



Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Recognising the right of every person to be informed of and involved in waste related initiatives, developments or operations which may have an effect on their health and well-being, or on the environment, the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa is committed to giving all interested and affected parties a fair and adequate opportunity to participate in the processes of planning such initiatives from an early stage and, where applicable, types and standards of waste collection services, waste facility site selection, establishment, operation, closure and choice of end use, so that they may protect their interests and be empowered to participate effectively.

All stakeholders who undertake to participate in waste-related initiatives must show due responsibility and accountability in exercising their rights, adhering to the principles laid down in national waste management policy which include access to relevant and understandable information.

Where planning of a waste facility has been carried out both in accordance with the applicable legislation, regulations and guidelines, the Institute will not delay or unreasonably obstruct such a development. In the case of the delivery of a waste related service, there should be adequate consultation with the communities who will receive the service in compliance with the applicable legislation, regulations and guidelines.

The Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa supports a fair and just adjudication process which ensures that reasons for a decision are given, that sufficient alternatives were considered, and that the input of all parties was taken into account as far as was reasonably possible and given appropriate weight.

Adequate prior notification of time limits for steps in the decision-making process must be given and adhered to by all affected parties, including authorities and the proponent and interested parties.

The ultimate outcome of a public participation process should be a decision based not only on economic, technical and biophysical environmental factors but also on social needs and acceptability. The overall social costs to the greater society should not outweigh the overall social benefits of a proposed waste-related development.