

Improved waste management services – Will the Act make a difference?

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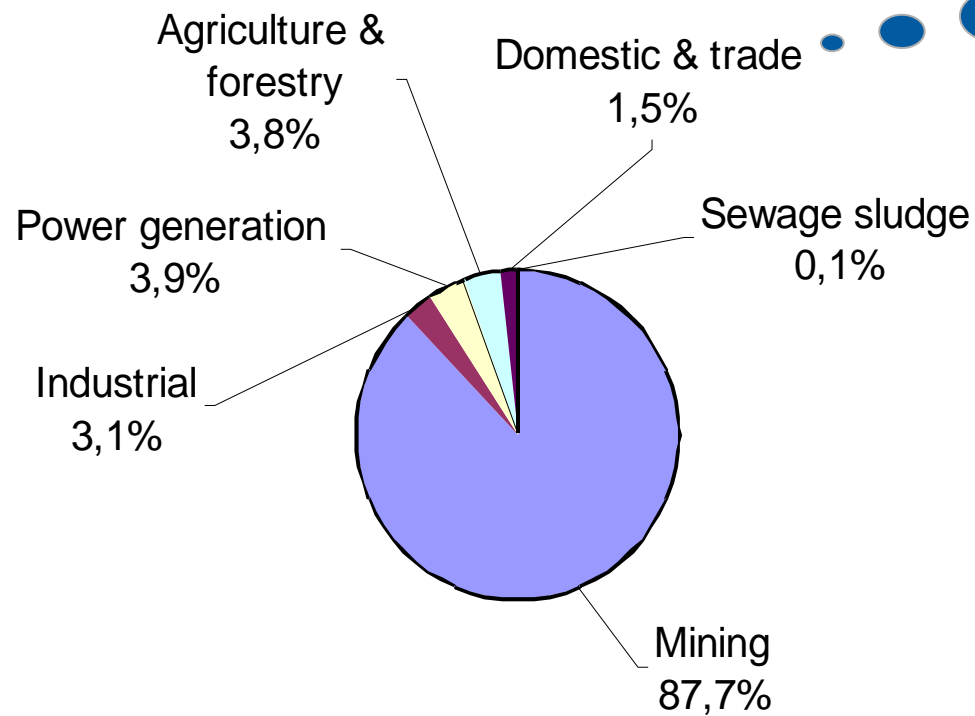
Research Group Leader: Waste and Society

CSIR

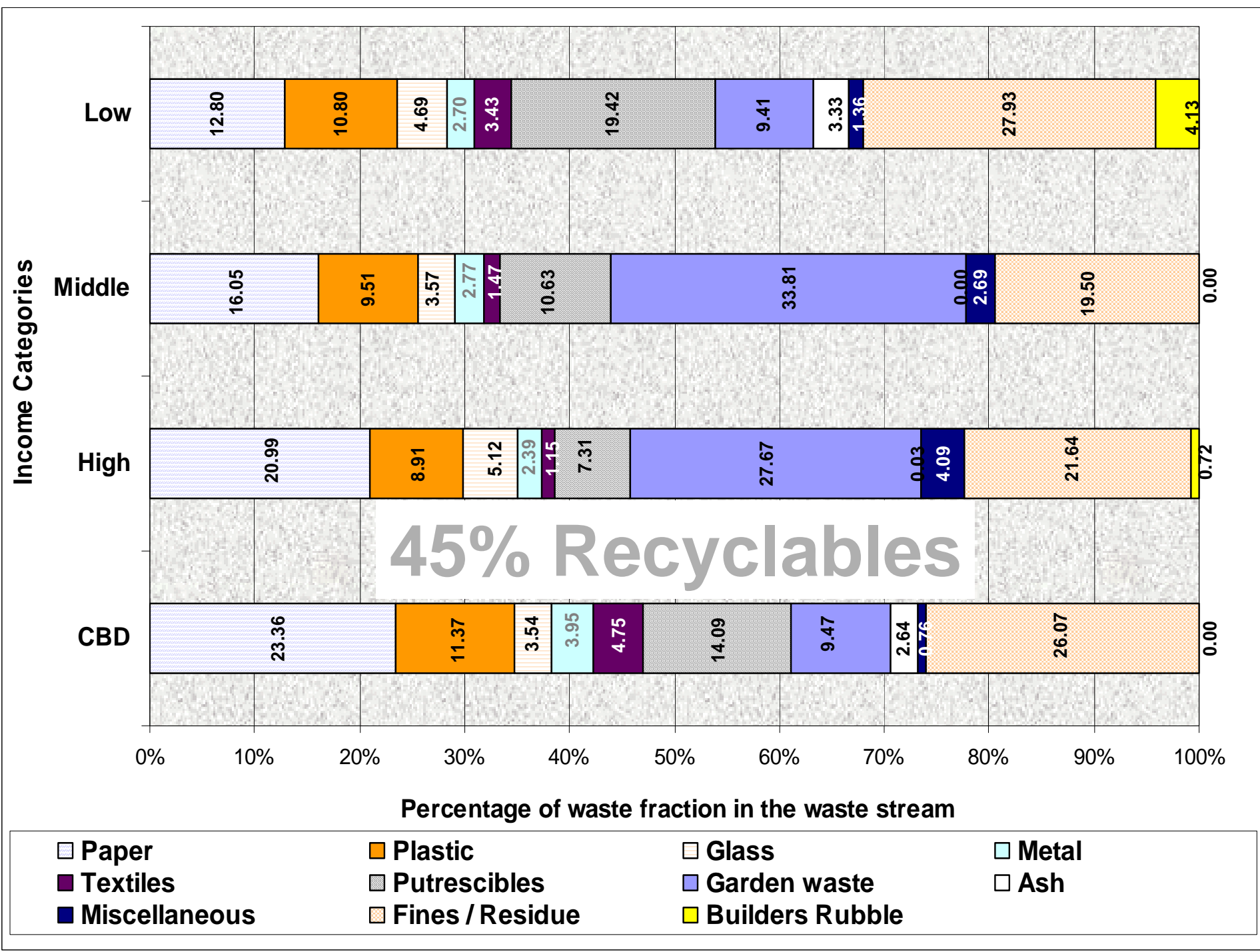


Status Quo

- Waste generation in RSA = 533 Million tons per annum



0.7
kg/person
/day



News Reports: 2005-2008

SA'S RUBBISH CAPITAL

Big stink continues as piles of garbage dumped in streets hit crisis levels

City is drowning in waste

Toxic waste at municipal dump

WASTE COMPANIES DUMP DEATH ON OUR DOORSTEP

Waste management not just a question of garbage

Outrage at massive toxic waste dump

Human tissue, old bandages and used syringes pile up as waste disposal crisis spirals out of control



Medical waste in river: Tsolo warned

Half SA's waste sites are illegal – minister

R Hazardous Waste Site Raises Some Concern

City's filthy rivers of waste hard to swallow



'The industry is in crisis ... It is cut-throat and something is very wrong. The stockpile is symptomatic of a bigger problem'

JOANNE YAWITCH
Environmental Affairs
deputy director-general

CSIR

our future through science

Municipal categories

A	Metros (6 in total)
B1	Secondary cities with largest budgets (21 in total)
B2	Municipalities with a large town as core (29 in total)
B3	Municipalities with relatively small population & significant proportion of urban population but no large town (111 in total)
B4	Mainly rural with at most one or two small towns in area (70 in total)

Integrated Waste Management Plans

Municipal Category	% Municipalities not having IWMPs
A	0%
B1	6%
B2	11%
B3	15%
B4	27%

Technical Capacity - Infrastructure

Municipal Category	% Reporting inadequate infrastructure
B1	43
B2	15
B3	37
B4	53

Backlog in adequate service provision

Municipal Category	% Households with adequate waste management services	% of total Backlog
A	89	25
B1	61	29
B2	59	13
B3	55	21
B4	20	13
Total		100

Facts in 2007

- 39% of households no regular waste collection
- 66% of landfills operate without permits
- 90% of non-permitted is municipal landfills
- 11% municipalities no capacity for waste management
- 87% municipalities no capacity or infrastructure for waste minimisation
- 54% of National backlogs in Metro's and B1 municipalities
- > 80% of municipalities are initiating recycling but projects are struggling due to lack of capacity



Landfill 1:

- Uncontrolled, no design
- Un-permitted
- High environmental and human health impact

Landfill 2:

- Well designed, maintained
- Permitted
- Low environmental and human health impact





← Picking at landfill

Separation at source →



Opportunities and Predicaments

- Legal provision for waste management hierarchy
- Environmental justice through standards
- Provides for cooperative waste management
- Provides for public participation
- Provides for source separation
- Move towards integrated pollution control
- Integrated waste management needs improvement
- Standards to be developed and may require extensive training
- Not always clear on the when and how of cooperation
- Exclusive tools i.e. publication in Government Gazette
- Infrastructure for separate disposal not covered
- Institutional fragmentation especially at municipal level

Municipality challenges

- Four broad themes of challenges identified
 - Financial management
 - Equipment management
 - Labour (staff) management
 - Institutional behaviour
 - Management
 - Planning

Conclusions

- Waste management needs to be improved drastically
- Waste Act could make a difference
- Challenges faced by municipalities needs to be addressed
- Enforcement is key

The Waste Act is not the end but the means to an end...

Thank you

