formalisation or leadership. There is also the need to balance integration efforts with resident sensitisation, as many do not want waste pickers in their areas, mostly due to perceived (and sometimes real) safety concerns. However, some integration has been achieved, viz in Drakenstein LM and Cape Agulhas LM. The Department also continues to engage with Municipalities on this topic and supports integration efforts as much as possible, including promoting consultation with the Waste Picker Integration Guideline for South Africa.

Integration of the guideline has been achieved at certain municipalities, e.g. Drakenstein LM integrated approximately 20 waste pickers at their MRF recovery system initiated in 2022 and Cape Agulhas LM integrated seven waste pickers in a composting and vegetable farm project. A service provider was appointed in 2023 via a formal contract to run both projects. The Cape Agulhas LM waste pickers have been trained on good quality soil composting, with the support of a company called Soil for Life. The project entails the complete separation of kitchen waste from approximately 100 households in the Zwelitsha informal area. The organic waste vegetable farm is being established on 7 hectares of land near the composting facility. Witzenberg LM employed Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers to sort waste at the MRF, however these contracts are on a 6-month basis only. The Department has encouraged the use of the local waste pickers; however this has not yet been incorporated. Further support is offered through facilitating connections with PROs who are responsible for

realising the actions and targets of the EPR schemes. The national registration system has not been finalised and many PROs have, as an alternative, created their own registration systems to ensure that waste pickers get remunerated for collecting identified products. During 2023, Polyco, a PRO working with plastic packaging, assisted in registering approximately 60 waste pickers at a local buy-back centre in Stellenbosch.

The Department has an ongoing project to monitor and support waste pickers operating in the province. The data gathered over time, from engagements with *inter alia* buy-back centres, facility audits, and during landfill visits, shows that waste pickers are present in all the municipal areas, except Swartland LM. It is currently estimated that there are more than 2000 waste pickers across the province. This is likely a gross underestimation, especially as the CoCT was not a focused region in this project, yet many do operate in this area. Of the total estimated waste pickers, 924 or 46% are female, see Table 19. The findings show through engagements with buy-back centres where waste pickers sell the material they collect; they range in age from 15-80 years old and include people with disabilities.

Table 19: Estimated number of waste pickers across the Western Cape⁸

DISTRICT	WASTE PICKERS	FEMALES	MALES
West Coast	289	124	165
Cape Winelands	558	189	369
Central Karoo	58	9	49
Garden Route	531	256	275
Overberg	290	162	128
City of Cape Town	300	184	116
Total	2026	924	1102

4.3.10 Energy Recovery

There are significant challenges in managing municipal waste due to rapid urbanisation and inadequate disposal systems. Most of the waste generated is landfilled or dumped illegally with only small fraction being recycled or recovered. Landfills contribute to environmental pollution, GHG emissions, and public health risks (SALGA, nd). According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa generates approximately 12.7 million tonnes of municipal waste per year (UNEP, 2022). AWT technology projects can provide a sustainable solution to waste management and energy security issues.

Waste-to-energy (WtE) conversion refers to the process of transforming non-recyclable waste materials into usable forms of energy, including electricity, heat, and biofuels. This process typically involves thermal or biochemical treatment methods, which break down organic matter within the waste to release energy in the form of heat or gas (SALGA, nd). Some of the WtE technologies include:

⁸ **Note:** These are estimates based on various sources (previous datasets, site visits, audits, etc.)

- **Incineration:** Incineration involves the combustion of waste at high temperatures, converting organic materials into heat energy. This heat can then be used to generate steam and drive turbines to produce electricity. Incineration is well suited for processing mixed municipal solid waste and can significantly reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills.
- **Anerobic Digestion:** Anaerobic digestion utilises microorganisms to break down organic waste in the absence of oxygen, producing biogas as a by-product. Biogas, primarily composed of methane and carbon dioxide, can be captured and used as a renewable fuel source for heating, electricity generation, or vehicle fuel. Anaerobic digestion is particularly effective for processing organic waste streams such as food waste, sewage sludge, and agricultural residues.
- **Gasification:** Gasification involves heating waste materials in a low-oxygen environment to produce synthesis gas (syngas), a mixture of carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and other gases. Syngas can be combusted directly for heat and power generation or further processed into liquid fuels or chemicals. Gasification offers flexibility in feedstock types and can handle a wide range of waste materials, including biomass, plastics, and municipal solid waste.
- **Pyrolysis:** Pyrolysis involves heating waste materials in the absence of oxygen to produce bio-oil, syngas, and char. Bio-oil can be refined into liquid fuels, syngas can be used for power generation, and char can be utilised as a soil amendment or carbonaceous material. Pyrolysis is well suited for processing biomass and organic waste streams, offering high energy recovery rates and minimal emissions.

The South African National Energy Development Institute has developed a WtE Roadmap to facilitate the integration of WtE technologies in municipalities. The Roadmap has identified the following by-products which WtE technologies can produce (Table 20):

Table 20: By-products from WtE technologies

WTE TECHNOLOGY	BY-PRODUCTS
Incineration	High- pressure steam, ash and exhaust gases
Pyrolysis	Raw syngas, bio-oil, ash, char and metals
Conventional Gasification	Raw syngas, bio-oil, ash, slag and metals
Plasma Arc Gasification	Raw syngas, inorganic materials and vitrified slag
Anaerobic Digestion (Single & Double stage)	Methane gas, Hydrogen, digestate
Landfill Gas Extraction	Biogas, methane gas

(Source: Grewan & Trois, 2023)

WtE projects face several challenges that can hinder their success. Some of these factors include:

- Technological complexities and operational risks due to diverse waste streams.
- High upfront capital costs and financial viability concerns.
- Potential social acceptance issues and community resistance to projects (SALGA, nd).
- The need for a focused WtE policy and clarity on licensing requirements (IEA, 2023).

There have been many licensing applications for WtE projects over the years. Current records show that Environmental Authorisations were issued by DFFE and/or DEAD&DP for 13 biogas plants, two pyrolysis plants and two incineration facilities. It is unknown at this stage how many of these developments have commenced with construction or are currently operating.

The Swellendam Municipality issued a tender for a WtE solution for general and certain hazardous waste types from the Municipality. The dual aim of the project was to divert waste from landfill whilst providing a localized energy solution. The tender ran through several phases, however the Municipality decided that due to various challenges, it was not suitable to pursue this option further. With the roll out of the WtE Roadmap by the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) and the focus of WtE by SALGA that more Municipalities can implement WtE solutions where suitable.

4.3.11 Waste Treatment

The NEM: WA defines waste treatment as follows “*means any method, technique or process that is designed to change the physical, biological or chemical character or composition of a waste; or remove, separate, concentrate or recover a hazardous or toxic component of a waste; or destroy or reduce the toxicity of a waste, in order to minimise the impact of the waste on the environment prior to further use or disposal*”. The treatment of general and hazardous waste is discussed below:

4.3.11.1 General Waste

The Province is actively aiming to shift from a linear disposal model toward a circular economy. This strategy prioritizes waste minimisation and promotes the hierarchy of reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery (treatment). The province encourages recycling through various drop-

off sites for recyclable materials. This helps in diverting waste from landfills and promoting resource recovery. Diverting organic waste has been a top priority to ensure the province meets the set landfill organic waste diversion targets of 50% of organic waste from going to landfill by 2022, and 100% prohibition of organic waste to landfill by 2027.

The CoCT's Draft Budget 2024/25: Infrastructure Plan, refers to an upgrade and expansion of their existing composting operations at facilities like the Kraaifontein Integrated Waste Management Facility, to increase capacity and efficiency using engineered Aerated Static Pile (ASP) technology and to handle increased volumes of source-separated organic waste (garden greens). ASP composting is an advanced method where piles of organic waste are placed over a network of pipes that blow air into the pile. This controls oxygen and temperature, speeding up decomposition, killing pathogens and weeds, and minimizing odours compared to traditional windrow composting. This move to engineered ASP systems is a direct response to the need for higher throughput, better compliance with compost quality standards, and improved odour management, all critical for processing municipal volumes of organic waste efficiently and acceptably.

4.3.11.2 Hazardous Waste

Healthcare risk waste (HCRW) is regulated under two main laws, the NEM:WA and the National Health Act. It is either treated by incineration or autoclaved and shredded prior to disposal. HCRW treatment facilities face various challenges due to infrastructure and operations due to an over-reliance on a limited number of incineration facilities. Insufficient waste segregation at source often occurs at hospitals and clinics, where poor segregation of HCRW from general waste can lead to increased volumes and cost, as more waste is unnecessarily treated and recycled general waste can become contaminated. BCL Medical Waste Management is the only organization in the CoCT that is currently authorised to operate an incinerator plant. They are one of two (2) incinerator facilities in the Western Cape - BCL Medical Waste and Averda George. BCL operates both incineration and non-burn treatment (autoclaving) at its facility. They sterilize waste, resulting in a sharps-free, non-infectious residual waste that is then sent to landfill. The "ash" is the output of their incineration process, not the non-burn treatment. Compass Medical Waste specialises in autoclave-based treatment, which uses high-pressure steam to sterilize waste. This method is favoured for its lower hazardous air emissions compared to incineration. The infectious and sharp waste is treated via autoclave and anatomical, pharmaceutical and cytotoxic waste is contracted out to licensed incinerators in the service area with the closest proximity to the point of generation.

Greening of Health Care Waste Management

The installation of Alternate Healthcare Risk Waste Disposal Systems at these major public hospitals represents a significant decentralization strategy by the Western Cape Department of Health & Wellness in partnership with the DEA&DP. These systems are strategically installed on-site, non-burn treatment systems - primarily autoclaves at eight major public hospitals, namely:

- Khayelitsha District Hospital
- George Hospital
- Paarl Hospital
- Worcester Hospital
- Karl Bremer Hospital

- Red Cross Children's Hospital
- New Somerset Hospital
- Vredenburg Hospital
- Mitchell's Plain Hospital

This initiative is a core component of a decentralization strategy designed to build a more resilient, cost-effective, and environmentally sound HCRW management system. The primary goal is to eliminate the need for long-distance transport of untreated infectious waste to the province's limited incinerators, thereby cutting logistical and treatment costs, reducing carbon emissions, and mitigating spillage risks. These alternate systems sterilize and compact infectious and sharps waste on-site, reducing its volume by up to 80% and converting it into a non-hazardous residue suitable for landfill disposal. This approach directly addresses critical infrastructure challenges and geographic disparities in service access. However, it is not a complete solution as anatomical, cytotoxic, and pharmaceutical waste still requires off-site incineration.

The selection of hospitals reflects a phased roll-out targeting both high-volume metropolitan facilities and key regional hubs where transport savings are greatest. This program illustrates the province's commitment to implementing Best Environmental Practice (BEP) technologies, aligning with One Health principles and its broader circular economy and waste diversion targets. While it shifts some operational responsibility to hospital staff and requires significant upfront investment, the initiative marks a substantial step toward a sustainable and self-sufficient HCRW treatment network for the Western Cape.

4.3.12 Waste Disposal

4.3.12.1 General Waste

There was a slight increase in the volume of general waste disposed of over the 2018-2024 period, from approximately 2.1 million tonnes in 2018 to 2.3 million tonnes in 2023 (Figure 30). The percentage of waste disposed of has however declined over time, except for 2024, when there was a slight reversal. The decline in disposal percentage is due to an increase in the diversion rate over time. Municipal waste makes up the largest portion of waste disposed of at landfills, followed by commercial and industrial waste (Figure 31). Commercial and industrial waste shows a clear downward disposal trend post-2021, whereas other streams either increase or fluctuate without sustained reduction.

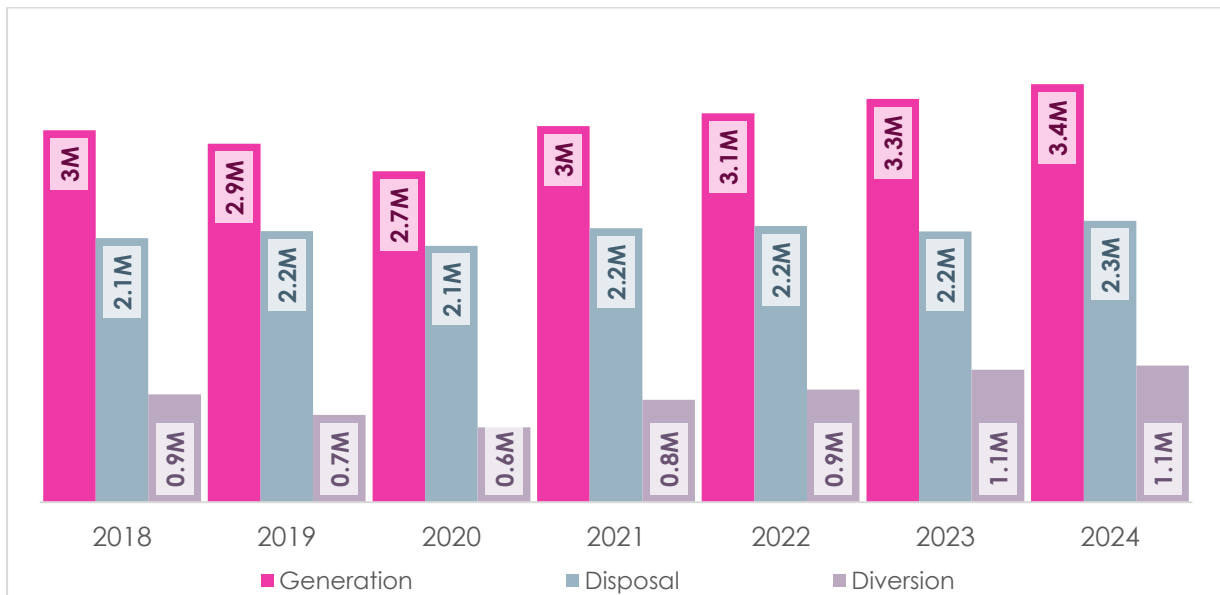


Figure 30: Waste generation, disposal and diversion in the Western Cape 2018-2024

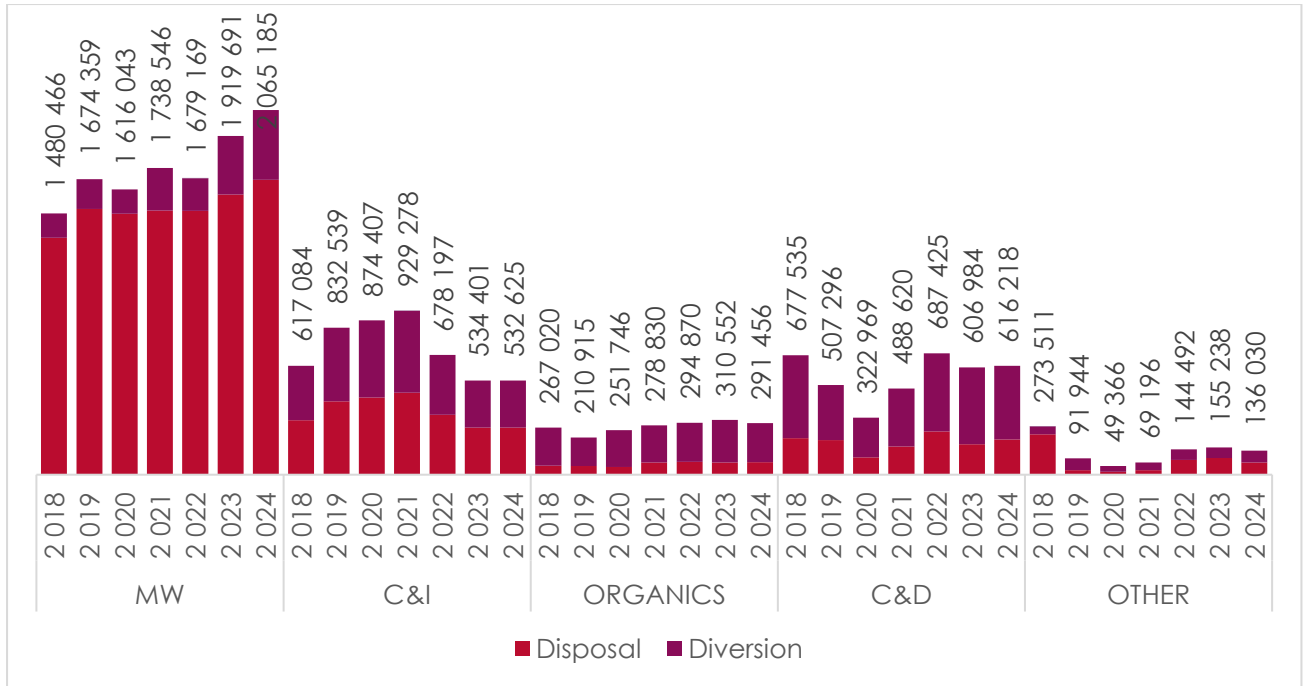


Figure 31: Waste types disposed of 2018-2024 (tonnes)

4.3.12.2 Hazardous Waste

In general, municipalities are not involved with hazardous waste collection from the private sector. There are three (3) sites registered on the IPWIS for Hazardous Waste disposal and located in the CoCT and Mossel Bay, namely Vissershok (municipal) WDF, the privately owned Vissershok (private) WDF and PetroSA WDF in Mossel Bay.

● PetroSA Hazardous Waste Facility

Over the last seven years, PetroSA historically contributed 28% of all hazardous waste disposed of in the Western Cape. Disposal volumes fell from an average of 10,163 tonnes in 2018 to zero tonnes by 2024 (Figure 32). Most of the hazardous waste previously disposed of at PetroSA was classified as “other organic waste without halogens or sulphur”, which originates from bacteriological and lime-treated digested sewage sludge, also referred to as biological sludge after treatment. The notable spikes in disposal observed in July 2018, December 2018, and January 2019 resulted from the clearance of stockpiled sludge. This material required drying to comply with landfill prohibitions, which forbid waste with a liquid content exceeding 40%. These clearance periods align with the plant's routine maintenance cycle, which occurs every three years due to the accumulation of biological sludge.

The decline in in waste disposal is due to the facility no longer accepting hazardous waste. This may in turn have created logistical, and cost Implications for industry in the Garden Route who now have to transport hazardous waste further away.

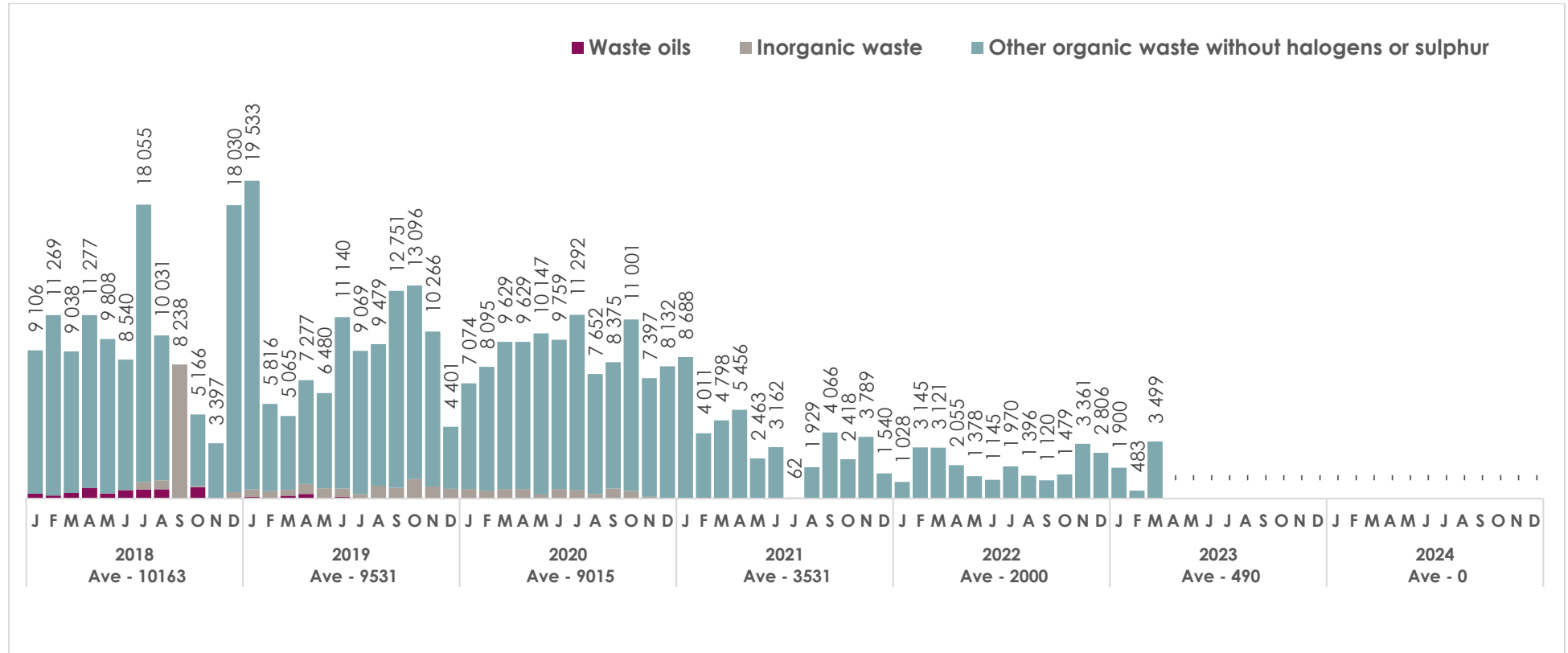


Figure 32: PetroSA hazardous waste disposal 2018-2024 (tonnes)

● Vissershok Municipal Waste Disposal Facility

Historically, the Vissershok CoCT municipal site accounted for 4% of all hazardous waste disposal over the last seven years. However, in 2024, this share increased significantly to 11% of total hazardous waste generation. An analysis of waste streams shows that miscellaneous waste and waste oils at the CoCT site decreased substantially after mid-2019 and have remained low since. In contrast, tarry waste volumes have risen gradually

over the years, with the largest amounts recorded in 2024 (Figure 33). Upon investigation, this notable increase in tarry waste has been traced back to activities within the CoCT itself and is likely linked to road construction and related infrastructure projects in the City.

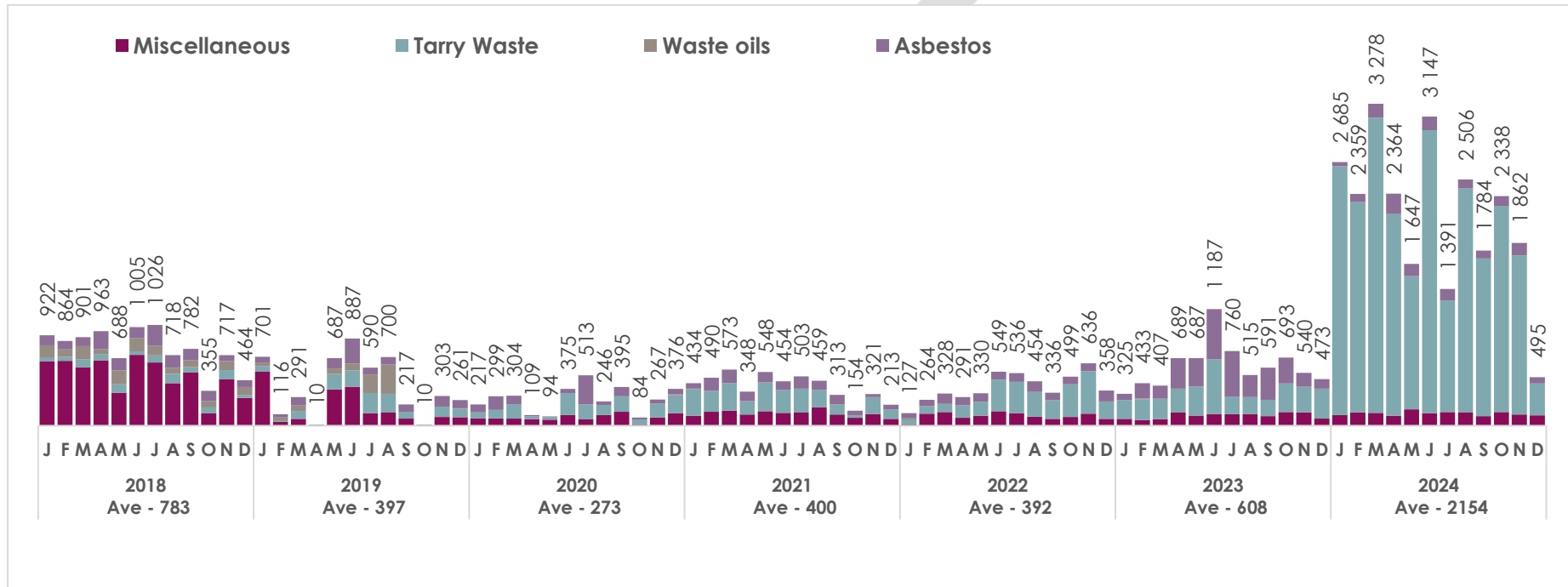


Figure 33: Vissershok CoCT Hazardous Waste disposal 2018-2024 (tonnes)

● Vissershok Private Waste Disposal Facility

The Vissershok facility operated by Enviroserv has been the dominant site for hazardous waste disposal in the Western Cape, accounting for 69% of all hazardous waste disposal over the last seven years (Figure 34). This share increased significantly to 86% of total hazardous waste generation in 2024. The facility manages three primary waste streams: inorganic waste, sewage (biological) waste, and miscellaneous waste. Analysis shows a clear shift in their composition over this period where inorganic waste has decreased substantially from 2018 to 2024. Atlantis Foundries, one of the major contributors of inorganic waste has embarked on sand reclamation, initiated in recent years to reduce disposal of this waste stream to

landfill, which could be the reason for the sharp decline. Sewage waste has increased during the same timeframe. Miscellaneous waste has risen significantly since mid-2023. Investigations trace most of this increase to waste originating from two major metal industry entities and petroleum refineries.

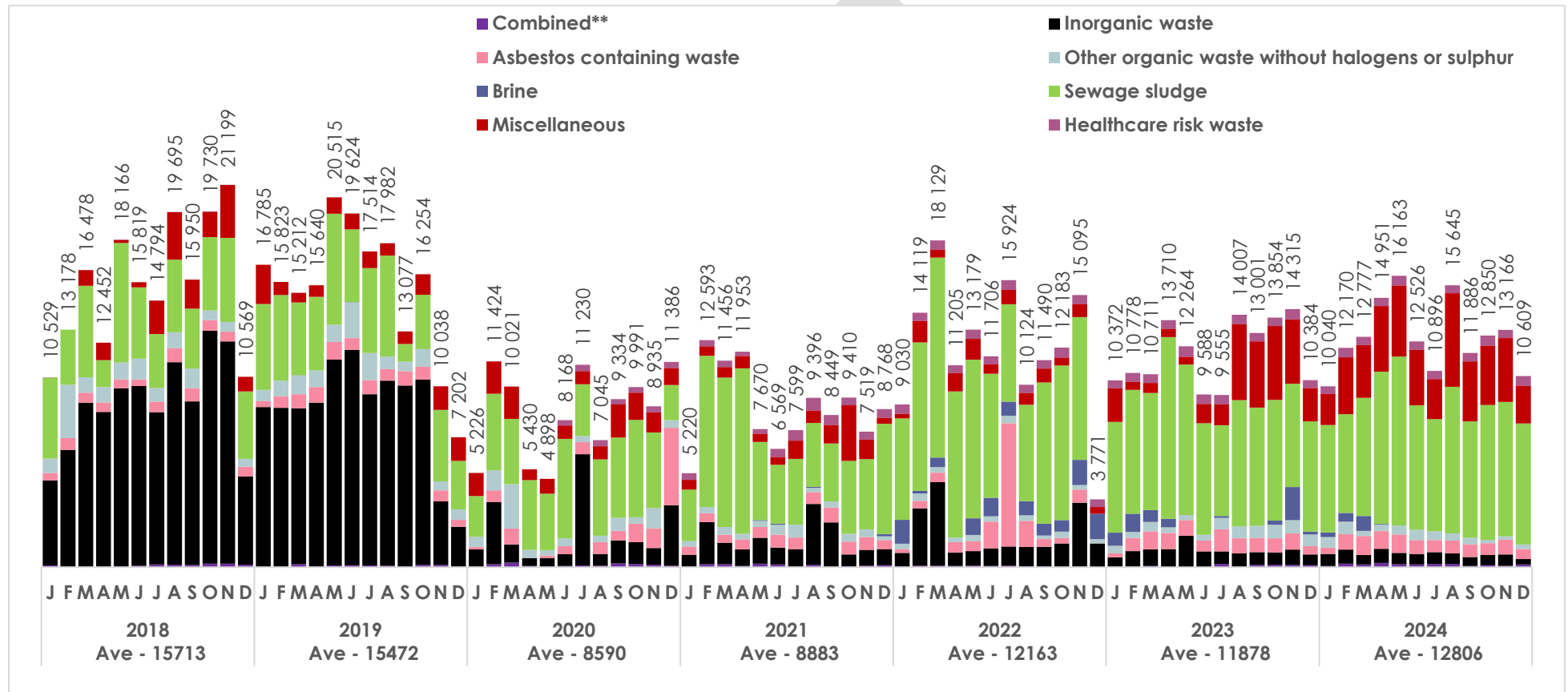


Figure 34: Vissershok private Hazardous Waste disposal 2018-2024 (tonnes)

4.3.12.3 Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping is prevalent across all municipalities in the Western Cape, with clean-up costs placing a significant burden on municipal budgets. While the total volume of illegally dumped waste has not yet been fully quantified, the scale of the problem is substantial. In 2023, the Department identified priority interventions through the Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping (STRID), noting that many measures had not been widely implemented by municipalities. Municipalities largely rely on the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) for clean-up operations; however, waste often re-accumulates within days as root causes remain unaddressed. In response, municipalities have implemented pilot projects and awareness campaigns to encourage community participation, though approaches vary due to differing socio-economic conditions and budget constraints.

As a result, each municipality must adopt a context-specific approach to preventing illegal dumping. The most commonly dumped materials are construction and demolition (C&D) waste and general domestic refuse. Hotspots are typically located in informal settlements, high-density residential areas, open spaces, and along access roads to waste disposal facilities, where after-hours dumping occurs to avoid disposal fees. The CoCT manages approximately 2,700 illegal dumping hotspots, removing about 232,714 tonnes of waste annually, with clean-ups ranging from a few to over 180 times per year. Other municipalities report 20 to over 80 hotspots, requiring 30 to 100 clean-up operations per month,

● Impacts of Illegal Dumping

The environmental impact of illegal dumping is severe, with windblown plastic and paper polluting vast land areas, rivers, and the ocean. This pollution leads to environmental degradation and poses a direct threat to public health. The social impact is profound, exposing residents to health risks from contaminated air and water while degrading their quality of life. The financial burden is significant, with municipalities spending millions annually on clean-up operations. For example, the CoCT spent over R623 million on clean-ups between 2016 and 2020. Major cost drivers include the use of heavy machinery and the need for recurrent visits to the same sites. Current clean-up methods are hindered by systemic issues, including the short-term nature of EPWP contracts and a lack of permanent, supervised municipal staff. Other significant barriers include logistical challenges in waste removal, high worker turnover due to low wages, and a persistent lack of civic responsibility. Ultimately, clean-up efforts have not yielded long-term success, with illegal dumping volumes continuing to rise despite continuous municipal interventions.

● Key Goals, Barriers, and Solutions from the Western Cape STRID

A summary of the key goals, barriers, and solutions from the Western Cape STRID as it presents a multifaceted approach to tackle illegal dumping, centred on seven interconnected goals is shown in Table 21. The strategy concludes that reducing illegal dumping requires a multi-pronged, locally tailored approach. Success depends on community ownership, addressing root causes, and piloting scalable interventions based on evidence from hotspot mapping and engagement.

Table 21: Key goals, barriers, and solutions from the Western Cape STRID

GOAL	BARRIERS	SOLUTIONS
Governance		
Strengthen municipal structures, budgeting, and policies.	Fragmented departments cause confusion and competing priorities. Limited budgets favour reactive clean-ups over prevention. Tariffs do not cover the full cost of waste management.	Improve coordination across departments. Review and align tariffs with true service costs. Use tender agreements to enforce service standards (e.g., cleaning around skips).
Waste Collection Systems		
Improve infrastructure and service delivery, especially in informal settlements.	Inadequate bins and facilities; skips are misused, vandalised, or overflow; narrow streets hinder collection trucks; backyard dwellers often lack access.	Tailor systems (skips, mini-drop-offs) to local needs via community consultation. Increase bin provision. Service skips promptly. Use ramps for accessibility.
Innovation		
Leverage technology and behavioural insights.	Lack of funding, data, and public awareness; resistance to change; bureaucratic hurdles.	Use "green nudges" (e.g., footprints leading to bins). Explore AI and drones for hotspot monitoring. Create illegal dumping databases and public apps for reporting.
Partnerships		
Strengthen collaboration between municipalities, communities, NGOs, and the private sector.	Budget constraints, bureaucratic processes (like PPPs), lack of trust, and restrictive by-laws.	Partner with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and SMMEs. Co-design solutions with communities. Build inter-departmental partnerships, especially with Human Settlements.
Enforcement		
Strengthen by-law implementation and capacity.	By-laws are often unenforced, outdated, or unknown. Lack of dedicated enforcement officers and training.	Adopt and update by-laws aligned with national law. Designate dedicated solid waste law enforcement officials. Train Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs).

Education and Awareness		
Build public understanding and engagement.	Limited municipal resources, low public trust, ineffective communication channels, and unappealing content.	Use participatory research and social media with local influencers. Employ relatable storytelling and public art. Communicate in local languages and use municipal bills for awareness.
Monitoring and Evaluation		
Track progress and adapt interventions based on evidence.	Random dumping patterns make planning difficult. Lack of funding, resources, and community engagement post-clean-up	Develop tracking systems (GIS mapping of hotspots, costs). Use applications such as SeeClickFix and TrashOut for public reporting. Conduct impact assessments to identify the most cost-effective interventions.

4.3.13 Waste Management Infrastructure

Municipal waste infrastructure includes waste disposal facilities, waste separation and collection systems, waste treatment facilities and growing diversion efforts, but this infrastructure and efforts are under severe pressure from the shrinking landfill airspace, unequal service delivery, financial constraints and management challenges. Historically poor permit design and licence holder implementation together with inadequate airspace management have intensified landfill capacity risks, requiring reforms such as topographic surveys, improved compaction practices, and aggressive waste diversion and alternative treatment facilities. Service and infrastructure gaps persist, particularly between formal and informal areas and between metros and smaller municipalities, while specialised facilities and transport solutions remain uneven or underdeveloped. As a result, despite circular economy goals and existing infrastructure, systemic constraints continue to hinder progress toward an integrated, sustainable waste management system and meaningful landfill relief.

Preserving landfill airspace requires aggressive implementation of waste separation at source, diversion initiatives, and alternative waste treatment (AWT) technologies aligned with a circular economy approach. The province is responding by advancing regional landfill developments in the Garden Route (Mossel Bay), West Coast (Matzikama), and Cape Winelands (Worcester) districts and the private-sector-operated regional facilities at Vissershok and PetroSA, due to their operational efficiency and specialised expertise. In addition, investment in material recovery facilities, transfer stations, composting facilities, and AWT technologies is identified as critical to reducing landfill dependence, extending landfill lifespans, and ensuring long-term, sustainable waste management infrastructure across the Western Cape.

Sustained long term waste management services and infrastructure for the Western Cape is required in the medium to long term, and it is the Department's intention to initiate a process via National Treasury to apply for 3 billion Rand via the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) process, the associated funds and co-funding will support all the applicable municipalities with the above-mentioned waste infrastructure.

4.3.13.1 Number and Type of Facilities

The Western Cape's waste management operating system relies on 180 out of 278 facilities, which are crucial for handling all the waste within the province (Table 22) (Figure 35). There are 98 decommissioned WDFs which have either stopped receiving waste or taking in low volumes and limited waste such as builder's rubble and green waste until the decommissioning of the facilities commences.

These decommissioned WDF's continue to be a significant financial risk to the responsible municipalities, as the annual Auditor General MFMA and Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) reports display substantial costs associated with the decommissioning process. The existing operational facilities face significant challenges, including limited landfill airspace, aging infrastructure, financial constraints, and pressure from rapid urbanisation.

Due to the rapidly diminishing airspace, there is a growing need to develop regional landfill capacity and implement AWT technologies to alleviate pressure on existing WDFs. Addressing these challenges requires a shift toward a circular economy approach. This involves minimising waste generation, designing products for reuse and recycling, and establishing closed-loop systems that support waste beneficiation.

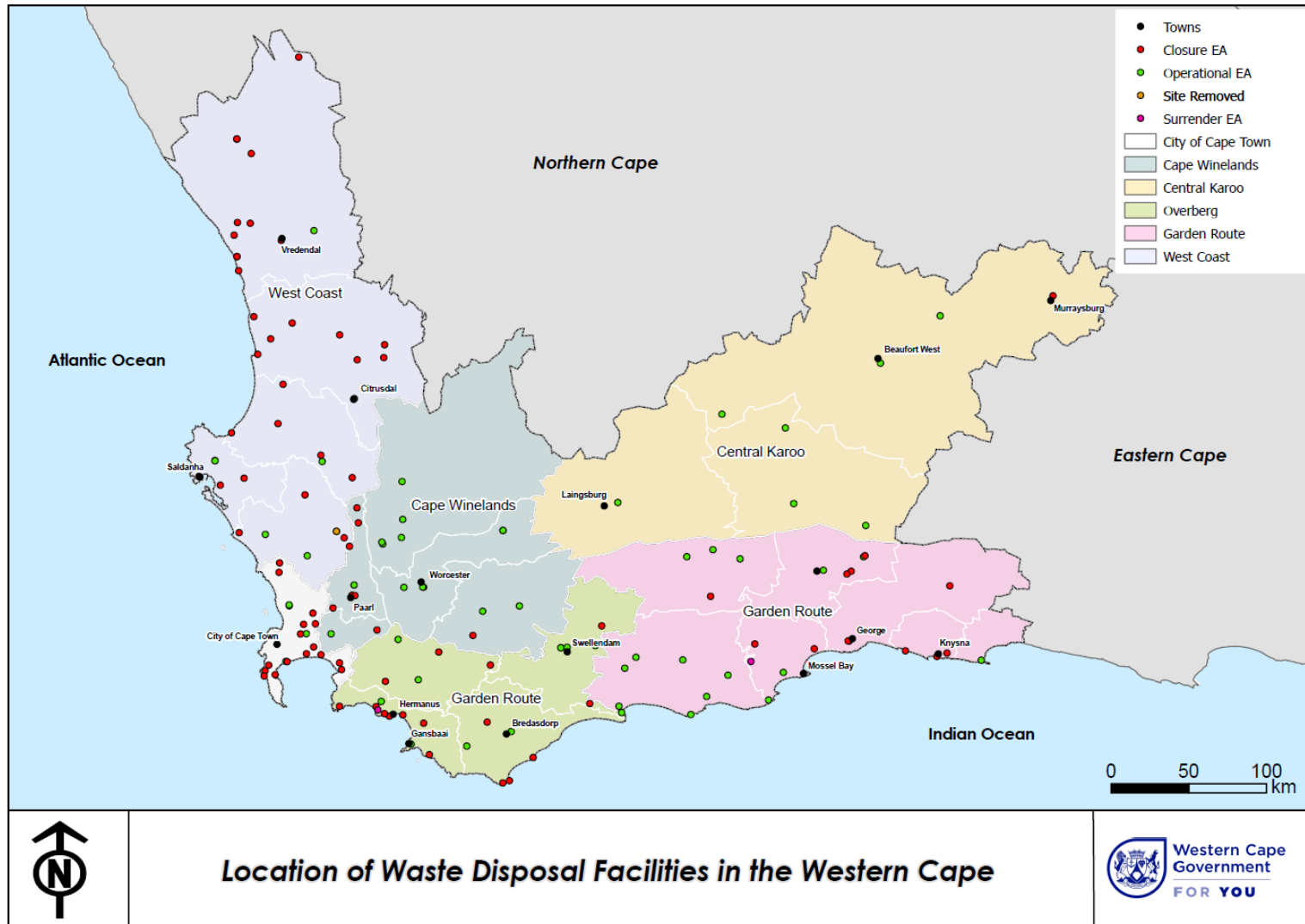


Figure 35: Location of Waste Disposal Facilities in the Western Cape

Table 22: Number and type of Waste Management Facilities in the Western Cape (Private and Municipal-owned)

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES	CoCT	ODM	CWDM	WCDM	CKDM	GRDM	TOTAL
Operational Waste Disposal Facilities	4	9	14	8	7	15	57
Operational Waste Disposal Facilities (Unlicensed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decommissioned Waste Disposal Facilities	21	18	13	32	1	13	98
Operational Drop off facilities	27	8	5	12	0	4	56
Operational Transfer stations	1	4	4	2	0	5	16
Operational Materials Recovery Facilities	27	3	3	5	1	3	42
Operational Compost Facilities	3	1	2	0	0	2	8
Decommissioned and Operational Waste Management Facilities	83	43	41	59	9	42	277

4.3.13.2 Topographical Studies

The Department initiated an airspace assessment project over a 2-year fiscal period (April 2023 to March 2025), to determine the baseline information at selected WDFs, by conducting topographical surveys during the first year (May 2023) and repeat the same surveys 12 months later during the second year (May 2024), to establish airspace utilisation over this 12-month period to determine the remaining airspace availability. The project was finalised in October 2024.

Table 23 presents the various airspace calculation methods considered during the project. It was determined that topographical airspace assessment is the most accurate method for measuring remaining capacity. Based on this approach, the assessed airspace will decline annually from the 2024 baseline. It is important to note that four facilities - Clanwilliam, Laingsburg, Leeu Gamka, and Prince Alfred Hamlet, cannot utilise their assessed airspace until the respective license holders formally update the authorised waste body heights in their Waste Management Licences.

Expanding this network with additional material recovery and drop-off facilities is essential to divert more waste from landfills. This should be coupled with low- to zero-emission treatment technologies for the diverted streams. Together, these efforts will help conserve natural resources, extend landfill lifespans, and promote sustainable recycling practices across the Western Cape.

Table 23: Calculation options for the Airspace Assessment Project

LANDFILL SITE	LIFESPAN BASED ON ESTIMATED POPULATION WASTE DISPOSAL RATES		LIFESPAN BASED ON IPWIS DISPOSAL RATES		LIFESPAN BASED ON SURVEY DATA
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023-2024
Vaalkoppies	15	8	43	24	64
Clanwilliam	12	13	6	38	61
Laingsburg	12	7	10	6	6
Leeu Gamka	31	25	14	13	70
Prince Alfred Hamlet*	47	47	30	19	47
Tulbagh*	23	23	12	324	167
Vanrhysndorp	31	51	N/A	N/A	148

4.3.13.3 Landfill Airspace Availability

The airspace figures presented in Figure 36 are derived from topographical assessments commissioned by municipalities. These figures are supplemented by ongoing monitoring undertaken by the Department and targeted support initiatives aimed at assisting municipalities facing operational and financial challenges. Notably, airspace assessments for four waste disposal facilities (WDFs), i.e. Laingsburg, Clanwilliam, Leeu Gamka, and Prince Alfred Hamlet, were funded and supported by the Department to establish baseline and remaining landfill airspace capacities. However, these revised capacities cannot be formally recognised until the respective license holders (municipalities) amend the authorised waste body heights in their Waste Management Licenses.

The three large airspace figures (Vaalkoppies, Vanrhysndorp and Tulbagh) are either recently assessed facilities or have other disputes locking the full use for the disposal of waste. The purpose of having the status of the remaining landfill airspace for disposal is to trigger 'in time planning' to ensure funds and approvals are in place to provide continuous waste solutions, which one should be a legal disposal facility amongst others.

For sound budgeting purposes, tracking the remaining airspace for disposal allows one to plan within the 5-year cycle when significant funds will be required for continuous waste solutions. Based on the figure there are quite a few facilities nearing or under this 5-year timeframe. Facilities such as Highlands in the Swartland, Coastal Park in the CoCT and Karwyderskraal in the Overberg are in various stages of approvals of variations in their Waste Management Licences and onsite construction, which will allow for further landfill airspace for disposal. The rest of the facilities operating will either have a Waste Management Licence for decommissioning or be applying for the extension of date of closure, this is probably due to the Municipalities being under severe and pressured budgetary shifts.

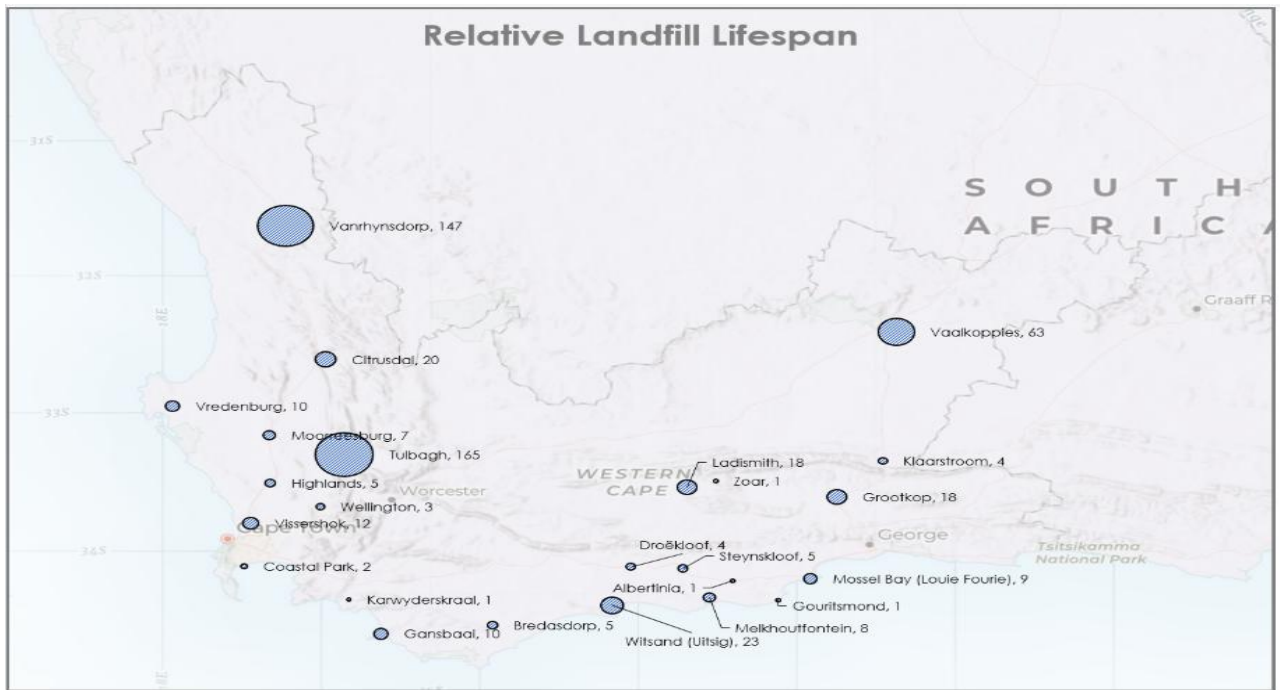


Figure 36: Lifespan of Waste Disposal Facilities in the Western Cape

4.3.13.4 Regional Waste Management Facilities

Regionalisation of WMFs offers several benefits to municipalities allowing resources and expertise to be pooled across participating municipalities. Each district is at various stages of development with the regional WMFs:

West Coast District	The WCDM's regional landfill facility, serving the Matzikama and Cederberg Municipalities, was successfully commissioned on 19 May 2025. The facility has an estimated lifespan of 7–9 years for the current landfill cell and more than 50 years for the overall landfill site. The project represented a significant infrastructure investment, with Cell 1 costing approximately R33 million and the total landfill development, including access roads, buildings, a weighbridge, and the first cell amounting to R98 million. Monthly operational costs are approximately R684 980 and are shared between the participating municipalities, with Matzikama contributing 65% and Cederberg 35%. Currently, the facility receives around 401 tonnes of waste per month from Matzikama Municipality, while Cederberg is not yet disposing of waste at the site, despite generating approximately 76 tonnes per month. Waste is transported over distances of about 25 km from Matzikama and 86 km from Cederberg. A key lesson learnt from the development and operation of the regional landfill is the importance of ensuring that supporting infrastructure, such as transfer stations, public drop-off facilities, and material recovery facilities (MRFs), is fully established before the commissioning of a regional landfill site.
Overberg District	The ODM owns and operates the Karwyderskraal Regional Landfill Facility near Hawston, within the Overstrand Local Municipality. This regional facility currently provides disposal services for household general waste and the composting of organic waste for the Theewaterskloof, Overstrand and Cape Agulhas Municipalities. The Overberg District Municipality has commenced in February 2026, with the construction of a new waste cell (Cell 5 A), expansion of its composting footprint and the upgrade of the portion of the access road. This expansion will provide additional landfill airspace for 8 years together with the expansion of its organic treatment capabilities as part of its waste diversion effort. The planning, costing and design of an Organic Waste Diversion Plant has also been completed as part of the implementation of its Organic waste diversion plan. The ODM is currently investigating funding opportunities to make provision for the required R42 Mil to be able to proceed with the project.
Central Karoo District	To establish regionalisation as a sustainable long-term strategy for waste management services in the Central Karoo, a

	comprehensive feasibility assessment is essential to evaluate the viability of the proposed options. This formed part of the action plan during discussions facilitated by CoGTA to support the CKDM.
Cape Winelands District	The construction of the Regional Waste Disposal Facility for CWDM was completed in September 2025. The District was in the process of undertaking a public participation process according to Section 33 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) No. 56 of 2003, which requires municipalities to follow a strict public participation process before signing contracts extending beyond three years. Due to these timelines, it was anticipated to start operation in July 2026. Service Levels Agreements with three Municipalities were signed during May 2026. The Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation compiled a Record of Decision for the above-mentioned facility which was issued on 3 March 2026. The Cape Winelands District Municipality has awarded the operation tender to an operating contractor with a anticipated starting date of 1 July 2026. The May 2026 floods cause that the site was filled with water and to establish what damage was caused by the flood, a contractor was appointed to de-water the site. The original consultants of the facility were appointed to do an investigation and cost calculation of the damages. This all happened during the first 2 weeks in July 2026. Due to the floods and the damages that still needs to be addressed, it is currently uncertain when operation of the site will commend. The consultant's report is due to serve at council at the end of July to determine the way forward.
Garden Route District	The Garden Route Regional Waste Management Facility is currently under construction, with Phase 1 (Cell 1A) being developed by Civils 2000 (Pty) Ltd at a contract value of R109 million. Construction commenced on 16 February 2026 and remains on track for completion by 24 February 2027, with waste disposal planned to commence from 1 March 2027. Key construction activities, including access roads, Cell 1A lining, leachate and contaminated water dams, and supporting infrastructure, are progressing. A proposal to construct Cell 1B under the existing contract is being considered to extend the facility lifespan from 5 to 10 years and align with the loan repayment period. Until the regional facility is operational, the PetroSA landfill continues to serve as an interim disposal facility, although operational constraints and a 74% tariff increase from July 2026 remain key challenges. Overall, the project remains on schedule, with the focus on completing construction, securing regulatory approvals, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

City of Cape Town	The CoCT has appointed a Professional Services Provider (PSP) who will be conducting the detailed feasibility assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment. The inception is geared for mid-August 2026, but specific timelines we must be agreed upon.
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4.3.13.5 Conditions of Waste Management Facilities

The operating conditions at the waste management facilities are determined by the Department conducting 48 Departmental audits per annum as per the annual performance plan, the municipalities submitting their internal and external audit reports and the Department responding to public complaints regarding any nuisance conditions from waste management facilities. Table 24 highlights key issues experienced at WDFs during 2024 and identifies the common non-compliances which have a direct link to the environmental impact at WDFs if not managed as per the applicable waste management licence conditions.

Table 24: Key issues at Waste Disposal Facilities- 2025

ISSUES	IMPACTS
Landfill airspace	- Non-compliance with this condition can lead to the closure of the facility - Can cause widespread windblown litter - Unplanned financial needs in terms of height extension applications, with the need to install expensive containment piggyback liners.
Organic Waste	- Organic waste is not managed and implemented in line with approved plans. - Large amounts of organic waste in the form of green waste still goes to landfills that leads to leachate generation and groundwater impacts - Organic waste at landfills decomposes, forming flammable methane gas - Dry organic waste has a high potential to become a fire hazard.
Broken perimeter fences	- Unauthorised waste pickers enter the facility and trespass on the waste body. - Spread of windblown litter. - Facility footprint creep which results in illegal disposal of waste outside of the perimeter. - Fires made by illegal occupants to recover metal from electrical wires. - Increased risk of injury or accidents for trespassers.

ISSUES	IMPACTS
	● Potential conflicts between waste pickers and landfill operators. ● Scavenging of waste which may be hazardous waste, posing health risks. ● Loss of recyclable materials that could otherwise be recovered formally by municipalities.
Lack of stormwater management channels	● Stormwater becomes contaminated when encountering the waste body. ● Contaminated stormwater not contained within the footprint of the facility. ● Surface water and groundwater pollution. ● Soil and waste cell erosion. ● Increased leachate production, worsening pollution. ● Flooding risks due to poor drainage. ● Long-term damage to surrounding ecosystems. ● Regulatory non-compliance, risking fines or legal action.
The lack of daily cover material.	● Disposed waste becomes windblown litter, causing numerous nuisances such as blocked/clogged sewage and water channelling systems. ● Aesthetic nuisances at most WDFs. ● Increased fire risk. ● Attraction of illegal waste pickers, birds and other animals which carry waste beyond the footprint of the WDF. ● Higher operational costs due to frequent clean-ups. ● Odour emissions affecting nearby communities. ● Increased vermin (rats, insects), leading to disease risks. ● Accelerated landfill degradation, reducing site lifespan.
Lack of access control at facilities	● Unmonitored volumes of incoming waste. ● Inadequate checking of waste entering the landfill. ● Fires lit by illegal occupants to recover metal. ● Health and injury risks to illegal occupants. ● Illegal dumping of hazardous waste (e.g., medical, chemical). ● Increased theft of equipment/materials. ● Difficulty in tracking waste sources for enforcement.

ISSUES	IMPACTS
	Higher security costs due to vandalism and unauthorized access.
Lack of groundwater monitoring at facilities	- Unknown groundwater contamination, preventing timely interventions. - Downstream groundwater becomes a health risk to users. - Legal liability for pollution affecting nearby farms/households. - Long-term remediation costs if contamination spreads. - Loss of trust from surrounding communities. - Potential shutdown of landfill if the contamination is severe.
Detection of landfill gas and dust	- Methane emissions above safe levels (5%), increasing explosion and fire risks. - Uncaptured methane escapes into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. - Random methane migration, threatening nearby infrastructure. - Odour complaints from nearby residents. - Need for costly retrofits (gas capture systems and methane gas flaring devices). - Regulatory penalties for non-compliance with gas management standards. - Comply with Dust Regulations and maintain air quality.

4.3.13.6 Landfill Gas Monitoring

Landfill gas forms as organic waste decomposes, first through an aerobic phase that produces carbon dioxide and then through an anaerobic phase that generates methane. Methane is a colourless, odourless, and flammable gas that is lighter than air. It becomes explosive when its concentration in the air reaches between 5% and 15%, a range known as its explosive limits. To monitor this risk, measurement points are selected at areas of older waste and visible cracks where gas is likely to escape. Previously, a hole was dug at each point, and a probe inserted to record levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, and methane. It must be noted that this process is not done anymore as a telemeter was procured to detect methane gas. Municipalities must also control water ingress, as it speeds up the anaerobic decomposition that creates methane. Measurements were taken at various WDFs. During 2024, methane was detected at the Grootkop, Highlands and Wellington WDFs (Table 25).

Table 25: Landfill gas monitoring (CH₄ Levels) - 2024

QUARTER	FACILITY	TYPE	DATE	MAX. AND AVERAGE CH ₄ (BY VOLUME) LEVEL DETECTED (%)
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January - March 2024	Struisbaai	WDF	16 January 2024	0
	Klaarstroom	WDF	23 January 2024	0
	Laingsburg	WDF	24 January 2024	0
	Prince Albert	WDF	24 January 2024	0
	Gwaing	WDF	9 February 2024	0
	Citrusdal	WDF	14 February 2024	0
	Clanwilliam	WDF	14 February 2024	0
	Ladismith	WDF	23 February 2024	0
April - June 2024	Porterville	WDF	3 April 2024	0
	Redelinghuys	WDF	3 April 2024	0
	Darling	WDF	10 April 2024	0
	Moorreesburg	WDF	10 April 2024	0
	Albertinia	WDF	16 April 2024	0
	Herbertsdale	WDF	17 April 2024	0
	Dysselsdorp	WDF	13 May 2024	0
	Wellington	WDF	20 June 2024	49, 13.5
July - September 2024	McGregor	WDF	3 July 2024	0
	Bessiekop	WDF	3 July 2024	0
	Grootkop	WDF	25 July 2024	0.1, 0.025
	Melkhoutfontein	WDF	5 August 2024	0
	Caledon	WDF	7 August 2024	0
	Op die Berg	WDF	8 August 2024	0
	Highlands	WDF	3 September 2024	2.3, 0.7
	Wellington	WDF	3 September 2024	8.4, 1.82
October - December 2024	Bontebok	WDF	16 October 2024	0
	Waenhuiskrans	WDF	16 October 2024	0
	Infanta	WDF	17 October 2024	0
	Vanrhynsdorp	WDF	24 October 2024	0
	Lambert's Bay	WDF	24 October 2024	0
	Leeu Gamka	WDF	1 November 2024	0
	Vredendal	WDF	12 November 2024	0
	Bellville South	WDF	28 November 2024	0

4.3.13.7 Groundwater Monitoring

Given South Africa's status as a water-scarce country, every effort to protect groundwater resources is critical. A major source of groundwater contamination within the waste sector is historical and operational WDFs that lack adequate leachate containment barriers and treatment infrastructure. Consequently, these sites contribute to ongoing groundwater pollution. While WMLs require annual groundwater quality monitoring, most municipalities fail to implement this due to insufficient funding allocated to waste management services. To address this gap and improve regulatory compliance, the Department initiated a groundwater monitoring project funded through the Provincial Treasury. This project aimed to assist selected municipalities in identifying groundwater impacts, improving facility operations, and underscoring the importance of diverting leachate-producing waste away from disposal sites.

With an allocation of R1.8 million, the project supported six facilities across five municipalities. Each participating site was required to establish two groundwater monitoring boreholes and conduct one round of water quality analysis, establishing a foundation for the ongoing annual monitoring mandated by their WMLs. The facilities included in the project were:

- Prince Alfred Hamlet WDF
- Lamberts Bay WDF
- Clanwilliam WDF
- Bontebok WDF
- Prince Albert WDF
- Grootkop WDF

Each site received two monitoring boreholes and one full water quality monitoring cycle, enabling these municipalities to begin meeting their compliance obligations and better safeguard vital groundwater resources.

4.3.13.8 Waste-related Complaints – request updated graph/Excel spreadsheet from Licensing

Based on complaints received by the Department over the 2020-2025 period, illegal dumping and operational challenges at WMFs remains the most prevalent concerns province-wide (Figure 37). Note: this data excludes complaints received and managed by Municipalities. Most waste-related complaints were received in the CoCT. Illegal dumping remains the most prevalent concern province-wide. Compared to the other districts, the CKDM has the fewest complaints, likely due to a smaller population and fewer waste-handling operations.

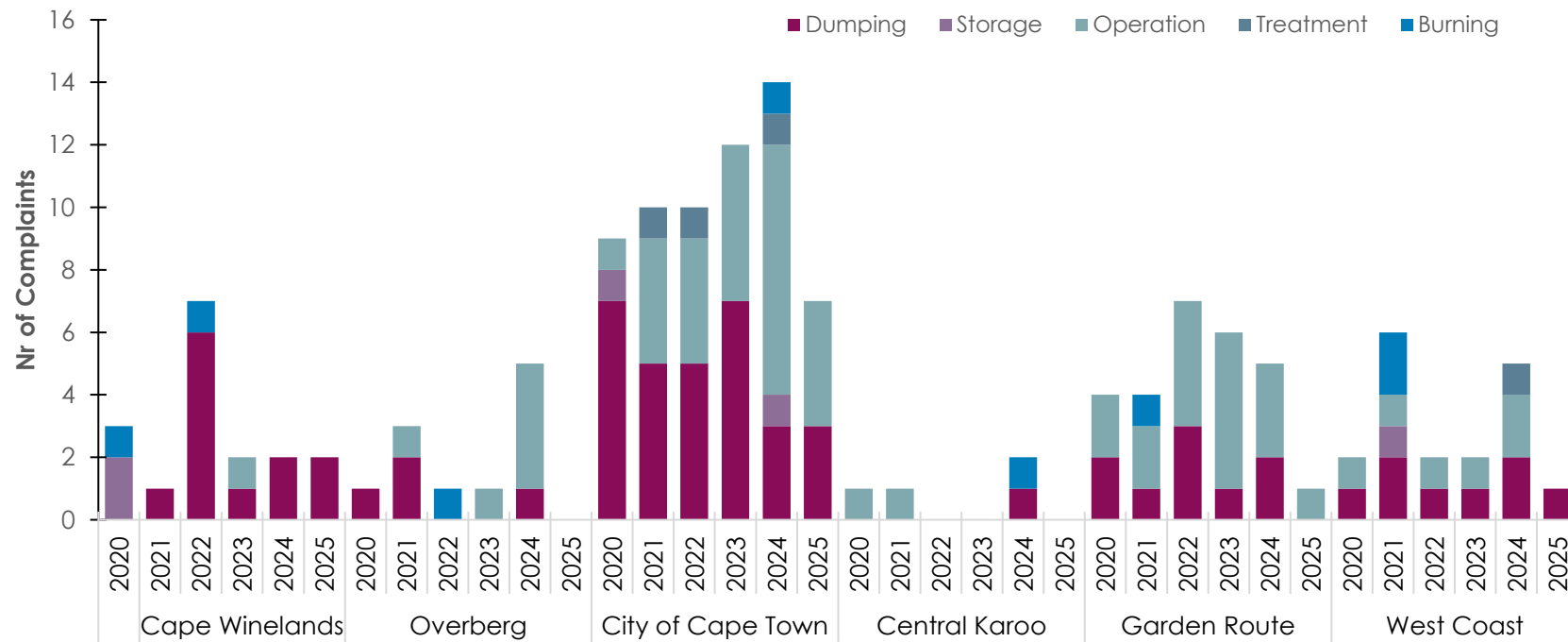


Figure 37: Waste-related complaints received by DEA&DP 2020-2025

4.3.13.9 Compliance at Waste Management Facilities

The Department undertakes audits at selected WMFs to ensure compliance with Environmental Authorisation conditions. The number of audits undertaken by the Department has declined from 73 in 2018 to 48 in 2025 (Figure 38); this is largely due to resource constraints. Compliance rating criteria includes three categories ranging from compliant to non-compliant (Table 26). Between 2018 and 2025, there has been an increase in compliant facilities from 12% to 21% (Figure 38); meanwhile facilities obtaining partial compliance fluctuated over the time period, making up the smallest category in 2025 at 19%. Over the same period, non-compliant facilities remain the largest category every year, peaking in 2021 at 65%, indicating persistent compliance issues. These facilities are required to implement corrective actions and to ensure ongoing compliance through regular monitoring, as these non-compliances can lead to serious consequences, both legally and environmentally.

Table 26: Waste Management Facility compliance status indicators

COMPLIANCE RATING CRITERIA	STATUS INDICATOR	REQUIRED ACTION
$84.5\% \leq X \leq 100\%$	Compliant	Minor Improvements
$64.5\% \leq X < 84.5\%$	Partially Compliant	Improvements
$X < 64.5\%$	Non-Compliant	Major Improvements

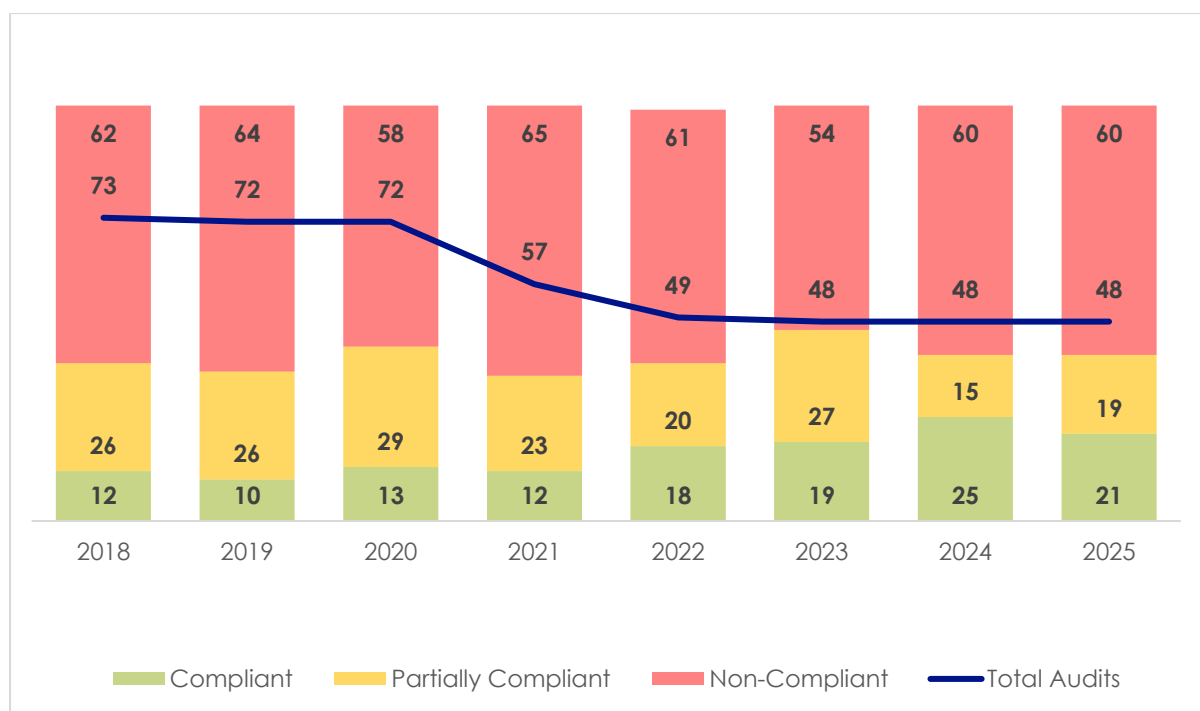


Figure 38: Compliance (%) at Waste Management Facilities audited by DEA&DP 2018-2025

4.3.13.10 Alternative Waste Treatment Technologies

The implementation of alternative waste management technologies in South Africa is overdue. Such systems are needed to align with international standards and address local challenges like job creation, energy production, and conserving landfill airspace. Mandated by the NEM: WA and the NWMS, municipalities are required to support these technologies to divert waste from landfills. To aid this process, the Department has developed an Alternative Waste Management Tool. This planning tool is designed to be part of a feasibility assessment, helping municipalities make informed decisions before committing to new infrastructure. It requires waste managers to critically analyse the types and volumes of waste in their area.

The tool provides:

- Baseline financial costs for proposed infrastructure options.
- Waste volume and landfill airspace projections for future planning.

Despite being presented at the Integrated Waste Management Officers' Forum quarterly forums, this tool has not been adopted by all municipalities.

4.3.14 Waste Awareness and Capacity Building Initiatives

The NWMS (2020) emphasises the importance of raising awareness to educate the public about responsible waste management practices. It also highlights environmental awareness for consumers and producers and incentives to motivate behaviour change as key enablers for the development and implementation of effective waste prevention policies, action plans and initiatives (DEFF, 2020). The Province developed a waste awareness strategy to assist municipalities with various means of communication with communities and stakeholders and a Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping (STRID) was developed to assist municipalities to create awareness on the management of illegal dumping. An organic waste strategy and guide for organic waste diversion planning was also developed by the Province, which requires municipalities to draft Organic Waste Management Diversion Plans (OWDPs) with targets for diversion of organic waste from landfill to meet the Provincial target of 100% diversion of organic waste from landfill. The Province has also developed the following policies to assist municipalities –

- a separation at source (S@S) guideline to assist with implementation of the S@S programmes and initiatives;
- a waste management services procurement guideline to assist with integrating SMMEs and waste pickers into the municipal waste diversion system;
- a guide on co-designing solutions with informal settlement communities to minimise the impacts of waste on health and the environment; and
- various knowledge sharing workshops and capacity building engagements are hosted with various stakeholders including the following –
 - Western Cape Integrated Waste Management Officers' Forum (WC IWMOF), an engagement with WMOs thrice a year aimed at informing municipalities of the current challenges and opportunities in waste management, waste management legislation reform and requirements and improvements in waste management;

- Western Cape Recycling Action Group (WCRAAG), a quarterly engagement aimed at creating awareness and education, promoting the circular economy, minimising the consumption of resources, stimulating job creation and increasing waste diversion through reuse, recovery and recycling;
- Integrated Waste Management Capacity-Building Workshop hosted annually to provide training to municipal officials on integrated waste management principles covering key waste management areas; and the
- Western Cape Industry Waste Management Forum (WC IWMF), an annual engagement aimed at informing industry of the current challenges and opportunities in waste management and waste management legislation reform.

Waste awareness and education initiatives are widely implemented across municipalities through a combination of active and passive campaigns led by municipalities, service providers, schools, NGOs, and private-sector partners. Awareness programmes focus on promoting recycling, separation at source, composting, litter prevention, and reducing illegal dumping through social media campaigns, radio interviews, newsletters, municipal websites, branded refuse trucks and billboards, WhatsApp channels, pamphlets, school programmes, community clean-up events, door-to-door awareness campaigns, and public meetings. Many municipalities have established annual or quarterly awareness plans, with dedicated school programmes featuring mascots, educational shows, eco-clubs, recycling competitions, fashion shows, guided tours of material recovery facilities, and the provision of recycling bins to schools. Partnerships with PROs such as PETCO, METPAC, EWASA, Polyco, and local environmental groups, and recycling service providers further strengthen awareness efforts through clean-up initiatives, educational campaigns, and community outreach activities. These programmes aim to encourage responsible waste management behaviour, increase recycling participation, and foster cleaner, more sustainable communities across the Western Cape.

4.3.15 Waste Management Jobs

4.3.15.1 Provincial Government

The Directorate consists of three sub-directorates namely, Waste Management Planning (WMP), Waste Policy and Minimisation (WPM) and Waste Management Licensing (WML) all with specific areas of focus. As per the Department's approved organisational structure and staff establishment (2022/23) the Directorate: Waste Management should consist of 58 permanently employed staff in total, excluding Work Integrated Learning and PAYE interns. (WMP: 21, WML: 18, WPM: 17) Table 27. The current head count of staff in the Directorate is 24. This shows that the Directorate is operating and meeting its deliverables with 41% of its staffing complement as per the currently approved organogram. The Department is currently working on a new Organisational Design process, which needs to be completed by October 2026.

Table 27: DEA&DP – Directorate: Waste Management staff complement

DIRECTORATE: WASTE MANAGEMENT	DESIGNATION	OS	UNFUNDED	ACTUAL
Director	Senior Management	1	0	1
Personal Assistant	Administrative Staff	1	0	1
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING				
Environmental Officer Control (OSD)	Technical Staff	5	2	3
Environmental Officer Specialised (OSD)	Technical Staff	12	8	4
Environmental Officer Prod (OSD)	Technical Staff	2	1	1
Administrative Officer	Administrative Staff	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk	Administrative Staff	1	1	0
WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENSING				
Environmental Officer Control (OSD)	Technical Staff	5	2	3
Environmental Officer Specialised (OSD)	Technical Staff	6	2	3
Environmental Officer Prod (OSD)	Technical Staff	5	3	0
Administrative Officer	Administrative Staff	1	0	0
Administrative Clerk	Administrative Staff	1	0	1
WASTE POLICY AND MINIMISATION				
Environmental Officer Control (OSD)	Technical Staff	5	2	2
Environmental Officer Specialised (OSD)	Technical Staff	4	3	1
Environmental Officer Prod (OSD)	Technical Staff	6	4	2
Administrative Officer	Administrative Staff	1	0	0
Administrative Clerk	Administrative Staff	1	0	0
TOTAL		58		23
OS – Organisational Structure (2022/23)				

4.3.15.2 Industry

The roll out of the EPR schemes by the DFFE approved PROs will contribute to the increase in jobs in the waste sector. DFFE has noted the challenges of low or non-reporting of jobs created by the PROs. Some of the challenges for reporting by the PROs include; evidence not being provided on the reporting system, the usage of incorrect templates, clarifications on jobs tracked and a decision on whether to include informal jobs as direct or indirect. Of the 14,934 total jobs recorded during the 2023 analysis of PROs annual reports, 12, 080 (81%) were formal jobs whilst 2, 854 (19%) were informal jobs. The paper and packaging sectors as well as the Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) accounted for 97% (14, 494) and 3% (422) of the total jobs created during 2023, respectively (DFFE: Mahlwele, ND).

The Province is committed to raising the overall productivity of the Western Cape economy, through horizontal enablement and supporting private-sector-led market stimulation and growth opportunities. The focus on sustainability offers opportunities to enhance productivity, as the circular economy will enable the region to derive greater use from each resource unit and require fewer resource inputs (G4J 2035). The strategy further identifies a picture of success whereby, circular infrastructure is advanced, enabling circular economy activity (e.g., re-use, recycle or recover waste), and minimizing the amount of material used across the infrastructure lifecycle or value chain. The Draft Waste Economy Master Plan (WEMP) has identified the potential of some key streams which can create job opportunities and contribute to the economy (Table 28).

Table 28: Potential of waste streams economic contribution

	DIRECT (RM)			INDIRECT (RM)	TOTAL (RM)
Waste type	Current economic contribution (recycling)	Potential Economic contribution (recycling)	Added economic benefit (recycling)	Added landfill cost savings	Total added economic contribution
Food	1053	5265	4212	468	4680
Waste water	103	514	411	194	605
Construction & demolition	252	841	589	337	925
E-waste	190	1900	1710	32	1742
Plastic	490	1113	624	62	686
Cans	5812	8072	2260	113	2373
Paper	1300	2100	800	80	880
Glass	121	185	64	174	237
AHP	-	813	813	33	845
Total	9 321	20 802	11 482	1 492	12 973

Ref:Draft Waste Economy Master Plan (WEMP)

5 An Analysis of the Extent of the Implementation of the WC IWMP 2023-2027

5.1 Overview

The WC IWMP 2023-2027 includes four strategic goals, each of which includes objectives and activities for implementation. This section presents an overview of the Department's performance as measured against its strategic goals, objectives and targets for the 2023-2027 period (Table 29). Although the Department has implemented many of the activities indicated, there are some activities that were not undertaken due to resource constraints. Furthermore, additional activities will be undertaken during the 2026/27 financial year i.e. the final year of the IWMP cycle. The additional activities will be updated and included in the final analysis.

Table 29: Implementation of the WC IWMP 2023-2027

WC IWMP 2023-2027 GOALS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ACHIEVED (NO.)	OUTPUT INDICATORS ACHIEVED (%)
Goal 1: Strengthened education, capacity, awareness and advocacy towards Integrated Waste Management.	3/4	75%
Goal 2: Improved integrated waste management planning and implementation for efficient waste services, technologies and infrastructure.	18/21	86%
Goal 3: Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.	16/22	68%
Goal 4: Improved compliance with the environmental regulatory framework.	5/7	71%
Overall IWMP Implementation	42/54	78%

A list of the achievements and activities undertaken by the Department is provided:

5.2 Goal 1: Strengthened Education, Capacity, and Advocacy Towards Integrated Waste Management.

- Landfill operator training was conducted in 2023/24. Capacity-building workshops were held in 2023, 2024, and 2025, focusing on informal settlement waste services, funding mechanisms, and municipal finance and innovation. WCIRAG knowledge-sharing sessions promoted collaboration on recycling, EPR, and separation at source.
- Waste minimisation support was provided to municipalities, youth and communities (Figure 39).

- The Department conducted organic waste awareness sessions in the West Coast District, promoting food waste diversion, knowledge sharing and collaboration among key role players.
- The Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping (STRID) was developed to guide municipalities on prevention measures.
- Co-design workshops fostered community-led recycling and waste management solutions.



Figure 39: Capacity-building at Cape Agulhas Municipality

5.3 Goal 2: Improved Integrated Waste Management Planning and Implementation for Efficient Waste Services, Technologies and Infrastructure

- During the reporting period, the Department reviewed draft IWMPs and endorsed municipal plans. Waste Management Officers' Forums (WMOFs) were hosted to strengthen municipal coordination, collaboration and information sharing. Municipal annual reports were monitored, while the waste reporting framework is being reviewed to improve data quality. The planned update of the IWMP guideline was not undertaken during the reporting period.
- WMOFs were held to support WMO designations, and reminders were issued to municipalities.
- The Municipal Recognition Programme was implemented, with 2023, 2024 and 2025 awards completed.
- Waste collection data was compiled using the latest IDP and Municipal Annual Report for the State of Waste Report, and topographical surveys were completed for seven (7) landfill sites (Phase 1), with Phase 2 completed in 2025.
- Progress was also made in promoting industry waste management, the circular economy and EPR through WCRAAG knowledge-sharing engagements, the annual Industry Waste Management Forum and EPR-related engagements with industry, PROs and informal recyclers.

- Technology and innovation- sharing continued through the Department's governance platforms, while regional cooperation with municipalities remained ongoing. The Department also completed an assessment of municipal waste infrastructure needs and continued supporting municipalities with applications for waste collection vehicles and other infrastructure funding.
- IPWIS verification and stakeholder capacity-building activities were undertaken to improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of waste information, with ongoing system maintenance and work to address issues arising from the Oracle migration. The Annual State of Waste Management Report was finalised and approved, providing an updated assessment of provincial waste management performance and supporting continued efforts towards waste diversion and improved waste management services

5.4 Goal 3: Effective and Efficient Utilisation of Resources

- Progress under this goal has focused on strengthening the circular economy, promoting resource efficiency, increasing waste diversion, supporting waste-sector livelihoods and advancing alternative waste treatment technologies. While some interventions remained demand-driven or pending implementation, significant foundational work and several practical initiatives were undertaken.
- The Department continued to promote the circular economy through knowledge-sharing and stakeholder engagements. Online knowledge-sharing workshops and one in-person workshop were hosted, addressing plastics, textile waste and circular solutions, community-based waste management and EPW initiatives. These engagements provided platforms for sharing good practice and supporting the growth of circular-economy initiatives.
- Organic waste diversion remained a key focus, supporting the Province's objective of achieving 100% diversion of organic waste from landfill by 2027. The Department facilitated knowledge-sharing with Waste Management Officers on the status of organic waste management and implementation of the Organic Waste Diversion Plan. Further engagement took place through an organic waste intervention scoping workshop with the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa's South African Food Loss and Waste Initiative, which focused on practical interventions for implementation. Previous engagements also included organic waste workshops, a presentation to the SALGA Provincial Working Group, and support to Witzenberg Municipality in facilitating a partnership with a local composting operation to divert green waste.
- Support for the repair, refurbishment and technical cycle of the circular economy was advanced through skills-development initiatives (Figure 40). Twenty-eight youths were trained in repair and refurbishment over two financial years amounting to approximately R900 000. Thirteen of these were female youths. The programme aimed to equip participants with waste-management, repair and refurbishment skills and to create opportunities for further training and workplace skills development through EPR schemes.
- The Department also strengthened EPR implementation and support to SMMEs and informal recyclers. An EPR Roadshow was hosted in the Western Cape with the support of the PROs, while the Glass Recycling Company facilitated a business management and training workshop for approximately 60 informal recyclers. The Department also provided information on support available to SMMEs and national initiatives. Earlier interventions included an EPR implementation workshop for municipalities and collaboration with Polyco

to facilitate the provision of equipment and personal protective equipment to waste pickers at buy-back centres.

- Wastepreneur integration continued through support to municipalities and the development of procurement strategies. Strategies were developed for four municipalities, with the Department continuing to monitor implementation. Cape Agulhas expanded its composting project and associated vegetable gardens, with compost produced on site and produce sold to the surrounding community. Swellendam continued to pursue the monetisation of waste and collaborated with Polyco to establish a buy-back centre to encourage source separation, demonstrate the value of waste, and provide opportunities for community education and skills development. Implementation in Drakenstein remained partial due to challenges relating to waste-picker contracts, while Witzenberg had not yet progressed with implementation.
- Further progress was made through the Material Recovery Park, composting and food-garden initiative, which supports the separation of kitchen waste from households and links organic waste management to local food production. The initiative contributes to a local circular waste-to-resource system while creating livelihood opportunities for waste pickers.
- The Department continued to promote the diversion and beneficiation of priority waste streams. This included ongoing engagement on absorbent hygiene products through the Western Cape Recycling Action Group, Waste Management Officers' Forum and Absorbent Hygiene Products Task Team, as well as input into the Western Cape Sanitary Dignity Programme regarding the management of sanitary waste from schools. Engagements on textile waste and circular solutions were also undertaken.
- Alternative waste treatment technologies were promoted to support diversion from landfill. The Department continued to facilitate licensing of facilities that contribute to resource recovery and landfill diversion, including a WtE facility.
- Important supporting measures were also advanced in the management of hazardous materials. In collaboration with the Western Cape Education Department, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Management of School Laboratory Chemicals was formulated to support the sustainable management of chemicals in schools.
- The Department continued to strengthen the management of obsolete agrochemicals as part of its broader efforts to improve environmental quality and the responsible management of hazardous waste. The assessment of obsolete agrochemicals in the Western Cape expanded beyond households to include farms, pest control operators and state agencies, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of agrochemical volumes, associated risks and practical management interventions across the value chain. This work culminated in the collection and thermal destruction of approximately 130 tonnes of obsolete agrochemicals, contributing to the prevention of potential environmental contamination and supporting improved hazardous-waste management practices.
- Despite this progress, several planned interventions had not yet been implemented. These include engagement with the private sector on the beneficiation of waste from large waste generators, formal collaboration with SALGA on EPR implementation, a reverse-logistics study for waste diverted from rural municipalities to recycling markets, construction and demolition waste diversion initiatives, a textile waste assessment, green procurement, cleaner production initiatives and certain planned beneficiation activities.



Figure 40: Repair and refurbishment skills training programme attendees

5.5 Goal 4: Improved Compliance with Environmental Regulatory Framework.

- The Department strengthened compliance monitoring and enforcement through waste audits and promotional compliance visits targeting industry and other waste holders. Enforcement action was taken in response to non-compliance with waste management legislation.
- The Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping was signed off on 31 July 2026. Key priorities include community engagement and ownership, identifying and mapping dumping hotspots, and understanding the specific root causes, waste types, and generators in each area. Municipalities should pilot affordable, targeted interventions, assess their successes and challenges, and then scale up effective measures. Collaboration between communities, municipalities, academia and law enforcement, including effective implementation of by-laws, is essential to achieving sustainable reductions in illegal dumping.
- The Department continued to advance the rehabilitation and closure of waste management facilities, as well as the management of contaminated land. Variation licences were issued for previously decommissioned waste disposal facilities to support compliance with environmental and legislative requirements.
- Monitoring of contaminated land cases remained ongoing, with remediation orders issued following risk assessments. The Department reviewed monitoring reports to track compliance and initiated enforcement actions where reports were not submitted or remediation was inadequate.
- While the Guideline for the Management of Contaminated Land could not be finalised due to budget constraints, the Department has developed an internal SOP for land remediation under Part 8 of NEM: WA during the 2024/25 financial year.

6 Gaps and Needs Analysis

The aim of the gaps and needs analysis is to compile a summary of identified waste management gaps and needs in the province that must be addressed to achieve the desired-end state for waste management.

Sources of gaps include:

- An analysis of the extent of implementation of the WC IWMP 2023-2027.
- Internal Review of the Status Quo;
- Consultation and engagement with internal and external stakeholders (e.g. public participation workshop/webinar held on 3 March 2026, questionnaire responses, Status Quo Report comments)

6.1 Actions not Completed from 2023-2027 WC IWMP:

The following activities were not implemented in the WC IWMP 2017-2022 due to constrained budgets, limited human resources and some projects being set out for the medium- and long-term. Activities that are still relevant will be included in the WC IWMP 2027-2032 Implementation Plan.

- Hospitality sector engagement has not yet started.
- Textile-waste assessment to be done,
- Green procurement for targeted sectors, and
- Cleaner-production initiatives with targeted sectors
- Reverse-logistics study (rural municipalities)
- Construction waste
- Private-sector engagements on waste beneficiation of large waste generators (IPWIS)

6.2 Gaps identified from the Status Quo and Stakeholder Engagement

Table 30 provides a summary of the gaps identified.

Table 30: Summary of waste management gaps

GAPS	NEEDS	SOURCE OF IDENTIFIED GAPS
Waste Generation and Diversion		
● Total waste: 3.6M tonnes (2023); 8% increase since 2018. ● Diversion rate: 30% (2023) vs 40% target; organic waste diversion only 30%. ● Diversion improved (26% → 33%) but below 40% target; ● Organic diversion dropped to 25%; ● Limited implementation of Organic Waste Diversion Plans.	● Stronger waste prevention and minimisation programmes ● Behaviour-change and public awareness campaigns ● Incentives for reducing product design and packaging ● Expansion of recycling infrastructure and accessible drop-off facilities ● Support for informal waste pickers through integration programmes ● Market development for recyclables ● Scaled-up organic waste treatment infrastructure ● More separation at source programmes ● Capacity building within municipalities ● Public-private partnerships (PPPs)	● Internal Review
● Hazardous waste decreased by ~50%, but still poorly managed.	● Improved hazardous waste tracking and compliance systems	● Internal Review

■ The following waste streams are flagged as most difficult to manage and divert: High-risk / difficult waste types • Organic waste (especially black-bag organics)- • C&DW • Hazardous waste • E-waste • AHPs Key issues linked to these streams: • Lack of source separation • No or limited specialised facilities • High transport and compliance costs Illegal dumping (especially asbestos, AHPs and C&DW) Most diversion focuses on low-hanging fruit (green waste, traditional recyclables). Organic waste in general refuse, hazardous waste and AHPs remain largely unmanaged.	■ Improve awareness around problematic waste types ■ Expansion of separation at source systems, including differentiated collection and drop-off options for problem waste streams ■ Dedicated funding mechanisms to cover the higher costs of managing difficult, problematic waste types ■ Improved planning for specialised waste streams, integrated into municipal IWMPs and budgets ■ Strengthened enforcement and compliance, particularly where poor waste management leads to illegal dumping and environmental harm ■ Regional approaches to achieve economies of scale for specialised treatment and disposal ■ Robust data and tracking systems to understand quantities, flows and risks	■ WMO Survey Results
Waste Information		

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■ Inconsistent municipal reporting on IPWIS ■ Incomplete data and inaccurate reporting ■ Some facilities are not reporting	■ Increased Human Resources for Waste Information Management at municipalities and at DEA&DP - (municipal IWMPs must address human resources-guideline on reporting systems and existing tools, human resources needed in the process, WML to ensure/check if someone at the gate?) ■ Need for weighbridges ■ Explore other technologies (human-centric) to bring about operational efficiency ■ Regular training for municipal staff on data capturing, reporting procedures ■ Enforcing IPWIS registration and reporting requirements and monitor compliance. ■ Routine verification and validation of waste data and information ■ Facilities must ensure quality control ■ Data analysis ■ Evaluating accuracy of Waste Calculator ■ More facilities to report	■ Internal Review
Waste Education and Awareness		
■ Low consumer awareness and understanding of separation-at-source	■ Clear, consistent public messaging on separation-at-source- ■ Behaviour-change-focused education materials tailored to different household types and literacy levels ■ Visual and multilingual information tools to improve understanding and compliance	■ Internal Review
■ Low public knowledge on composting	■ Implement skills-based education and community training programmes around composting (stronger linkages with CBOs)	■ Stakeholder review

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● Limited municipal capacity to design and implement education and awareness campaigns	● Dedicated funding and resources for ongoing waste education and awareness initiatives ● Training and capacity-building for municipal officials on community engagement and behaviour change ● Partnerships with NGOs, community-based organisations, and the private sector to extend outreach and delivery capacity.	● Internal Review
● Fragmented or ineffective communication methods limiting public reach	● Use of multiple communication channels, including community outreach, schools, social media, local radio, and print media	● Internal Review
● Separation-at-source messaging not sufficiently embedded in local institutions and programmes	● Integration of separation-at-source messaging into schools, community organisations, and local programmes	● Internal Review
● Separation-at-source messaging contradicted by municipal collection of unseparated waste	● Expansion of S@S systems	● Stakeholder Review
● Low public participation and sustained behaviour change	● Incentive-based approaches to encourage participation, such as recognition, rewards, or feedback mechanisms	● Internal Review
● Weak grassroots mobilisation	● Resources must be allocated to co-designing mobilisation strategies across municipalities. Co-design teams must involve environmental activists, community leaders and academic researchers to ensure that municipal strategies are informed by research ● Shift strategy from large systems reliant on fossil fuels, and expensive infrastructure to more human scale, labour intensive, community led localised systems	● Stakeholder Review

Waste Collection and Transportation

Widespread illegal dumping.	- Increased enforcement capacity - Enforcement coordination with SAPS/Metro Police recognising the importance of environmental crimes, including through minimum penalties and structured clean up models - Consistent community education and anti-dumping awareness campaigns - Provision of adequate disposal alternatives - Expansion and improvement of accessible waste services, especially in informal settlements and low-income communities - Improved data and mapping of illegal dumping hotspots to inform targeted interventions. - PROs to support illegal dumping clean-ups for packaging waste	Internal Review
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- Decline in provincial collection rates - Access challenges in informal/rural areas; - WC average coverage 89% vs national targets (95% urban / 75% rural). - Inadequate refuse removal in rural/informal areas; CKDM dropped to 81%.	- Introduce minimum standards for collection systems, equipment, and service frequency - Provide capital support for tailored vehicle fleets and flexible service types - Dedicated funding for maintenance and replacement of equipment - Waste collection route optimisation - Monitoring and support systems from the province for underperforming municipalities - Tailored waste service delivery models codesigned with communities - Partnerships with local waste pickers, cooperatives, or small contractors - Targeted interventions in low-coverage municipalities to close the gap to national standards - A provincial Informal Settlement Waste Management Framework - Strengthening of local waste management budgets and revenue stream - Municipalities must maintain up-to-date statistics on indigents for service planning	Internal Review
Ageing waste collection fleets;	- Fleet replacement programmes with multi-year budget commitments, maintenance plans and insurance - Increased allocation for fleet maintenance and repair workshops - Backup/fill-in vehicles to prevent service disruptions	Internal Review
Incompatibility of vehicle fleet	- Municipalities must ensure vehicles are compatible with existing infrastructure - Separate vehicles required for S@S initiatives	

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● Municipalities report several risks due to poor waste management/collection practices: • Illegal dumping • Vector-related health risks • Uncontrolled burning (especially in informal areas)	● Expansion and improvement of accessible waste services, especially in informal settlements and low-income communities ● Improved data and mapping of illegal dumping hotspots to inform targeted interventions ● Community mobilisation and partnership initiatives to shift social norms and promote shared responsibility ● Stronger integration of waste management and public health planning under a One Health approach ● Interdepartmental coordination between waste, health and environmental health practitioners ● Public education focused on health and safety impacts of waste burning ● Targeted enforcement coupled with service improvements	● WMO Survey Results
● Transport emissions caused by waste logistics.	● Integration with Provincial climate and clean energy strategies required	● Stakeholder Review
● Waste collection and transportation systems are highly vulnerable to fuel supply disruptions, price volatility and global supply shocks. Municipal fleets remain predominantly diesel-dependent, with limited transition planning for alternative fuels or electric vehicles.	● Fleet transition planning to progressively reduce reliance on diesel through: • Alternative fuels, • Hybrid and electric waste collection vehicles. • Fuel-efficient routing and logistics optimisation. ● Inclusion of EV vehicles in MIG funding applications ● Provincial guidance and support for municipalities to assess life-cycle costs of alternative fleet technologies ● Blended and alternative financing mechanisms to support fleet renewal and fuel transition ● Improved route planning and regional service optimisation to reduce fuel consumption per tonne collected. ● Localising the processing of (compostable) waste at neighbourhood and ward/district levels	● Internal Review

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● Municipalities potentially lack contingency plans to ensure service continuity during fuel shortages, strikes, or transport disruptions and other factors.	● Business continuity planning to ensure waste collection services remain operational during fuel shortages, price spikes, protest action and storms	● Internal Review
Circular Economy		
● EPR schemes in place but free riders remain.	● Register of producers (expand importers etc.) including compliant vs non-compliant producers (collaboration of different stakeholders needed)- ● Stricter enforcement actions are needed to deter non-compliance	● Internal Review
● In relation to EPR, the constraint posed by the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and municipal supply chain processes, which complicate formal processes.	● Clear, legally compliant procurement pathways and operational guidelines that allow municipalities to collaborate with EPR stakeholders while adhering to MFMA and municipal supply chain requirements (issue with interpretation of the MFMA) ● Generic, simplified MOA – seek assistance from SALGA)/DoLG/Provincial Treasury/ Working Groups. Conditions of the MOA – certain conditions can be problematic e.g. exclusivity, getting the message to PROs and municipalities ● Awareness around EPR	● Internal Review
● Repair & refurbishment sector underdeveloped, especially outside CoCT.	● Skills development and training programmes ● Partnerships with PROs to support repair networks ● Promotion of product reuse	● Internal Review
● Lack of post-training uptake and limited pathways for trained youth (gap between training completion and enterprise/placement).	● Development of structured transition pathways (incubation, apprenticeships, enterprise support, job placement pipelines) ● Partnerships with PROs and private sector to absorb trained youth into value chains ● Mentorship for youth-led circular enterprises	● Public participation workshop

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Insufficient quantification and structured support for existing informal repairers.	- Provincial baseline study and mapping of informal repair sector - Establishment of repair hubs and networks - Access to tools, micro-finance, and business support services - Integration of repairers into EPR and circular economy programmes	Public participation workshop
Alternative waste treatment (AWT) technology projects stalled due to cost, licensing, and social acceptance.	- National AWT technology standards and best-practice guidance - Community engagement in AWT technology and social acceptance strategies - Consider biodigesters to deal with sanitation/organic waste (informal settlements)	Internal Review
Delays in activating funded AWT initiatives due to a lack of agreements.	- Standardised government partnership frameworks and MOUs for AWT technologies - Dedicated public-private partnership facilitation support within government - Clear governance models to enable private sector co-investment	Public participation workshop
Lack of completed monitoring and evaluation for home composting rollouts, limiting evidence-based assessment of impact, performance, and scalability. (applicable to municipalities)	- Development and rollout of standardised M&E frameworks and indicators for home composting - Longitudinal studies to assess diversion rates, participation, and impacts of home composting - Integration of M&E into municipal reporting systems (home composting roll-out)	Public participation workshop
Underdeveloped community-level composting despite proven benefits.	- Investment in decentralised composting infrastructure - Training and operational support for community operators - Quality control systems to ensure marketable compost outputs - Awareness campaigns to sustain household participation	Public participation workshop
Historically, composting facilities have been poorly managed, producing low-quality outputs.	Need for standards-driven composting and AD practices (correct feedstock, controlled conditions, scientific management)	Public participation workshop

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■ Limited national end-market demand for difficult-to-recycle materials/ Absence of a coordinated national market development framework. (industrial symbiosis, drivers (procurement), pyrolysis, what are the difficult to recycle materials)	■ Development of a coordinated national market development strategy ■ Economic instruments (e.g., incentives, subsidies, standards) to stimulate demand for difficult-to-recycle materials ■ Support for end-market development and local beneficiation industries	■ Public participation workshop
■ Unclear/insufficient municipal support mechanisms (infrastructure, land, equipment) for small and community-based recyclers.	■ Clear policy on access to land, infrastructure, and equipment (policies are there, but awareness of these policies needed) ■ Provide access to basic infrastructure and land, including sorting areas, facilities, and secure operational sites ■ Support access to essential equipment to improve efficiency, safety, and material quality ■ Integrate small recyclers into municipal waste systems through formal recognition and service arrangements. ■ Offer capacity-building and technical support to strengthen operational and business sustainability ■ Resource mapping of SMMEs to be included in municipal IWMPs, incl where the infrastructure is / and inclusion in recognition awards	■ Public participation workshop
■ Uncertainty on treatment/classification of biodegradable and additive-containing packaging./ Unknown breakdown rates and process impacts of such packaging in composting/AD systems. –	■ Development of national standards and classification guidelines for the treatment/classification of biodegradable and additive-containing packaging ■ Scientific research on degradation rates and system impacts ■ Clear labelling requirements of biodegradable and additive-containing packaging to guide correct waste management method (currently, limited awareness from manufacturers, biodegradability (period and conditions)	■ Public participation workshop
■ Limited quantified provincial data for absorbent hygiene products (AHP) waste e.g. nappy waste.	■ Waste characterisation studies to include AHP waste streams (Standardised template to include AHP waste as a separate stream- review current template- highlight problematic/priority waste)	■ Public participation workshop.

■ Absence of standard operating procedures (SOPs) or guidelines for bulk disposal of AHP waste from facilities such as crèches and old age homes.	■ Development of guidelines for bulk disposal of AHP waste from facilities such as crèches and old age homes ■ Targeted protocols for institutions (ECDs, old age homes, clinics, facilities for people with disabilities) ■ Training and compliance support for generators, including households and schools)	■ Stakeholder review
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● Municipalities face challenges when expanding waste diversion and transitioning to the circular economy. • Lack of infrastructure & technologies • Low community participation • Market limitations for recyclables • Logistical distance to regional facilities • Poor market access • Insufficient waste volumes • Lack of regional coordination • Weak integration of informal waste pickers	● Scaled and fit-for-purpose diversion infrastructure, ● Capital funding instruments targeted at diversion and circular economy infrastructure, particularly for non-metro municipalities. ● Shared-use and regional facilities supported through inter-municipal agreements (current agreements only to waste disposal, regional sites- is waste diversion being considered?) ● Expansion of S@S programmes, prioritising high-impact areas and scalable models. ● Sustained community education, mobilisation and behaviour-change initiatives rather than once-off awareness campaigns. ● Clear, consistent messaging on the benefits and practical requirements of waste diversion (awareness, municipal responsibility) ● Convenient and reliable services to support participation (accessibility strongly influences behaviour). ● Feedback mechanisms that show communities how their participation translates into outcomes. ● Market development interventions to strengthen demand for locally recovered recyclable materials ● Provincial support to connect municipalities and reclaimers to markets beyond their immediate geographic area. ● Regional aggregation of waste streams to achieve viable economies of scale ● Improved coordination between municipalities to align collection systems and material specifications. ● Data-driven planning to match infrastructure capacity with realistic waste volumes	● WMO Survey Results
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WESTERN CAPE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2027-2032

	- Formal regional coordination mechanisms for diversion planning, infrastructure development and market engagement - Formal frameworks for waste picker integration within municipal waste systems - Improved working conditions, safety and access to sorting infrastructure	
Currently limited collaboration with academia around valorisation of waste, beneficiation and emerging technologies.	- Establish formal collaboration frameworks between government, municipalities and academic institutions (universities, CSIR, HSRC and related bodies) - Support for pilot and demonstration projects that test emerging technologies at an appropriate scale before wider adoption - Regular knowledge-sharing platforms (workshops, technical forums) linking practitioners and researchers - Targeted technical support to municipalities to evaluate, adapt and procure emerging technologies responsibly. - Improved access to independent scientific and social-economic assessment of new technologies and systems. - Curriculum alignment between academic institutions and real-world waste system requirements. - Stronger involvement of institutions such as the Human Sciences Research Council to address: - Behaviour change, - Informal sector integration, - Social acceptance of technologies, - Community participation models	Internal Review
Waste Management Infrastructure		

WESTERN CAPE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2027-2032

■ Critical shortage of landfill airspace; ■ Delays in regional landfill projects. ■ Limited waste treatment facilities with reliance on landfilling. ■ Waste Infrastructure backlog ■ High cost of infrastructure	■ Development of new permitted landfill cells or expansion of existing sites ■ Acceleration of alternative waste-treatment technologies to reduce reliance on landfilling ■ Improved waste diversion programmes (recycling, composting, reuse) ■ Long-term airspace planning and modelling across districts ■ Strengthened compliance with compaction covering, and operational best practices to slow airspace depletion ■ Improved coordination between municipalities involved in regional initiatives ■ Securing sustainable funding and procurement mechanisms ■ Investment in waste management infrastructure (MRFs, composting, WtE) ■ Public-private partnerships to drive technology deployment ■ Integration of informal-sector recyclers into formal treatment value chains	■ Internal Review
■ Lack of infrastructure for hazardous waste disposal, lack of waste drop-off and recycling services.	■ Establishment of accessible waste drop-off centres for hazardous and problematic waste streams ■ Expansion of formal recycling and take-back services for hazardous and priority waste (e.g. e-waste, household hazardous waste) ■ Opportunities for partnerships with PROs – (PROs can provide receptacles, cover part of the risk) ■ Drop offs – operated by municipality/retailers etc., must be - access controlled/locked ■ HHW collection days	■ Public Survey Results
■ Lack of priority given to compliance at Waste Management Facilities (WMFs)	■ Improved compliance with waste management legislation and license conditions	■ Internal Review

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■ Poor conditions at Waste Management Facilities e.g. broken fences; lack of stormwater channels; methane >5% detected; no gas recovery systems.	■ Increased budget allocation for facility upkeep and compliance ■ Staff training in landfill operational standards ■ Installation of landfill gas monitoring and recovery systems. ■ Infrastructure and security upgrades	■ Internal Review
■ Lack of rail infrastructure undermines regionalisation feasibility.	■ Improved rail access would enable the efficient movement of waste over long distances, reduce reliance on road transport, lower costs and emissions, and make regional waste facilities and shared services financially and operationally feasible (Municipalities need to link via providing sidings – municipalities would need to pay for this – incorporate into municipal planning)	■ Public participation workshop
■ Regionalisation of waste management facilities would increase haulage distances and heavy vehicle movements.	■ A freight movement impact assessment where regional waste disposal facilities are proposed	■ Stakeholder review
■ Rising fuel and transport costs are eroding the economic viability of long-distance haulage to regional facilities and waste collection services	■ Exploration of EV and alternative fuels where feasible ■ Stronger regional coordination and planning to achieve economies of scale without excessive transport costs ■ Localised waste infrastructure	■ Internal Review
■ Bin capacity misalignment in properties with backyard dwellings;	■ Additional waste and recycling bins for properties with backyard dwellings ■ Awareness/behaviour change to ensure proper use of bins	■ Public participation workshop
■ Lack of infrastructure, such as limited storage and infrequent waste collection contributes to illegal dumping.	■ Adequate waste management infrastructure and more frequent, reliable waste collection services, including sufficient communal storage facilities, to prevent waste accumulation and reduce illegal dumping	■ Internal Review
■ Waste management infrastructure has the potential to cause congestion, road pavement deterioration, safety risks and inefficient routing if not aligned with transport corridor planning.	■ Address transport network impacts and corridor alignment for existing and future WMFs. (link SDFs- waste infrastructure, EIAs,)	■ Stakeholder review
Governance and Institutional Arrangements		

WESTERN CAPE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2027-2032

■ Inconsistent IWMP updates; seven municipalities have invalid IWMPs.	■ Monitoring and tracking of IWMP development and validity status ■ Valid IWMP should be made a prerequisite for specific provincial support	■ Internal Review
■ Weak alignment between municipal IWMPs, IDPs, budgets and provincial waste targets	■ Update and implement IWMPs aligned to Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plans (SDBIPs) and Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Frameworks (MTREFs)	■ Internal Review
■ Lack of standardisation in municipal IWMP annual reporting	■ Standardised templates and guidance for IWMP annual reporting - generic plus specific provisions	■ Internal Review
■ Many municipalities (not all) have valid IWMPs, but struggle with implementation due to funding, staffing and fleet constraints.	■ Aligning mandates, budgets and implementation responsibilities across municipal planning instruments (IWMPs, IDPs, SDBIPs) ■ Roll out the standardised annual IWMP reporting template and publish compliance status annually ■ Ensuring predictable and adequate funding for operations, fleet renewal and priority infrastructure ■ Strengthening human and technical capacity, including shared and regional support models	■ WMO Survey Results
■ Not all municipalities have designated Waste Management Officers (WMOs)	■ Municipalities to ensure WMO designation and clarify roles and responsibilities ■ WMO designation and current IWMP should be made a prerequisite for specific provincial support	■ Internal Review
■ Shortage of skilled municipal waste management staff	■ Targeted capacity-building and accredited waste management training	■ Internal Review
■ Lack of established District WMOFs and lack of participation at provincial WMOFs.	■ The WCDM to establish a WMOF and improved attendance and participation at provincial WMOFs	■ Internal Review
■ Outdated organisational/service models/ Slow organisational redesign at municipal level	■ Municipal organisational redesign and capacity building ■ Adoption of alternative service delivery models (e.g., partnerships, co-production) ■ Skills development in contract management and innovation	■ Public participation workshop

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■ Municipal waste by-laws not fully aligned with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (NEM:WA)	■ Municipal engagement to review, update, and align waste by-laws with NEM:WA ■ Matzikama and West Coast need bylaws, enforcement of bylaws needed	■ Internal Review
■ Compliance risk for municipalities who fail to meet waste targets.	■ Strengthened compliance monitoring and enforcement systems ■ Support to municipalities to meet regulatory requirements	■ Public participation workshop
■ Several governance issues hamper waste management: • Weak intergovernmental coordination (local–district–provincial) • Waste often de-prioritised in budgeting compared to water, sanitation and housing • Slow procurement and contract management • Limited technical capacity and data systems (e.g. no weighbridges, unreliable IPWIS reporting)	■ Strengthening of district and provincial facilitation roles, particularly for smaller and capacity-constrained municipalities. ■ Regular, structured platforms for joint planning, problem-solving and information sharing across spheres. ■ Stronger recognition of waste management as an essential public health, environmental and service delivery function. ■ Improved alignment between waste management mandates and municipal budget allocations, including operational and capital funding. ■ Integration of IWMP priority actions into IDPs, SDBIPs and Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Frameworks. ■ Provincial technical support to municipalities navigating complex procurement within regulatory frameworks. ■ Improved planning to reduce emergency procurement caused by poor contract sequencing and fleet failures. ■ Streamlining and standardisation of procurement processes for waste management goods and services. ■ Targeted training and skills development programmes for municipal officials in waste management systems. ■ Capacity building to improve data quality, accuracy and consistency, particularly for IPWIS reporting ■ Investment in basic waste data infrastructure i.e. including weighbridges	■ WMO Survey Results

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● Lack of enforcement of (CoCT) by-laws (e.g. no separation of waste; waste management plans)	● Establishment of co-enforcement systems	● Stakeholder review
● Lack of partnerships with existing organisations and residents for planning and implementation of waste projects	● Include residents and NGOs in planning and implementation of waste projects ● Form partnerships with NGOs, community organisations, to enable composting at community level. ● Engagement with municipality/CoCT, identify NGOs-municipalities can assist, municipalities need to establish these relationships	● Stakeholder review
● No support for community-led composting initiatives	● Create funding mechanisms and formal support programmes for community initiatives	● Stakeholder review
Waste Management Finances		
● Declining municipal operational budgets, combined with population growth and rising service demand	● Improved budgetary and planning tools that integrate population growth, urban expansion, and waste generation trends (e.g. tariff setting, ring-fencing)	● Internal Review
● Limited access to capital funding for waste management infrastructure	● Access to alternative capital financing mechanisms, including blended finance, grants, and public-private partnerships (PPPs)	● Internal Review
● Tariffs not reflecting the true cost of waste management services	● Technical support to improve financial planning, tariff setting, and cost recovery mechanisms within municipalities	● Internal Review
● Waste management budgets not ring-fenced, resulting in under-investment	● Ring-fenced waste management budgets at municipal level	● Internal Review
● Provincial Waste Management Directorate underfunded, with reduced staff capacity	● Additional funding to strengthen institutional capacity at provincial level	● Internal Review
● Reliance on limited human resources for financial management and reporting	● Digital systems and automation to reduce reliance on constrained human resources (note - automation can optimize process- however human interaction in the process is vital)	● Internal Review
● Poor data quality and unreliable Waste Information System (WIS) data limiting investment readiness	● Improved data quality, verification, and reporting to support funding applications and investment readiness	● Internal Review
● Insufficient municipal capacity to collect, manage, and submit accurate financial and waste data	● Capacity-building and system support for municipalities to ensure accurate and timely data submission	● Internal Review

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Fragmented service delivery increasing per-unit service costs	Shared services, regionalisation, and economies of scale to lower per-unit waste management costs	Internal Review
Funding constraints due to District Municipality MIG exclusions for key waste infrastructure and fleets	Access to alternative and equitable funding mechanisms, including blended finance for district municipalities, including the review or reform of MIG eligibility criteria to allow funding for critical waste infrastructure and fleet requirements	Public participation workshop
Lack of affordability of waste management services	- Development of affordable, equitable waste service financing models that balance cost recovery with social protection. - Review of waste tariff structures to ensure they reflect actual service levels, affordability thresholds, and ability to pay.	Public Survey Results
Human Rights and Inclusivity		
Gender mainstreaming remains weak in the waste sector (e.g. only 13% of WMOs are women)	Targeted recruitment, mentorship, and leadership development for women in technical and management roles	Internal Review
	Collection and use of sex/gender-disaggregated data to inform planning and monitoring (e.g when planning waste services - gender specific/services for people with disabilities/safety and other human rights considerations)	Internal Review
Women-led enterprises face barriers to growth and market access	Targeted support for women-led recycling enterprises	Internal Review
Women in informal waste work experience greater income insecurity, social vulnerability, harassment, and exposure to violence	Gender-responsive waste policies and facilities	Internal Review
	Safe, well-lit, and secure work environments	Internal Review
Waste pickers face unsafe working conditions, health risks, income insecurity, slow integration, and exclusion from municipal decision-making	Formal recognition of waste pickers as economic actors and their inclusion in municipal recycling and EPR systems	Internal Review
	Improved occupational health and safety measures, including access to protective equipment and safer working environments	Internal Review
	Capacity-building and organisational support for waste picker cooperatives or associations	Internal Review

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	Better coordination between municipalities, community structures, and informal workers	Internal Review
	Waste pickers prohibited at landfill sites	Internal Review
- Majority of municipalities do not formally integrate waste pickers. Where integration exists, it is: - Informal - Project-based - Dependent on NGOs or MRF operators	- Formal frameworks for waste picker integration within municipal waste systems - Improved working conditions, safety and access to sorting infrastructure	WMO Survey Results
Bakkie collectors not explicitly recognised within SAWPRAS, despite participating in EPR value chains via buy-back centres.	- Formal recognition within EPR frameworks (e.g., SAWPRAS), however bakkie collectors fall outside of the definition of "waste picker" - Registration and integration into collection and recycling systems - Access to incentives, infrastructure, and fair compensation mechanisms	Public participation workshop
Lack of access to basic services at waste work sites (water, sanitation, shelter), particularly affecting informal workers	Access to basic services at work sites, including water, sanitation, and shelter	Internal Review
Young people from low-income communities enter the informal recycling sector due to limited education and employment opportunities	Skills development and accredited training pathways for youth linked to formal waste management and circular economy jobs	Internal Review
	Entry-level employment, internships, and apprenticeship programmes targeting youth from low-income communities	Internal Review
	Support for innovation, small enterprises, and green jobs within the waste sector	Internal Review
People with disabilities are excluded from formal waste management opportunities due to physical barriers and discriminatory practices	Funding provisions/ partnerships with disability organisations to design inclusive programmes and employment pathways (engage Social Development)	Internal Review
	Disability awareness and anti-discrimination training within waste institutions and service providers	Internal Review
Low-income and marginalised communities experience disproportionate pollution and environmental health impacts	Prioritisation of pollution reduction and environmental risk mitigation in vulnerable communities	Internal Review

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Informal settlements experience inconsistent waste collection, leading residents to rely on informal recycling or waste picking for survival.	Improved and regularised waste collection services in informal settlements	Internal Review
	Community-based waste management approaches that combine service provision with local job creation	Internal Review
Lack of adoption of co-design methods /community owned solutions in informal settlements.	- Adoption of co-design and participatory planning methods - Support for community-owned and managed waste solutions - Capacity building for local leadership and governance structures	Public participation workshop

6.3 Prioritisation of Needs

- Stabilisation of waste services, improved compliance, and protection of public health.
 - Expand and improve accessible and reliable waste collection services, particularly in informal, rural and low-income areas.
 - Scale up separation at source and organic waste diversion.
 - Address priority waste streams, problematic waste and hazardous waste.
 - Address landfill compliance, safety, and airspace management, including infrastructure maintenance and adherence to license conditions.
 - Strengthen enforcement, hotspot mapping and service access. Effective illegal dumping prevention, combining enforcement, education, and provision of adequate disposal alternatives.
 - Improve waste management financing and governance.
- Improved service efficiency, increased diversion rates, improved data reliability and a more institutionally resilient waste system.
 - Improve waste data reporting.
 - Expansion of recycling infrastructure and accessible drop-off facilities to support diversion efforts.
 - Shift to sustained behaviour-change-focused education (mobilisation and partnerships).
 - Improve route optimisation, logistics planning and shared services. Fleet renewal and maintenance programmes to improve collection reliability and coverage.
 - Streamline procurement and strengthen contract management.
 - Improved governance and institutional capacity, including designated WMOs and aligned by-laws.
- Low-carbon, and regionally integrated waste management system with strong circular economy linkages.
 - Gender mainstreaming, youth pathways, disability inclusion.
 - Regionalisation of waste management, to reduce costs; funding mechanisms for districts.
 - Development and scale-up of alternative technologies, supported by national standards, community engagement, and clear governance models.
 - Expansion of refurbishment and repair activities, strengthen EPR, develop recycling and end-markets.
 - Formal recognition and integration of waste pickers.
 - Alternative capital financing mechanisms, including blended finance and large-scale public-private partnerships.
 - Address freight impacts and transition fleets to alternative fuels and electric vehicles.

7 Implementation Plan

The Vision for waste management in the province remains as is, focusing on resource-efficiency, inclusivity and fairness, the promotion of social well-being and environmental protection. The Mission Statement, which promotes good governance and partnerships, has also largely been retained, with the inclusion of data driven decision-making.

The Vision and Mission are stated as follows:

Vision:

"A resource-efficient, inclusive and thriving society that ensures a clean environment."

Mission:

"To build a resource-efficient, inclusive and thriving society that recognises the value of waste, supported by affordable, data-driven, appropriate services, technologies and infrastructure through good governance and partnerships that will benefit communities, the economy and the environment."

7.1 Alignment of Proposed Goals

The proposed goals align with the Strategic Pillars of the NWMS, 2020 and the draft NWMS, 2026 (Table 31).

Table 31: Alignment of the WC IWMP Goals with the National Waste Management Strategy's Strategic Pillars

WC IWMP Goals	NWMS, 2020 Strategic Pillars	Draft NWMS, 2026 Strategic Pillars
Goal 1: Inclusive participation, behaviour change for socio-economic development	Pillar 3: Compliance, enforcement and awareness	Pillar 3: Capacity building and awareness raising
Goal 2: Improved integrated waste management planning and implementation for efficient waste services, technologies and infrastructure	Pillar 2: Effective and sustainable waste services	Pillar 2: Effective and sustainable waste services
Goal 3: Transition to a circular economy through effective and efficient utilisation of resources	Pillar 1: Waste minimisation	Pillar 1: Circular economy and waste minimisation

Goal 4: Strengthened compliance monitoring and enforcement	Pillar 3: Compliance, enforcement and awareness	Pillar 4: Compliance monitoring and enforcement
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7.2 Overview of Goals

The Department has identified four goals to assist in its vision for a clean environment. The four goals centre around participation and behaviour change, improved waste planning, transitioning to a circular economy and compliance with and enforcement of waste legislation.

Goal 1: Inclusive participation and behaviour change for socio-economic development

The need for waste awareness, education and advocacy leading to behaviour change was identified as key focus area during the development of the WC IWMP. Central to this is a shift from fragmented messaging towards a more coordinated and consistent approach. Messaging should also be grounded in the real impacts of poor waste management experienced by communities, such as flooding, health risks and landfill capacity constraints.

Community mobilisation is recognised as essential to achieving sustained behaviour change. This goes beyond consultation and includes active participation in waste management systems, such as source separation, community clean-ups and recycling initiatives, as well as involvement in pilot projects and locally driven solutions. Effective mobilisation requires long-term, trust-based engagement, moving away from once-off intervention, and strong partnerships with civil society and community-based organisations. It also depends on enabling conditions such as accessible services, visible infrastructure, and the use of incentives and behavioural nudges.

In addition, targeted awareness programmes are needed to promote waste prevention, reduction, reuse and recovery, thereby supporting the transition to a circular economy. These initiatives should contribute to reducing littering and illegal dumping while encouraging cleaner communities. Awareness efforts should make use of diverse communication channels and be inclusive, for example by accommodating multiple languages and the needs of visually impaired individuals.

A whole-of-society approach is required, incorporating the participation of communities, civil society organisations, industry, research and educational institutions, and the informal sector. Youth have been identified as a key entry point for social development and long-term shifts in behaviour and social norms.

Objectives:

- Objective 1.1 Increase public awareness, advocacy, and education in IWM
- Objective 1.2 Strengthen whole of society mobilisation for sustainable waste management

Expected Outcome:

- An empowered and actively participating society that adopts responsible waste management practices, contributes to cleaner and healthier communities, and supports

socio-economic development through waste minimisation, resource recovery and circular economy initiatives.

Goal 2: Improved integrated waste management planning and implementation for efficient waste services, technologies and infrastructure

Goal 2 seeks to strengthen integrated waste management planning and implementation across the Western Cape by ensuring that municipalities have the capacity, resources, infrastructure, information systems and governance arrangements required to deliver reliable, sustainable and cost-effective waste management services. The goal recognises that effective waste management depends on sound planning that is aligned with municipal budgets, strategic priorities and future growth trends, while also responding to current and emerging waste challenges and increasing service demands.

The goal aims to improve the integration of Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs) with municipal planning and budgeting processes to ensure that waste management priorities are adequately funded and implemented. It further seeks to expand and optimise waste management infrastructure, services and technologies, including landfill airspace, recycling and diversion facilities, waste collection systems, hazardous waste services and innovative treatment technologies. Particular emphasis is placed on improving waste service delivery in underserved areas, including informal settlements and low-income communities.

A key component of the goal is strengthening waste information management, reporting and analysis to support evidence-based decision-making, infrastructure planning and investment. This includes improving the quality, accuracy and availability of waste data, increasing reporting compliance and enhancing the use of information for planning and monitoring purposes.

The goal also seeks to establish strong governance, sustainable financing mechanisms and institutional capacity to support long-term service delivery. This includes promoting regional collaboration, public-private partnerships, sound financial management, effective procurement systems, strengthened regulatory compliance and improved organisational capacity within municipalities. Through these interventions, Goal 2 aims to create an integrated, well-planned and financially sustainable waste management system that supports environmental protection, public health, resource efficiency and improved service delivery outcomes throughout the province.

Objectives:

- Objective 2.1 Implement budget-led Municipal Integrated Waste Management Planning
- Objective 2.2 Expand integrated waste management infrastructure and services
- Objective 2.3 Improve waste data management, reporting and analysis for decision-making
- Objective 2.4 Strengthen governance and sustainable finances

Expected Outcome:

- Clean communities across the Western Cape with access to well-managed, reliable and financially sustainable waste management services and infrastructure.

Goal 3: Transition to a circular economy through effective and efficient utilisation of resources

Goal 3 aims to significantly reduce the environmental impacts of waste, including its contribution to climate change, by transitioning from landfill disposal towards an inclusive circular economy that prioritises waste avoidance/ reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery. The goal promotes resource efficiency, conserves natural resources, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and supports sustainable economic growth, job creation, and environmental resilience by maximising the value of resources.

The Department will drive the transition to a circular economy by promoting the expansion of recycling and waste separation initiatives, diversion of organic waste from landfills in lieu of the approaching target to prohibit all organic waste from landfill in 2027. It will support and facilitate the implementation of EPR schemes by fostering collaboration between municipalities, SMMEs, industry and PROs. Furthermore, it will encourage businesses to adopt circular production and industrial symbiosis, while promoting sustainable consumption patterns and responsible waste management behaviour among residents.

The Department will support national strategic goals by driving the diversion of identified priority waste streams, including organic waste, textiles, AHPs and C&D waste, from landfill. This will be achieved through the promotion of circular economy practices within identified industry sectors such as hospitality and textiles, encouraging the adoption of green procurement strategies, supporting cleaner production interventions and advancing waste beneficiation initiatives that maximise the value of resources.

The Department will further promote waste diversion through the implementation of composting initiatives and other organic waste management systems, while supporting enterprise development, the repair and refurbishment economy/ initiatives and SMMEs operating within the waste sector. Goal 3 provides an opportunity to stimulate economic opportunities and extend product lifecycles. Training programmes on the repair and refurbishment of WEEE will be facilitated and in partnership with PROs, municipalities and SMMEs, the Department will support the implementation of waste diversion and job creation projects, while promoting the integration of waste pickers into the formal waste management system. This will promote an inclusive circular economy that recognises the valuable role of waste pickers, the informal sector and other vulnerable groups. It also seeks to address skills gaps through targeted training and capacity-building programmes that improve access to employment and economic opportunities in the waste sector.

Additional efforts will focus on increasing the diversion and recovery of construction and demolition waste, investigating incentivised recycling programmes with PROs to enhance public participation and strengthening partnerships that expand waste diversion infrastructure and resource recovery opportunities. Collectively, these interventions will contribute to increased recycling and recovery rates, job creation, enterprise development, and the transition towards an inclusive and resource-efficient circular economy. Despite challenges such as infrastructure limitations, illegal dumping and the need for greater public awareness, the circular economy presents an opportunity to build a more sustainable, resource-efficient and inclusive economy while improving the well-being of its communities and protecting the environment for future generations.

The goal aims to enhance inclusivity within the waste management sector through the implementation of activities that support vulnerable groups, promote gender equality, address gender-based violence (GBV), and uphold human rights. Key initiatives include youth-focused

programmes, such as training learners in the repair and refurbishment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and textiles, supporting women-led enterprises, and establishing partnerships with organisations that advocate for persons with disabilities. The goal also promotes the integration of waste pickers into the formal waste management system and includes an assessment of their exposure to GBV to inform appropriate support and intervention measures.

Objectives:

- Objective 3.1: Minimise consumption of natural resources and promote the circular economy principles;
- Objective 3.2: Stimulate job creation within the waste economy; and
- Objective 3.3: Increase waste diversion through reuse, recovery and recycling.

Expected Outcome:

- Drive the transition towards a circular economy by promoting waste avoidance/reduction, reuse, recycling and resource recovery, resulting in waste diversion, improved resource efficiency, enhanced environmental sustainability and expanded socio-economic opportunities for communities, businesses, and industry, with a particular focus on empowering youth, women, persons with disabilities, and waste pickers.

Goal 4: Strengthened compliance monitoring and enforcement

Goal 4 aims to strengthen compliance monitoring and enforcement by ensuring the sound management of WMFs and the protection of public health and the environment. This goal has strong linkages to human rights and the environmental right as enshrined in the Constitution. It emphasises the importance of enforcing environmental laws, focusing on landfill compliance, illegal dumping reduction and remediation which would assist in protecting vulnerable communities that are often located near waste facilities and illegal dumping hotspots.

This goal will be achieved by implementing compliance promotion measures, compliance enforcement, promoting industry self/coregulation as well as auditing and monitoring of WMFs. The Department also has several tools, i.e., auditing tools and the alternative waste technology/airspace tool which will help municipalities improve their level of compliance.

A key component of the goal is the rolling out of the Western Cape Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping as illegal dumping is a challenge in municipalities across the province. The Goal also focusses on the decommissioning and closure of waste management facilities as well as the remediation of contaminated land.

Objectives:

- Objective 4.1 Strengthen compliance and enforcement
- Objective 4.2 Decommissioning and closure of waste management facilities
- Objective 4.3 Remediate contaminated land

Expected Outcome:

- Improved compliance, enforcement and regulatory systems for waste management across the Western Cape with well-managed, waste management facilities and infrastructure.

7.3 Priority and Problematic Waste

At a national level, several waste types are being prioritised in the draft National Waste Management Strategy, 2026 (NWMS, 2026), these include:

1. Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHPs), 2. Organic waste, 3. Clothing and textiles, 4. Automobiles, 5. Coal ash, 6. Food waste, and 7. Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste.

The Department has identified organic waste, including food waste as a problematic waste, as is evidenced by the upcoming prohibition of organic waste to landfill by 2027. Municipalities are required to find alternatives to landfilling, including separation at source (S@S) initiatives, composting and biogas production.

The Implementation Plan focuses on the following key waste types:

Organic waste: Diversion from landfill through composting, food gardens, community programmes and circular economy initiatives.

Food waste: Prevention of food loss, redistribution of edible food, and diversion of unavoidable food waste into composting and other recovery options.

Hazardous waste and problematic waste: Safe collection, storage, treatment and recovery.

AHPs: Addressing a growing waste stream that is difficult to divert and poses disposal challenges.

Textile Waste: Transition from disposal to repair, reuse and recycling.

E-waste/ WEEE: Resource recovery and creation of repair-based employment opportunities.

C&D Waste: Reuse and recycling construction materials rather than disposal.

7.4 Implementation Table

The Implementation Table (Table 32) provides activities for implementation which responds to the strategic goals and objectives. Each activity includes an output indicator, timeframe, responsibility and targets.

Table 32: Implementation Table

GOAL 1: INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION, BEHAVIOUR CHANGE FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
Objective 1.1 Increase public awareness, advocacy, and education in IWM	Number of integrated waste management training initiatives with targeted sectors	Conduct integrated waste management training initiatives with targeted sectors: 1. Landfill operator training 2. Integrated Waste Management Capacity-building workshop 3. WCRAAG knowledge-sharing engagements (to include academia) 4. Industry Waste Management Forum	X	X	X	DEA&DP/Industry/ Municipalities/ Educational Institutions/ Community Organisations	1. Every two years 2. Annually 3. 4 per year 4. Annually
	Number of waste minimisation awareness/knowledge sharing interventions with targeted sectors of society to build capacity	Conduct waste minimisation awareness/knowledge sharing interventions with targeted sectors of society to build capacity: 1. Waste minimisation support rendered to municipalities. 2. Organic waste awareness campaigns	X	X	X	DEA&DP/Industry/ Municipalities/ Community Organisations	1. upon request 2. 1 per year

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GOAL 1: INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION, BEHAVIOUR CHANGE FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
		3.WCRAG knowledge-sharing engagements (to include academia)					3. 4 per year
	Capacity-building sessions conducted with relevant IPWIS stakeholders	Conduct IPWIS capacity building with relevant stakeholders on IPWIS functionality and related waste information legislation	X	X	X	DEA&DP/ Municipality/ Industry	Upon request/ as the need arises.
	Number of awareness tools developed and shared with municipalities	Develop multilingual and visual tools on organic waste	X			DEADP, Industry, Municipalities, communities	Ongoing
	Number of awareness campaigns hosted	Host a large civil society campaign on waste diversion (organic Waste and waste minimisation)	X	X	X	DEADP, Industry, Municipalities, communities	Annually
	Number of awareness tools developed and shared with municipalities	Catalogue reuse markets and promote the reuse market in organics, food distribution and other waste types.	X	X	X	DEADP, Industry, Municipalities, communities, SMMEs	1 every 5 years
	Number of awareness tools developed and shared with municipalities	Repair and recycled product catalogue	X	X	X	DEADP, Industry, SMMEs	Annually
Objective 1.2 Strengthen whole of society mobilisation for sustainable waste management	Number of awareness tools developed and shared with municipalities	Develop multilingual and visual tools on waste management/minimisation (official 3 languages in the WC)	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities / Industry / Communities, including NGOs, CBOs, other partners	Ongoing
	Number of municipalities with recognition programmes	Facilitate the recognition of community participation in waste management (This	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities / Industry / Communities,	Annually

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GOAL 1: INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION, BEHAVIOUR CHANGE FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
		could be for schools, wards, communities, businesses, waste pickers, community-led projects, etc)				including NGOs, CBOs, other partners	
	Number of codesign community engagements requested and held	Facilitate and support municipalities to conduct or implement codesign engagements for improved inclusivity planning in waste management services	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities / Industry / Communities, including NGOs, CBOs, other partners	Upon Request
	Number of engagements with Municipalities to roll out the Strid	Roll out the Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping	X	X	X	DEA&DP/Municipalities	Ongoing

GOAL 2: IMPROVED INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR EFFICIENT WASTE SERVICES							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
Objective 2.1 Implement budget-led Municipal Integrated Waste Management Planning	Number of municipalities with IWMPs aligned to IDPs	Facilitate, support, review and update municipal IWMPs to ensure alignment with IDPs	X	X	X	DEA&DP/Municipalities	30
	Number of planning and budgeting support engagements conducted annually	Provide ongoing technical support and monitoring to municipalities to improve integrated waste management planning and budgeting practices.	X	X	X	DEA&DP/Municipalities	Demand driven
Objective 2.2 Expand integrated waste management	Number of waste infrastructure funded through government grants	Identify and engage with municipalities in need of government grant funding for waste collection vehicles / yellow fleet/Infrastructure	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities	Demand driven

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GOAL 2: IMPROVED INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR EFFICIENT WASTE SERVICES							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
infrastructure and services	Number of municipalities funded for yellow fleet and the number of yellow fleet received	Support motivations by municipalities for the procurement of waste collection vehicles /yellow fleet	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities	Demand driven
	Number of HHW collection initiatives supported	Facilitate HHW collection days with municipalities, PROs and industry partners	X	X	X	Municipalities/ DEA&DP	Demand driven
	Number of hazardous and problematic waste collection and take-back initiatives supported	Facilitate partnerships to expand e-waste, battery, waste oil, lamp and pesticide collection services	X	X	X	Municipalities/ DEA&DP/PROs	Demand driven
	Number of Municipalities supported to establish or improve hazardous and problematic waste drop-off facilities	Provide technical support and facilitate funding and partnerships for drop-off infrastructure	X	X	X	Municipalities/ DEA&DP/PROs	Demand driven
	Number of municipalities supported to expand separation-at-source systems to include problematic waste streams	Conduct a Separation at source evaluation and provide guidance) on differentiated collection systems.	X			DEADP / Municipalities / PROs	1
	Number of municipal IWMPs reviewed to strengthen hazardous and problematic waste management	Review municipal IWMPs and monitor implementation of hazardous and problematic waste initiatives.	X	X	X	DEADP/Municipalities	Demand driven
	A guideline on non-infectious AHP disposal	Develop a guideline on the bulk collection and disposal of AHP wastes.	X			DEADP/Municipalities	1

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GOAL 2: IMPROVED INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR EFFICIENT WASTE SERVICES							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
	Number of municipal programmes for organic waste	Promote organic waste initiatives and expansion at household level, business and schools if applicable	X	X	X	DEADP, Municipalities, SMMEs, industry, schools, communities.	Annually
Objective 2.3 Improve waste data management, reporting and analysis for decision-making	Report on the key enhancements in the Annual State of Waste Management Report to demonstrate that IPWIS was enhanced.	Maintain, enhance and support the IPWIS to ensure alignment to legislative and business requirements	X	X	X	DEA&DP/ Centre for e-Innovation / Municipalities	On-going
	Annual State of Waste Management Report	Assess, analyse and disseminate waste management information.	X	X	X	DEA&DP	1 per year
Objective 2.4 Strengthen Governance and sustainable finances	Number of IWMPs developed	Support municipalities with the development of IWMPs with the inclusion of a gender-based assessment	X	X	X	DEA&DP/ Municipalities	Demand driven
	Number of IWMPs endorsed	Assess and endorse Municipal IWMPs	X	X	X	DEA&DP/ Municipalities	Demand driven
	Number of waste management officer forums hosted.	Waste Management Officers Forum	X	X	X	DEA&DP/ Municipalities	3 per year
	Number of engagements with municipalities around ensuring that WMOs are designated	Engage with municipalities around ensuring that WMOs are designated in terms of the NEM: WA	X	X	X	DEA&DP/Municipalities	As required
	Number of Municipal Recognition Programmes undertaken	Undertake a Municipal Recognition Programme	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities	1 per year
	Number of municipal Annual Reports assessed	Monitor the implementation of Municipal IWMPs	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities	30 per year

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GOAL 2: IMPROVED INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR EFFICIENT WASTE SERVICES							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
	Number of WCIWMP Annual Reports approved and endorsed	Monitor and report on the implementation of the WCIWMP	X	X	X	MEC/DEA&DP / DFFE/Minister	1 per year
	Number of Regional waste management coordination mechanisms established	Facilitate regional planning, governance and intergovernmental coordination	X	X	X	DDM/JDMA	Quarterly
	Number of Municipalities supported to access alternative funding and financing mechanisms	Support municipalities to access grants, blended finance, PPPs and other capital funding opportunities.	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities/ SALGA / PT / MISA/ DoLG/	Demand driven
	Number of Municipalities implementing sustainable waste financing mechanisms.	Provide technical support on financial planning, tariff setting, cost recovery and ring-fencing of waste management budgets.	X	X	X	DEA&DP/Municipalities / SALGA / PT/ MISA	Demand driven

GOAL 3: TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT UTILISATION OF RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
Objective 3.1 Minimise consumption of natural resources and	Number of engagements with the hospitality sector	Monitor and promote Industry Waste Management Planning and the circular economy in the hospitality sector	X			DEA&DP / DEDAT	Demand driven

GOAL 3: TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT UTILISATION OF RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
promote the circular economy principles							
	Number of circular economy initiatives supported annually	Promote CE through industry forums; awareness campaigns; partnerships with industry, state agencies and PROs	X	X	X	SMMEs, Industry, PROs, DEADP	4 WCRAAGs per year
	The number of Green Procurement strategies implemented	Promote and institute Green Procurement in targeted sectors	X			DEA&DP/Industry/Municipalities	1
	Number of interventions with the private sector to beneficiate waste	Engage private sector regarding the beneficiation of identified waste generators	X	X	X	DEA&DP	Demand driven
	Improved producer registration and compliance	Support producer registration; improve collaboration and information sharing – free riders	X	X	X	PROs/DEA&DP	Demand driven
Objective 3.2 Stimulate job creation within the waste economy	Monitor initiatives diverting waste from rural municipalities to markets	Assess the feasibility of reverse logistics for waste diverted from rural municipal waste disposal facilities to recycling markets	X	X		DEA&DP / Municipalities, Industry, PROs, Retailers, Recyclers, Logistics companies	1
	Number of learners trained in repair and refurbishment of WEEE	Conduct repair and refurbishment training on WEEE	X			DEADP, PROs, Private sector partners	5
	A status quo on the textile waste industry in Western Cape	Conduct study on textile waste industry in the Western Cape	X			DEA&DP	1

GOAL 3: TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT UTILISATION OF RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
	Number of learners trained in repair and refurbishment of textile wastes	Conduct repair and refurbishment training on Textiles within the Western Cape	X	X	X	DEA&DP	5
	Number of partnerships established with job creation projects	Facilitate partnerships with PROs, SMMEs and Municipalities to enable job creation projects	X	X	X	DEA&DP / PROs / Municipalities / SMMEs	Annually
	Number of waste pickers integrated	Promote the integration of waste pickers in the waste system	X	X	X	DEA&DP / PROs / Municipalities / SMMEs / Buyback Centers	Annually
	Number of women and vulnerable groups supported	Support women-led enterprises; disability partnerships	X	X	X	DEA&DP / PROs / Municipalities / SMMEs	Annually
	Number of women and vulnerable groups supported	Review of GBV Exposure of Waste Pickers in WC	X			DEA&DP / PROs / Municipalities / SMMEs / Buyback Centers	1
Objective 3.3 Increase waste diversion through reuse, recovery and recycling	Number of construction and demolition waste diversion interventions undertaken	Promote the diversion of construction and demolition waste	X	X	X	DEA&DP	Ongoing
	Mapped database of SMMEs	Conduct a mapping process on SMMEs within the Western Cape to increase diversion	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities	Annually
	Number of partnerships established	Investigate, with PROs the potential of incentivised recycling	X	X	X	DEA&DP / PROs / Municipalities / SMMEs	Annually

GOAL 3: TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT UTILISATION OF RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
		programmes to enhance participation					
	Number of partnerships established	Facilitate partnerships with PROs, SMMEs and Municipalities to enable waste diversion	X	X	X	DEA&DP / PROs / Municipalities / SMMEs	Annually

GOAL 4: STRENGTHENED COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
Objective 4.1 Strengthen compliance and enforcement	Number of waste audits conducted	Conduct departmental waste audits on waste management facilities and other regulated waste activities	X	X	X	DEA&DP	Min 48 annually (10 landfills and 2 Norms and Standards facilities per quarter)
	Number of IPWIS data verifications and validations conducted	Conduct IPWIS data verification and validation	X	X	X	DEA&DP	Min 18 per annum

GOAL 4: STRENGTHENED COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
	Number of promotional compliance visits undertaken	Undertake promotional compliance visits to facilitate industry and other waste holder responsibility	X	X	X	DEA&DP	Min 15 per annum
	Number of enforcement actions undertaken	Enforce compliance with waste management legislation	X	X	X	DEA&DP	Demand driven
	Number of reports submitted to DFFE wrt to Municipal illegal dumping	Report on the implementation of the Strategy to Reduce Illegal Dumping in the Western Cape Province	X	X	X	DEA&DP and Municipalities	Quarterly
	Revised STRID	Monitor, review and update the STRID	X	X	X	DEA&DP	Every 5 years
	Number of hazardous waste streams monitored through improved tracking and compliance systems	Engage industry stakeholders, municipalities, PROs and waste management facilities to improve hazardous waste data collection, reporting, traceability and regulatory compliance.	X	X	X	DEA&DP/Industry/Industry Bodies/PROs/Municipalities	Demand-driven
Objective 4.2 Decommissioning	Number of waste management	Decommissioning of waste management facilities	X	X	X	DEA&DP / Municipalities/ DWS	Application based

GOAL 4: STRENGTHENED COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT							
Objective	Output indicator	Activity	Timeframe			Responsibility	Target
			2027-2032	2032-2037	2037-2042		
and closure of waste management facilities	facilities decommissioned						
Objective 4.3 Remediate contaminated land	Number of decisions issued in respect of contaminated land cases received	Monitor compliance in respect of decisions issued for contaminated land cases received	X	X	X	DEA&DP/ Pollution Directorate	Ongoing

8 Monitoring, Review and Reporting

8.1 Monitoring and Review

Monitoring the implementation of the WC IWMP must be undertaken as it is an essential part of the planning process. The Implementation Plan includes output indicators, which will be used to assist with monitoring. annual performance reports will be used to monitor progress and to ensure that actions are implemented. The following will be monitored and reported on in the annual performance reports:

- Performance and progress on meeting short-, medium- and long-term goals and objectives;
- Budget forecasting and budgeting constraints with respect to implementation of the WC IWMP; and
- Gender and inclusivity indicators
- Amendments to the WC IWMP necessitated by constraints in terms of finances and capacity (note that the WC IWMP will be revised every 5 years).

Performance of the Provincial Department in implementing its IWMP will be monitored by tracking work done as per its Annual Performance Plan (APP). An IWMP Monitoring Committee, consisting of waste management officials will review the APP in conjunction with the WC IWMP Implementation Plan and track the progress made and note any challenges.

8.2 Reporting

Annual reporting requirements for provinces is outlined in the NEM: WA, section 13 (1)(2). Reporting on implementation of IWMPs will be adhered to. Reporting will be done on the progress of each output indicator.

In addition to this, the Department provides feedback annually to the DFFE via reporting templates.

Section 13 (3) of the NEM: WA notes the requirement in Section 46 of the Municipal Systems Act (32 of 2000) for municipalities to compile annual performance reports. Section 13 (3) also specifically requires that annual performance reports must contain information on the implementation of the IWMP and provide feedback on this

9 Official Sign-off

I, Saliem Haider as Director: Waste Management, hereby sign-off on the submission of the Western Cape Integrated Waste Management Plan 2027-2032 to the Head of Department and the Provincial Minister for consideration.

Director: Waste Management

DRAFT

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