7 steps for implementing waste picker integration

Waste picker integration means that new recycling systems are based on the one created by waste pickers and waste pickers are real partners in all phases of integration.

**South Africa’s Waste Picker Integration Guideline presents a seven-step process that guides municipalities and waste picker representatives on how to partner and work together to develop and implement waste picker integration. It is based on meaningful partnership, respect for waste pickers, and recognition of their knowledge and expertise.**

**Step 1: Prepare**
- Identify the need for waste picker integration
- What is waste picker integration?
- What do we already do? Let’s check our policies, plans and programmes!
- Who are waste pickers?
- And what do they make?
- What plans do we have that affect waste pickers?

**Step 2: Partner**
- Do we want to work together, but you’re afraid we’d screw up? Why should we trust you?
- We'll build trust by working on the WPIP together.

**Step 3: Plan**
- Existing systems
  - Problems current systems: waste pickers lost access to materials, their incomes dropped, they have worse conditions
  - Solutions new systems: Actively involving households, separation at source by reclaimers, formal waste pickers
- New recycling systems
  - Actively involving households, separation at source by reclaimers, formal waste pickers

**Step 4: Enable**
- An expert in waste integration has joined our department.
- What do we need to do to make it happen?
- We need to align our regulatory environment.
- I’m attending a course on waste picker integration.
- My NGO is finding us on participating.

**Step 5: Institutionalize**
- Adopt the WPIP
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation process
- Establish a permanent WPI Committee
- Align policies and plans

**Step 6: Implement**
- Implement the WPIP
- Generate data
  - Report on progress, report on progress, report on progress
  - Work to timelines, monitor spending and impact, address problems

**Step 7: Revise**
- Lessons drawn from monitoring and evaluation
- New knowledge and information
- Updating priorities and budgets
- What data will we use to assess performance?

**Further steps**
- Revision of the Waste Picker Integration Plan

**Website:** www.wastepickerintegration.org