



ASIVIKELANE
VOICES OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS



A Community Waste Guide

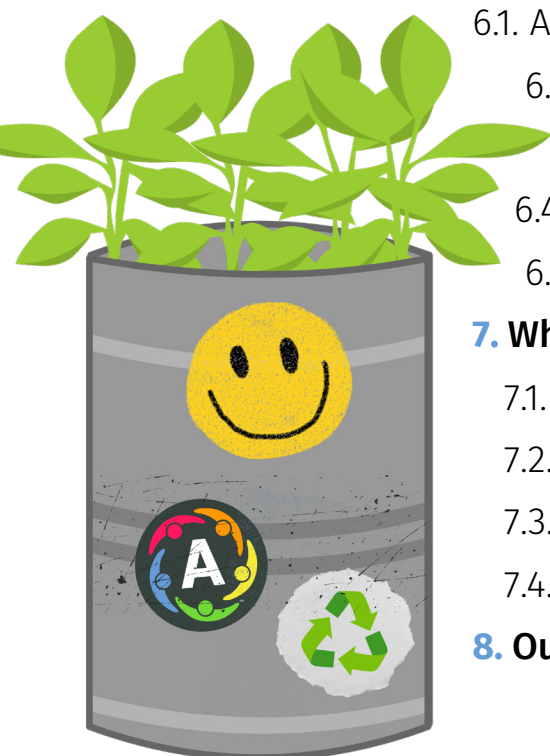


**Turning waste problems
into opportunities**

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1. Introduction

Have you ever noticed rubbish (also called waste*) in your community? Look!

Waste is all around us – in our homes, streets, roads, rivers and open spaces. What we do with waste is important because it effects our health, our environment, and our community's future.

This guide is here to help you understand waste, it's value and what to do with it.

By working together, we can create new opportunities and keep our communities clean.

Through simple actions like sorting, recycling, or composting waste we can support each other in building cleaner, healthier and happier communities for everyone.

Let's start this journey together! When we care for our environment, we care for each other.

** Waste is a material, substance or by-product that is thrown away or discarded when it is no longer useful.*

2. Understanding waste in your community

Let's take some time to think about the waste you see in your community.

Take a walk around and look for waste and the places waste gathers. Speak to people about the issue. Make notes of what you saw and what people said.



3. Questions to get you started on your waste journey...

3.1. What is waste?

Waste is part of our daily lives.

We buy and use things all the time: Food, drinks, clothes, nappies, TV's...

But once we've used something and we no longer need it, it has to go somewhere, and that's when it becomes **waste**.

There are different kinds of waste, like paper, plastic, glass, metal, food, garden waste, electronic waste (called e-waste) and medical waste.

What kinds of waste do you see in your community?

What kind of waste is the biggest problem in your community?

3.2. Who makes waste?

Everybody makes waste. We make waste just by living.

Look around your community and notice who makes waste and what kind of waste they make.

3.3. Where does it come from?

Waste comes from our homes, schools, work, shops, taverns, factories, farms, and other places. Look around your community. Where is waste coming from in your community?

3.4. Where does it go?

When we "get rid" of waste we say we "throw it away." But where is "away"?

Do we ever really "get rid" of waste? Or does it just go somewhere else?

In some communities, waste is collected regularly and taken to a landfill/rubbish dump. Sometimes, there are places where we can take certain kinds of waste to be recycled. Sometimes, waste pickers sort through, collect and sell recyclable waste. Sometimes waste isn't collected at all, and people have to try "get rid" of it themselves by dumping it in unused open spaces, or by burning it. Sometimes waste becomes litter in streets or rivers.

Look around your community...

Where does waste go in your community?



3.5. What do people do with their waste?

Let's think about what you and others do with waste.

Do people have bins at home that are collected regularly?

Do people take their waste to special drop-off points like skips or recycling bins?

Do informal collectors take waste and store it somewhere?

Do people dump their waste on open land or into rivers?

Do people burn their waste at home or somewhere in your community?

Where are these places in your community?

3.6. How does waste affect your daily life?

When we don't properly take care of our waste, it can become a big problem. It can cause a big stink, attract rats, block our drains, or pollute our rivers. Smoke from burning waste can irritate our lungs, making us cough. We could even get sick from burning some types of waste.

Look around your community...

How does waste affect your community?

3.7. What opportunities are there in the community?

Imagine a healthy community where people can get rid of their waste safely. A community where there are places to meet or play soccer, parks for children, and community gardens where people can grow food.

Are there any places like that in your community?

Do you want to help create them?

4. Waste mapping guide

Now that you've taken time to think about what waste looks like in your community, let's draw a map of your community to show where and how waste is managed now.

When you start a waste project in your community, it is very helpful to get together with all the players involved and draw a simple map on a piece of paper. This will help you identify where waste comes from, where it goes and where you could manage it in future. It helps you identify problem areas and places where solutions could be found.

When you draw your map try to include things like:

- **Your streets / neighbourhood** – roads (paved/dirt), houses, shops, schools, markets, open spaces, parks/soccer fields, taxi ranks, community meeting points, etc.
- **Waste spots:** Drop-off/collection points, waste collection routes, dumping and burning spots, recycling points (formal/informal), compost sites.
- **Opportunity spots:** recycling drop-off points, vegetable gardens, parks/recreation spaces, open spaces.

Your map could look something like the one opposite 



Waste Mapping Guide



Recycling
drop-off



Dumping
and burning



Informal
recycling



Waste
collection routes

5. Why is dealing with waste important?

5.1. How nature deals with waste

Some waste is natural like vegetable peels and garden leaves – it can break down and turn back into soil as food for the earth.

Other waste is man-made like plastic, glass, metal, and e-waste. It doesn't turn back into soil and can harm us and the environment if not managed properly.



5.2. Taking care of your environment

The “Environment” is everything around you; all living, natural and man-made things, including the air, water, land, plants and animals, even your home, street and community.

“Environmental stewardship” means being a good caretaker of nature. Just like we take care of our homes and families, we should take care of the place we live – our environment.

5.3. What does it mean to ‘take care’ of your environment?

Taking care of the environment means looking after the land, water, air, plants, and animals around us, so they stay clean and healthy for us to use and enjoy now, and for our children and their children to use in the future.



5.4. Good and bad practices

Good Ways*:

- ✓ **Separate at source** – Sort your waste at home: Food scraps, recycling and other waste go in different piles or bins.
- ✓ **Collecting waste regularly** – Waste should be taken to the right place often.
- ✓ **Recycling** – Things like glass, metal, paper, plastics, and e-waste can be cleaned, sorted and turned into new products.
- ✓ **Composting** – Food and garden waste rots naturally and becomes soil that helps grow vegetables or trees.

**These good ways help protect our health, save the environment, and create jobs.*



Bad ways:

- ✗ **Throwing waste anywhere** – Littering in the street, rivers or open spaces pollutes the land and water with waste and makes our communities hard to live in because of bad smells, rats and flies.
- ✗ **Burning waste** – Waste burning, particularly of plastics, releases toxic smoke that makes the air dirty and can make us sick.
- ✗ **Dumping waste** – Big pits full of mixed waste pollute soil and water, and take up land that could be used for farming or homes.

6. Impacts of waste

When we don't take care of our waste, it makes the land, air, water, plants and animals unhealthy. We need a healthy environment so we can have clean air to breath, clean water to drink, clean soil to grow food in, healthy plants and animals to eat.

An unhealthy environment makes us unhealthy too.





6.1. Air

Burning and rotting waste makes the air dirty and is bad for your health. But it also effects our whole world, and can even change the weather – making some places hotter and drier, leading to drought and water shortages, and bring big storms and floods to some places. This is called “**climate change**”.

6.2. Water

When we dump waste into drains, streams, rivers, dams or oceans, chemicals and germs make the water dirty and unsafe. This is called water pollution. Polluted water hurts all living things. It makes water unsafe to wash in, play in, or drink for us and our animals, and can also poison the animals that live in rivers and oceans, like the fish we eat.

6.3. Land

Some waste – like plastic, tyres, batteries and nappies – have harmful chemicals inside them. When we burn or dump waste, these chemicals seep into the soil and this makes our soil sick, just like eating bad food makes us sick.

Dumps also take up space that could be used to build homes or create play parks for our children.





6.4. Plants and animals

Healthy plants can't grow in sick soil. Animals like chickens, goats and cows roam freely in our communities. When animals eat rubbish, especially plastic, they get sick and can even die. Just like the earth can't turn a plastic bottle into soil, stomachs can't break down plastics, so the plastics fill them up and the animals die.

Things made of plastic can wrap around birds, fish, and other animals and trap them, so they can't move or eat.

When we don't deal with our waste properly it attracts pests like rats, flies, maggots, cockroaches, and mosquitoes. These animals and insects spread germs and illness in our communities.

6.5. Health

Dumping and burning waste can also be bad for your health. Small bits of plastics called micro plastics can even build up in our bodies and brains.

Eyes: Irritation, redness, tearing, problems seeing.

Brain: Headaches, dizziness, fainting, trouble concentrating.

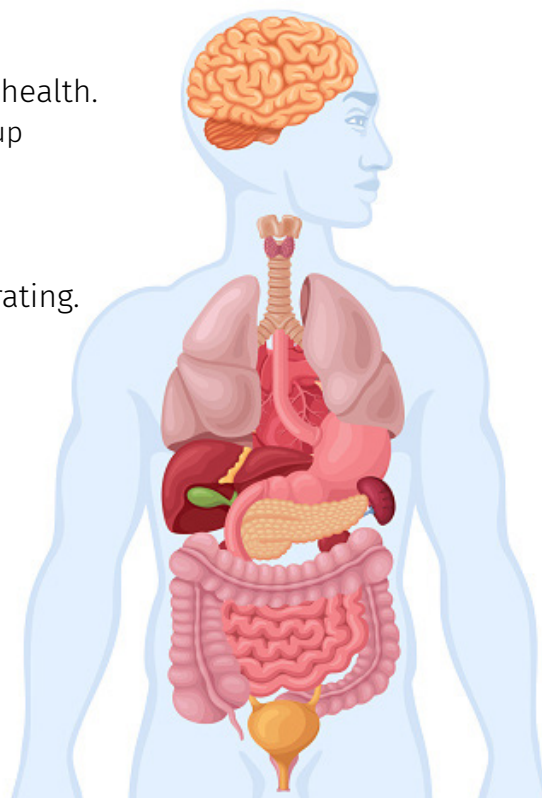
Lungs: Coughing, difficulty breathing, asthma, respiratory problems, thyroid problems, swelling in the throat.

Liver: Damage, inflammation, cancer.

Skin: Disease, rashes, allergies, skin cancers.

Stomach: Diarrhoea, vomiting, indigestion, typhoid, stomach aches.

Reproduction: Birth defects, infertility, hormone imbalances, reduced sperm count, cancer.



7. Whose job is it to take care of waste?

Remember earlier we said that everyone – me, you, our families, communities, businesses – makes waste. This means that taking care of waste is the responsibility of all of us!

7.1. Actors in managing waste

It's important to know who is responsible for managing waste in our community so you can include them in your waste project. Let's think about who they are, what they do, what they are responsible for, and how they can support us.

Who	What they do	How they can support
Me and my community	Make, collect, sort, and drop off waste.	Taking part, teaching others, being responsible.
Traditional leaders	They are trusted voices who provide leadership and ensure accountability.	Bring people together, lead by example, influence others, organise meetings.
Government, ward councillors and your local municipality	Make and enforce laws, collect waste, take care of the environment and community.	Connect actors, create opportunities, offer local support, get permissions for land use.
Waste reclaimers / pickers	Collect and sell recycling	Collect waste, educate others, clean the community
NGOs and community organisations (like Asivikelane)	Share information and mobilise communities to take action.	Help with communication between stakeholders, provide training, manage day-to-day activities, monitor and report on progress.
Private companies	Make waste; like shops, taverns and factories. OR Manage waste; like buyback centres and waste collection services.	Companies who make waste can support waste collections, donate tools and equipment. Waste management companies can collect waste (at a price) or buy recyclable waste that can make you money.
PROs (Producer responsibility organisations)	Collect money from big companies who make products and waste. Support government with waste services and equipment.	Support recycling and waste collection services, provide training, equipment, and support.

Here are some examples of **PROs** and other organisations that can help communities manage waste. It is worth looking at their websites and contacting them to see how they can support your waste project. You can even talk to your local government representative and ask them to put you in touch.



7.2. Let's talk about waste reclaimers

Waste reclaimers – also called waste pickers (or other not so nice names) – are the people in our community who collect useful waste to sell and make money.

They work in your community, often with very few tools, and aren't treated very nicely.

But they play a **BIG** role in keeping our environment clean.

7.3. What do waste reclaimers do?

Collect recyclable items

Plastic, cans, paper, metal, and e-waste – they gather waste that has value.

Sort and clean waste

Separate waste so it can be recycled properly.

Sell waste to recycling companies

Earn income by turning waste into a resource.

Reduce the waste in our communities

Help stop waste from piling up in streets, rivers, and dumps.

Educate others about recycling and reuse

Share knowledge with neighbours and lead by example.

7.4. Why are they important?

Waste reclaimers help the whole community:

- ✓ They stop waste and pollution.
- ✓ They save space in dumps and landfill sites.
- ✓ They help materials go back into use (recycling!).
- ✓ They earn an income to support their families.
- ✓ They protect nature by stopping waste going to rivers, drains, and open spaces.

Let's respect them, learn from them, teach them, and support them.



8. Our shared roles and responsibilities

Keep your surroundings clean

Help pick up litter, keep your neighbourhood and public spaces tidy.

Don't dump or burn waste

Open dumping and burning harms the air, soil, animals, and your health.

Teach others about good waste practices

Share what you know with family, neighbours, and friends.

Protect nature – plants, rivers, soil, animals

Keep waste out of natural spaces to protect the air, water, and land.

Reuse and recycle when possible

Give items a second life – reduce what goes to the dump.



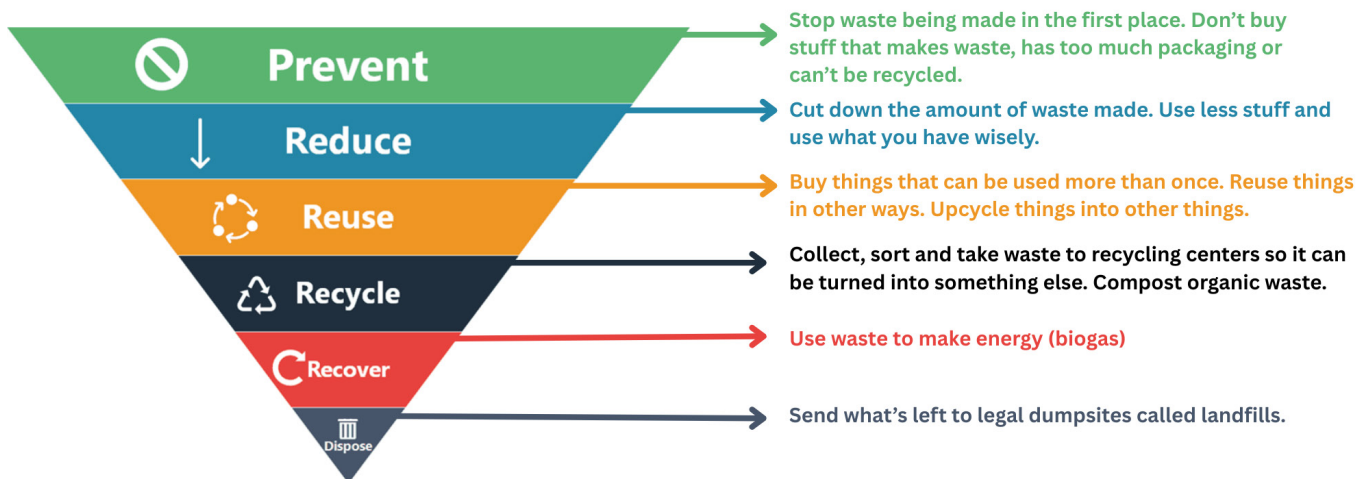
Speak up when you see pollution

Report illegal dumping or unsafe practices to a local champion or leader.

When we all do our part, we keep our community strong, healthy, and beautiful.

9. How should we deal with waste?

What is the best way to deal with waste? The waste pyramid shows us how:



Did you notice that littering, dumping, and burning waste is not on this list?

That's because waste should never be handled that way!

10. Benefits of improved waste management

When we deal with waste properly by collecting it regularly, sorting and recycling it, or composting, everyone benefits!

Better for our health

- Less waste on the streets means fewer flies, rats, and disease.
- Cleaner air – no more breathing in bad smells from rotting waste or smoke from burning waste.
- Safer spaces for children to play.

Better for the environment

- No more blocked drains and flooding.
- Less waste in rivers and soil, so we can drink clean water and grow healthy food.

Better for the community

- Waste reclaimers and communities can earn money.
- Neighbourhoods become cleaner.
- People can feel proud of where they live.

Together, we can make a difference

In the spirit of *Ubuntu* – “*I am because we are*” – let’s work together to build a cleaner, safer, and healthier community. We all have a role to play.

11. How to guides

11.1. Know your waste

We’ve said waste is anything we throw away because we think it’s no longer useful. But not all waste is useless – many items can be reused, recycled, or turned into something valuable! So, what waste can we recycle? The key is understanding different kinds of waste, learning what can be recycled, and knowing how to read codes and labels.

11.2. What you can recycle

See the diagram, right 



Did you know?

There are many kinds of **plastic**, but not all can be recycled.

Each type of plastic has a specific code and symbol. Knowing the codes and checking for the symbol can help you understand if it can be recycled or not.

Look at the symbols, numbers, names and examples in the picture below to help you identify plastics you can and can't recycle.



Plastic You Can Recycle



	PET		Bottles & Containers
	HD-PE		Bottles & Containers
	PVC		Pipes
	LD-PE		Soft Bags
	PP		Containers

X These are two types of plastic that are **not** commonly recycled.

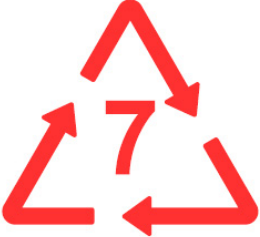
Try **not** to buy things in this kind of packaging to “**prevent**” waste.



PS



Polystyrene Packaging



OTHER



Mixed Plastic Packaging



12. Separation at source

12.1. Why separate waste at source?

When we separate our waste at home, school, work, and community we make it easier, safer, and more valuable to reuse, recycle, or compost.

- ✓ Improves hygiene as there is no rotten food to make bad smells and attract rats and flies.
- ✓ Keeps recyclable materials clean and organised so they can be sent to the right place and can be easily recycled.
- ✓ Increases the value of waste and helps waste reclaimers earn a better income.
- ✓ Reduces waste in dumps and landfills because dirty, mixed waste can't be recycled.
- ✓ Showcases the value of waste so that people treat it differently.

12.2. How to separate at source

Managing our waste well starts at home, before it gets mixed up and becomes a problem.

Simple steps to follow:

Separate these waste types at home:

1. **Dry recyclables:** Paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, glass, e-waste.
2. **Organic waste:** Food scraps and peels, garden waste and manure.
3. **Other waste:** Nappies, wrappers, dirty or non-recyclable items.

Top tips

Use what you have: You don't need to buy expensive bins to separate your waste at home. You can reuse a plastic packet, shopping bag, maize meal sack or a cardboard box. You can also make something from waste or things around your home or community. Use your imagination and don't be scared to be creative!

Keep it clean: Rinse out bottles and containers with grey water so they don't smell or attract flies.

Don't mix wet and dry waste: Food waste can spoil valuable recyclables.

Label or use different colours to help sort easily.

13. Dealing with organic waste

13.1. What is composting?

Composting is a natural process where organic waste (like food scraps, garden cuttings and manure) breaks down into a rich, dark soil called compost. It's nature's way of recycling! Making compost to grow your own food is a good way to take care of the environment.

13.2. Why make compost?

- Improves soil – Compost feeds the soil and helps plants grow.
- Helps us grow our own healthy food.
- Reduces waste – Keeps food and garden waste out of dumps.
- Stops pests like rats and flies.
- Saves money – Less need to buy fertiliser.
- Fights climate change – Less waste rotting in dumps = less pollution!
- Good for our health – Less rotting waste = better health.

13.3. What can be composted?

See the diagram, right 



13.4. Choosing the right composting method

To choose the right composting method, think about your space, the amount of waste, and what skills and resources are available.

Below are some common composting methods:

Trench / bin composting

- Dig a deep hole, or use an upside down bucket with the bottom removed.
- Add food and garden waste.
- Cover with soil.
- Easy and low-cost.
- Great for gardens.
- Breaks down slowly over time.

Hot composting

- **Set up a box:** Use a compost bin or build one from old pallets, wood or materials in the community.
- **Layer your materials:** Add browns (dry leaves, cardboard, paper, sawdust), food waste, and greens (fresh leaves, plant cuttings, manure) in thin layers to make a square heap.
- **Build the right size:** Aim for a 1x1m high and wide square – this size heats up best.
- **Cover it:** Use a plastic sheet or soil to keep moisture and heat in.
- **Turn it often:** Mix or turn the pile every two weeks.
- **Fast results:** Breaks down quickly.

Worm composting

- Uses special worms to eat food waste.
- Perfect for homes or small spaces.
- Produces rich compost and liquid “worm tea” – great for plants!
- No bad smells if managed well.



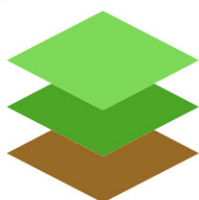
13.5. Top tips for making good compost



How to Make Compost



**Choose a shady spot
with good drainage**



Grass & leaves
Food Waste
Cardboard, Paper,
Sticks, Dry Leaves



**Add materials in
layers: browns, food
waste and greens**



**Keep it moist – like a
squeezed-out sponge**



**Turn or mix it every
1–2 weeks for air**



**Wait and watch: in 1–3
months, your
compost is ready!**



**It's
ready
when...**



Dark and crumbly
Smells earthy (not bad!)
No visible food bits

14. Where will waste go?

14.1. Building community recycling systems

Once waste has been collected and sorted at home, it needs to go somewhere to be stored by the community before it's collected, recycled, composted, or sent to a landfill. A clean, safe and organised community starts with good systems for handling waste. Here's how to make it work:

14.2. Set up collection and drop-off points

Are there places where recycling and other waste is taken or that could be used to collect and store recyclables? Think about new spots that make it easier for everyone to participate.

Talk to your local government representatives, community organisations and members, and decide on the best place, then make sure you have permission to use that area.

14.3. Good set-up matters

Make sure collection points are easy to reach. Consider roads for trucks, paths, and space for bins or bulk bags – whether plastic, metal, wood, or brick.

Keep collection points organised and clean. Ensure waste is sorted properly and stored neatly. Make signs to show people where to put different kinds of waste.

14.4. Schedules and communication

Keep track of when and how often different kinds of waste is collected, such as recyclables, organic, and other waste. Sharing this information with the community helps everyone plan and participate. With clear systems and well-planned infrastructure, your community can manage waste safely, efficiently, and sustainably.

14.5. Know recycling markets

Not all waste is the same; knowing where it should go once has been collected and sorted by the community is important. It can even help your community earn money.

Here's what you can do:

Buy-Back centres: You can earn money while helping the planet by taking paper, plastics, glass, and metals to your local buy-back centre. Sometimes, they will even collect recyclables from you.

Here is a website where you can find local buy-back centres: <https://petco.co.za/buy-back-centres/>

You can also contact your local PRO who may be able to help you find a market or support your project:

Waste Type	PRO (Producer Responsibility Organisation)
Paper / Cardboard	Fibre circle: Paper, cardboard, and cartons.
Plastic	Polyco: All types of plastic packaging under EPR. PETCO: Mainly handles PET .
Glass	The Glass Recycling Company (TGRC): Glass packaging.
Metal	MetPac-SA: Metal packaging, such as cans, aluminium, and steel.
E-waste (electrical / electronic)	eWASA: Electrical and electronic equipment, lighting, portable batteries, etc.

Collectors: If you can't take it to a centre, local collectors can pick up recyclables and turn them into income. Informal collectors will take your recycling for free. Private companies can arrange for recycling to be collected, but they may charge you.

Government collections: Rubbish like nappies and other non-recyclable waste goes to government collection points or landfills. Go to your local government website, speak to your ward councillor and local waste departments/workers to find out more information.

Organic waste: Kitchen scraps and garden waste can be composted locally for growing food.

14.6. Monitoring and reporting

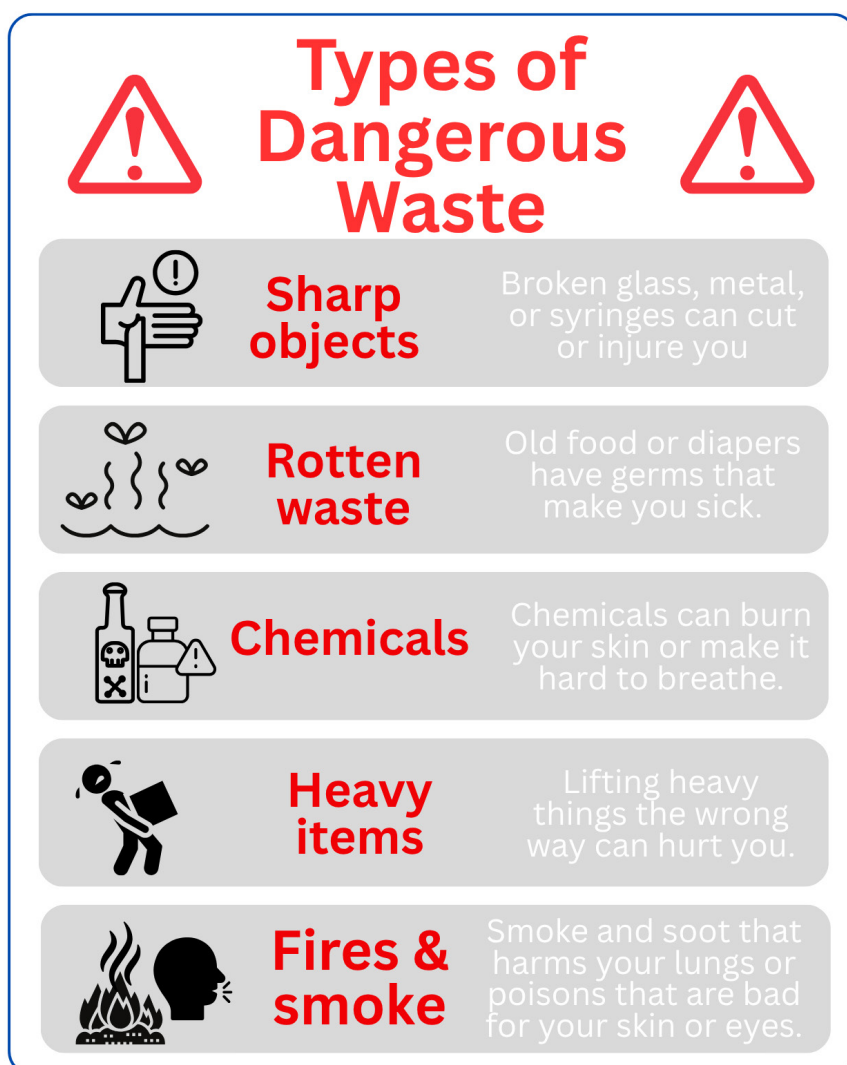
Keeping records of the amount of waste you recycle is a great way to track progress and gain support.

15. Health and safety

We've learnt waste can be dangerous to our health and the environment if we don't treat it properly, but waste can also be dangerous to handle (touch, collect, sort, store). Taking care of yourself and your community when you deal with your waste is important to make sure no one gets hurt or sick.

15.1. Types of dangers when dealing with waste

See the diagram, right 



15.2. Types of dangerous waste

Some waste is ‘hazardous’.

This means it can harm people, animals, or the environment.

Look out for these safety symbols and avoid handling these types of waste →

15.3. How to protect yourself when collecting or handling waste

- Always wear protective equipment: Gloves, closed shoes, overalls – you might need masks and goggles too.
- Don’t handle sharp or dirty waste with bare hands.
- Try to keep a “health and safety kit” handy – this can include a basic first aid kit, hand sanitizer and wet wipes.
- Wash your hands with soap after handling waste.
- Keep cuts or wounds covered.
- Don’t burn waste – the smoke is harmful to your lungs.
- Store dangerous items separately, and mark them clearly.



15.4. Monitoring and reporting

Reporting & feedback:

Keep records and use what you learn to improve.



Types of Dangerous Waste



**TOXIC** Can poison you or harm your organs if you eat, drink or touch it.

**FLAMABLE** Catches fire easily and can burn you

**CORROSIVE** Burns skin or metal if you come into contact with it

**EXPLOSIVE** May set on fire or cause harm if shaken or heated

**BIO HAZARD** Contains germs that can cause illness)



Always Wear Personal Protection

**Overalls**

**Gloves**

**Closed Shoes**

**Goggles** **Mask**

16. Reflection

Now that we've learnt the basics of how to manage waste in your community, let's take some time to think about your waste journey.

It can be hard to start something new, so start by asking yourself some simple questions.

Questions

- What kind of waste is a big challenge in your community?
- What is the solution for this kind of waste?
- What is one new thing you learned?
- What is one thing you will do differently?
- Who will you reach out to?
- What will you start with first?

17. Action planning

Now it's time to start planning for your project.

Creating a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable community starts with a clear plan. Here's how to turn ideas into action.

SMART Goals

SMART goals help you focus on what matters and track progress.

SMART stands for:

Specific: Clear and exact.

Example: We will clean an open dump site.

Measurable: You can track progress with numbers.

Example: 1 dumpsite will be cleared in 2 months.

Achievable: Realistic for your community.

Example: Cleaning one small dumpsite well is doable and will motivate you. Trying to clean all the dumps at once is not realistic. Not meeting a goal demotivates people.

Relevant: Meeting your community's needs.

Example: The dumpsite is causing big problems with rats and smoke. We want our community to be safe and healthy.

Time-bound: Set a clear deadline.

Example: We will do this in 2 months.



Drafting action plans

The next step is turning what you've learned into practical action. Here's how your community can plan and organise waste management:

- **Collective action:** Working together makes waste management work. Connect with key players to do some of the below activities.
- **Community walks:** Walk through the community to see where waste collects, what causes problems, and where solutions are needed.
- **Surveys and interviews:** Collect questionnaires and interview community members.
- **Key stakeholder meetings:** Meet local authorities, collectors, PROs, and community leaders to share ideas and gather support.
- **Community meetings:** Discuss challenges, opportunities, and practical solutions with residents.
- **Mapping and goal setting:** Identify problem areas, potential transformation sites (drop-off points, compost sites) and set specific actions.
- **Roles and resources:** Identify and agree on how and who will gather resources.
- **Timelines:** Decide who does what and by when, keeping your goals on track.

18. Mapping your new waste system

Drawing a map of your plan helps everyone understand the system.

- Use your first map and what you've learned.
- Draw a new map to show where waste will be collected, separated, and stored.
- Identify routes for collecting recyclables, organic and general waste.
- Mark sites where improvements or new systems will be created.
- Make sure the map aligns with your action plan and SMART goals.

By combining engagement, mapping and clear timelines, your community can create a waste management system that works for everyone and ensures cleaner, safer spaces.



19. Monitoring, reporting and learning

The thing to remember is to continue monitoring and reporting. This helps track progress, makes notes of lessons learned, and makes waste management safer and cleaner for everyone.

Keeping track of and reporting on your project helps make it better, here are some tips to help:

Incident reporting: Report hazardous waste to your local government representative. Record and report accidents and injuries.

Safety audits: Regularly assess collection points and drop-off sites, and report findings.

Training: Train people, track participation, and note how well tasks are being done.

Health monitoring: Collect information on any work-related health issues (skin infections, respiratory problems, injuries) and report them so they can be addressed.

Top Tips:

Track waste

- Record types and amounts of waste collected.
- Watch for weekly or seasonal changes in waste generation.

Monitor participation

- Count households, businesses and community members actively involved.
- Note engagement the number of trainings, workshops, or awareness activities, and how many people or stakeholders participated in them.

Collection Point performance

- Check accessibility, cleanliness, and safety of waste points.
- Make sure collection schedules are followed.

Community benefits

- Track incomes made from selling waste.
- Monitor environmental gains like cleaner streets, compost use or better crops.

Reporting and feedback

- Collect pictures and share reports with the stakeholders.
- Encourage feedback to improve systems and address challenges.

Continuous improvement

- Note successes and challenges to learn what works.
- Adjust actions for better results.

We hope this e-book has helped you.

Let's work together to make healthy and happy communities.

Good luck on your journey!





Who is Asivikelane?

Asivikelane is a coalition of grassroots organisations working together to amplify the voices of informal settlement residents about basic services.

Asivikelane was founded in 2020 and is coordinated and led by several grassroots partner organisations spread across South Africa. At its core, Asivikelane aims to improve access to basic services for people living in informal settlements and to build meaningful relationships between these communities, government and other key stakeholders.



The author of this guide, **Rebecca Henderson**, is an environmental programme manager with extensive experience in community-based waste management and circular economy projects. Her work focuses on empowering communities through practical solutions that improve environmental health and livelihoods.



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