Better waste management will make settlements safer

Refuse removal in informal settlements isn’t collecting wheelie bins from just outside residents’ homes. Often it is only the supply of a refuse bag and a skip or communal dumpsite some distance from residents’ dwellings. A third of residents in metro informal settlements did not receive any waste collection service at all in the last 7 days. Residents are worried about the environmental and health impacts of this service delivery failure. They say uncollected waste attracts rodents and mosquitoes (74%), creates a bad smell (65%), makes the settlement dirty (62%), and poses a safety risk to children (49%).

What can metros do to fix this? Collecting waste once a week would help, but collection more often would be far more effective at mitigating negative impacts. Communities should also be consulted when metros plan how waste should be collected in their settlements. Residents told us that there are other things metros can do to keep their communities clean and safe:

- **NELSON MANDELA BAY**: Since the last round, the percentage of residents who received a waste collection service has increased from 24% to 84%. Residents said they were provided with refuse bags and trucks collected their waste.
- **BUFFALO CITY**: Since the last round, the percentage of residents who received a waste collection service has increased from 2% to 49%, with many residents saying that they are now receiving refuse bags.
- **MANGAUNG**: Zero waste was collected in the last 7 days. Residents say this is because the metro had not budgeted for waste removal trucks and diesel.
- **TSHWANE**: 87% of residents did not receive a waste collection service in the last 7 days. Residents said waste is being burned as a result, and they worry about the health impacts of this.

What can metros do to improve waste management?

- PROVIDE COMMUNAL REFUSE CONTAINERS: 54%
- PROVIDE REFUSE BAGS EVERY WEEK: 49%
- CLEAN DUMPING SITES ONCE A WEEK: 44%
- PLACE BINS NEAR COMMUNAL TAPS & TOILETS: 37%
- HAVE DUMPING SITES WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE: 32%

Good News

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Hotspots

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Was waste collected in the last 7 days?

- **Buffalo City**: 49%
- **Cape Town**: 62%
- **Ekurhuleni**: 74%
- **eThekwini**: 78%
- **Johannesburg**: 66%
- **Mangaung**: 0%
- **Nelson Mandela Bay**: 84%
- **Tshwane**: 13%

**KEY:**

- 40% or less
- 41 – 55%
- 56 – 70%
- 71% or more

54%

49%

44%

37%

32%