Municipalities can play a fundamental role in facilitating and promoting recycling, while at the same time creating jobs and encouraging community involvement in waste management.

1) The proximity of the recycling centres:
The proximity of recycling centres in relation to the source of the recyclables plays an important role in the sustainability of recycling initiatives such as buy-back centres. The further the industries, the more the transport costs and the smaller the profit margins for the pickers.

2) Integrating recycling into municipal waste collection schedules:
   a. Provide households with receptacles for recyclables. Collection of recyclables can be done by the municipality itself or outsourced to private contractors. Collect recyclables on the same day as general waste so that badly sorted recyclables can be picked up as part of the general waste collection;
   b. Establish regulated sorting areas on those landfill sites with high value recyclable material to allow entrepreneurs to salvage usable recyclables before final disposal. For example, bricks, planks, tiles and other building material can be resold or used to produce other items such as dog kennels;
   c. Allow the use of appropriate municipal-owned facilities as drop-off centres, buy-back centres and MRFs by private companies. For example, use garden refuse sites as drop-off and buy-back centres, as well as using landfill sites for the erection of MRFs.

3) Establishing innovative cash generating recycling programmes:
   a. Certain waste types have the potential for generating cash for the municipality. For example, selling compost made from garden refuse or selling tar remnants back to the road construction industry; and
   b. Electricity generation from landfill gas. This can be used to subsidise municipal electricity supply while carbon credits can also be awarded for such projects.

4) Create an enabling environment for the private sector to operate and drive recycling initiatives including source separation:
   a. Endorse and encourage private sector involvement in source separation projects;
   b. Establish facilities such as Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), drop-off centres and buy-back centres; and
   c. Create incentives for waste minimisation such as establishing Pay-As-You-Throw systems where people only pay for the amount of waste they dispose. This will encourage source separation at source;
   d. Contribute towards creating sustainable markets for products made from recyclable material, such as implementing green procurement policies in municipalities;
   e. Regulate activities of waste reclaimers, especially at landfill sites, to ensure that the input of this informal recycling sector is not lost while at the same time conforming to set regulations and standards (environmental health and safety); and
   f. Make optimal and effective use of available resources. For example, the use of rail for the transportation of waste in areas where such infrastructure already exists; and the use of sorting tables, which are more labour intensive as opposed to mechanised sorting facilities (motorised conveyor belt) which may be more costly.

CONCLUSIONS

Reducing, reusing and recycling play an important role in the waste management cycle and should be encouraged. Municipalities can play a fundamental role in facilitating and promoting recycling through a wide range of programmes such as investing in and establishing facilities and creating an enabling environment in which the public sector can operate. The value of fully functional partnerships should also not be overlooked. The sustainability of such programmes can have added advantages in the form of job creation and community involvement in waste management.

REFERENCES