

## WASTE MANAGEMENT IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN CAPE TOWN

Cape Town experiences rapid urbanisation. There are around 146,000 households in 437 informal settlement pockets. Increase of informal settlements brings with it several challenges, which include poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, no security of tenure, overburdened public services, unsafe places and poor waste management are some of the problems these communities face every day. Waste management is a significant and largely untapped opportunity for transformative change. Research shows that there is ample opportunity in alternative material recovery, recycling, and sorting of waste in the informal settlements. This is best done through establishing long term partnerships between community-based groups and the City.

## WASTE-TO-RESOURCE APPROACH

Built on the principles of community owned solution, environmental education, and social enterprise opportunities. A range of recycling opportunities is applied.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

#### 1 ADVOCATING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Raising the community awareness of environmental and solid waste management problems by fortering solutions in the neighbourhood. The intervention will include monthly waste management workshops and household waste separation at source training.

#### 2 CLEANING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT

The community clean up component provides a hands-on solution to pollution. It empowers residents to take control of the situation in their own community.

This component consists of clean up awareness campaigns that will take place on a weekly basis at a block and household scale to ensure full community participation. These events will clean dumping hotspots blighted with improperly disposed solid waste. These regular community clean up events will supplement the awareness campaigns and foster the community's involvement in improving the Quality of Life in the neighbourhood.

## 3 FOOD COMPOSTING SYSTEM

Households are supplied with a Bokashi food compost starting kit, comprising a waste bin with flakes and trained on how to use the system to manage food waste at home. The organic waste is collected weekly at source and transported to composting facilities.

This is a first for an informal settlement in the Western Cape, and will be tested in Lotus Park to determine if it is viable and scaleable.

## 4 OPERATION OF THE PRIMARY WASTE SYSTEM

An efficient and effective primary collection system that is suitable for the community is designed and implemented to encourage the community to participate in the waste to resource strategy.

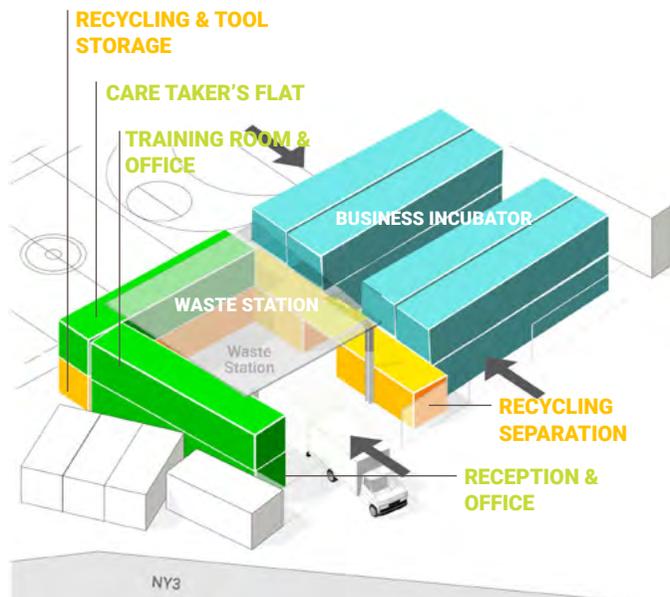
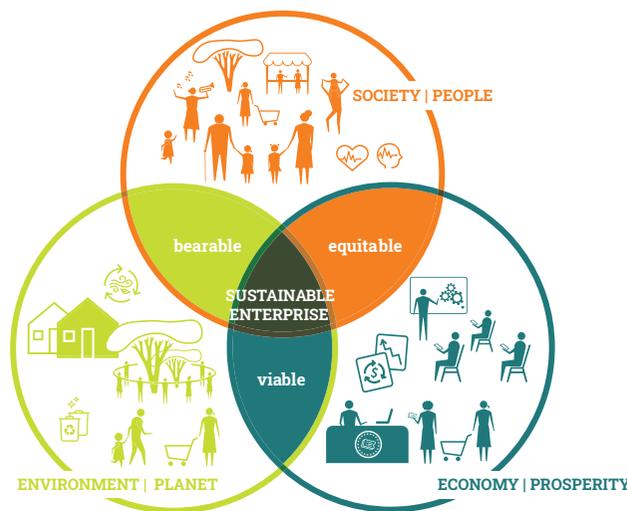
Organic waste is collected on a weekly basis at source and transported to composting facilities for further processing.

## 5 INTRODUCING A WASTE STATION

The waste station provides the community with a dedicated point for proper waste management involving, inter alia, collection, transportation, sorting, recycling and upcycling of suitable waste. Trained community eco-champions collect recyclable waste from community households, and transport this to the waste station where it is sorted, stored, and then sold to recycling businesses to be processed. Some of the recyclables will be used to support upcycling projects in the community.

## 6 FOSTERING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Community social enterprise development is run via the Siyayijika Programme, which is a grant competition designed by VPUU to attract the best entrepreneurs, whether they are start-ups or existing business, to support them to the next level of business and personal growth. The Siyayijika Business Competition Programme, combined with the incubator process, will support the development of waste management and up-cycling business ideas. The desire is to hand over the management of the Waste Station to local champions over time as a social enterprise.



Individual level	Relationship level	Community level	Societal level
<b>Community members</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste separation training [household]</li> <li>Siyayijika / Business incubator training</li> <li>Supply of Bokashi food composting system</li> </ul>	<b>Entrepreneurs, Businesses</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Siyayijika Business Competition</li> <li>Social Enterprise Development</li> <li>Alumni Network</li> </ul>	<b>Informal settlement</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socio-economic development opportunities</li> <li>Addressing waste dumping sites</li> <li>Cleaner neighbourhood environment</li> <li>Safety through socio-economic space activation</li> </ul>	<b>Metropolitan area</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributing to a safer, healthier and more sustainable metropolitan area</li> <li>Contributing to city-wide socio-economic development</li> <li>Positive impact on neighbouring communities</li> </ul>