

Why does **waste picker integration** matter?



Waste picker integration advances major international and local development goals:

Waste picker integration supports South Africa's commitments to realising 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – eradicating poverty, economic growth, creating jobs for all, creating sustainable cities and communities.



Waste picker integration advances the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP 2030) to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, create an inclusive society and economy, and create decent work for all.

Waste picker integration **improves** the conditions and lives of black workers who have been unjustly stigmatised, marginalised, and exploited. It is part of the process of economic, social, and political redress.

And so: recognising the importance of waste pickers and integrating them into the recycling system provides economic, environmental and social benefits for people and the planet!





Waste Picker Integration is the New Normal

Waste picker integration is also now a requirement for both municipalities and industry:

- The 2020 National Waste Management Strategy (<http://sawic.environment.gov.za/documents/12777.pdf>) includes specific commitments to waste picker integration. They are:
 - 2020: Guidelines to be adopted and implemented
 - 2021: All metros to have integration programmes in place
 - 2024: All secondary cities to have integration programmes in place
 - 2024: 500 jobs created/decent livelihoods created in collecting recyclables.
- The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations (<http://sawic.environment.gov.za/?menu=13>) further entrench integration. They require industry to integrate ‘waste collectors, reclaimers, and pickers’ into the post-consumer value chain and to pay them for the service they provide. This is going to help address the current exploitation of reclaimers. But to make a real difference, reclaimers must be paid fairly for the work that they do to provide this service.



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Building Capacity for Waste Picker Integration

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