



AFRIFORUM REPORT

ON THE MUNICIPAL LANDFILL SITE AUDIT PROJECT

FOR 2020

by

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This document forms part of AfriForum's *Don't mess with our waste* campaign, a project of AfriForum's #cleanSA initiative, launched by AfriForum Community Affairs Environmental Affairs division

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Part of the Solidarity Movement

Acknowledgements

A big thank you to AfriForum's staff and all the AfriForum branches across South Africa who have made this project possible.

Thank you to every individual member of AfriForum for your participation in this national project, and for sharing the vision of sustainable development and responsible waste management in South Africa with us.

Thank you also to every municipality providing guidance in South Africa and delivering excellent services by ensuring that

waste is managed in a responsible manner and thereby complying with appropriate legislation and licences for managing waste. These municipalities should be rewarded for protecting their communities and the environment against pollution and hazards.

Thank you to the Waste Management Division of the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development who supported the project, assisted with the compilation of the new landfill site audit list and made their provincial task team available to participate in branch audits

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Introduction

The civil rights organisation AfriForum launched the #cleanSA initiative in May 2014. This project strives to make a positive change in the management of waste across South Africa by holding the officials involved accountable and by creating cooperation between communities and the three spheres of government, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs on a national level, the respective provincial departments on the provincial level and municipalities on the local level of government. From a waste management perspective, the latter is the most important and is also the level of government closest to communities. Finally, we also want to equip communities with solution-driven approaches and therefore we introduce the latest technologies and processes for dealing with the growing waste issue and for processing waste through lower levels of pollution and more efficient recycling.

This initiative gave rise to the AfriForum project *Don't mess with our waste* – also known as AfriForum's landfill site audit project. The aim of this project is to audit the minimum compliance requirements for landfill sites in

the municipalities of AfriForum's 140 branches across the country and to compare these with their waste management licences. Factors such as inadequate waste management; the collapse of infrastructure; corruption, health and safety issues; a shortage of air space for waste as well as worldwide concerns about global warming and pollution have forced AfriForum to start this project to protect South Africans' constitutional rights and protect our natural environment. AfriForum is of the opinion that very few municipalities comply with waste regulations, and that local authorities display a lack of accountability for proper waste management, monitoring and licensing.

For compiling this report, waste management practices in specific municipalities were assessed to determine whether responsible management takes place and to ensure that recommendations for best practice as well as environmental, health and safety requirements were being met. The audit results for each municipality were analysed and converted to a score out of 100 to measure compliance performance. The results are collated in this investigational report.



People living on the Klerksdorp landfill site in North West



The facts

In terms of the South African Constitution, waste management is a service that has to be provided by local governments.

According to the 2012 departmental report on the condition of the environment, it is calculated that 42 million cubic metres of ordinary (household) waste and 5 million cubic metres of hazardous waste are generated annually in South Africa. Noncompliance with regulations at landfill sites pollutes the air, soil and water sources. This cannot be tolerated, because it directly affects the health and safety of the community.

The management of household waste in South Africa is currently facing many challenges, including law enforcement, management (financial and personnel management as well as the management of equipment) and institutional behaviour (management and planning).

The South African waste management strategy is based on a range of laws aimed at managing and preventing pollution of the environment. The most pertinent of these laws are the following:

- The Hazardous Substances Act 15 of 1973, which regulates the treatment and destruction of hazardous substances
- The Environment Conservation Act 73 of 1989

- The National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998
- The National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008, which was promulgated specifically to regulate waste management in South Africa.

The Local Government Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 furthermore requires waste management services to be provided to all local communities in a financially and environmentally sound manner to promote the accessibility of basic services as well as sustainable waste management.

Thus the current South African legislation to manage waste properly seems to be adequate. However, the appropriate legislation does not appear to be enforced.

The government is obliged by the Constitution to uphold the rights set out in section 24 of the Constitution through organs of state that are responsible for the implementation of legislation on waste management. The government must introduce uniform measures aimed at reducing the amount of waste that is generated as well as ensuring that waste is reused, recirculated and recycled in an environmentally friendly manner, or treated and disposed of in a safe manner.

Landfill sites

A landfill site is a place where waste is dumped, levelled, covered with sand and left to decompose. Landfill sites are also called “rubbish dumps”, “rubbish heaps”, or “rubbish tips”. These sites should be located in places where waste can be managed without harming people’s health or damaging the surrounding environment.

PLEASE NOTE: It is against the law to dump waste in places that are not licensed by the Department of Environmental Affairs as landfill sites.

In terms of section 9(1) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008 a municipality must employ its executive powers to provide waste management services – including refuse removal and the storage and destruction of waste – in such a way that it does not conflict with national and/or provincial standards.

Classification of waste

Waste is divided into two categories, namely general and hazardous waste.

- 1. General** waste (also called household waste) is waste from urban areas, mainly from houses, offices and construction sites. This includes building rubble, garden refuse, waste from people’s houses and waste from towns and cities. The local authority is responsible for the collection, transport and management of waste in urban areas. The local council must use a portion of the money collected from residents in their area to deliver this service. In other words: if you pay rates, you already pay to have your refuse removed. General waste is dumped at general landfill sites, identified in official documents by the symbol G.
- 2. Hazardous** waste is waste that can pollute the environment and harm people’s health. This waste comes from factories, mines and hospitals and includes toxic substances (toxic waste), germ-bearing waste and explosive or easily combustible waste. Hazardous waste is classified

from 1 (very hazardous) to 10 (slightly hazardous). This kind of waste may be dumped only at sites that are equipped to handle this kind of waste. These sites are identified by the symbol H:h or H:H in official documents.



Hazardous medical waste dumped at the general Springbok landfill site in the Northern Cape

PLEASE NOTE: This AfriForum audit report focuses only on municipal/private landfill sites for general waste. However, carcasses, sewage, medical waste and other types of hazardous waste were indeed found on general landfill sites referred to in this study.

The problem

Waste from any urban community will not only create an aesthetic problem, but can also pose severe health risks if it is not properly controlled. These risks are increased if the waste contains hazardous substances.

Local authorities can and should be held criminally liable for acts of negligence that affect people's health or cause pollution. Local authorities can also be held civilly liable for associated financial costs, particularly relating to the closing or rehabilitation of landfill sites and the rehabilitation of polluted soil or land intended for urban development.

The waste generated by people in towns and cities can be detrimental to people's health and the environment if:

- the landfill sites are located close to where people live;
- the landfill sites are poorly designed and developed (for instance where leached or toxic water gets into the groundwater reservoirs and rivers);
- the landfill sites are poorly managed (for example if the sites are not fenced, access control is not applied, animal carcasses are lying around, fires occur on a regular basis, or the waste is not covered with sand and compacted on a daily basis; or
- waste is not taken to properly managed landfill sites but illegally dumped on open sites.

Problems with landfill sites

People who live or work close to landfill sites are exposed to a number of risks and hazards. These include the following:

- Landfill sites can be very unsafe, noisy, smelly and visually unattractive.
- Vehicles collecting or dumping waste can pose safety risks.
- Spontaneous combustion and fires on the sites can pollute the air.
- The gases on landfill sites can cause explosions.

- Pollution on the site can penetrate the surrounding natural water sources and soil.
- People can become ill if they inhale the polluted air, drink toxic water or eat food that has been grown in poisoned soil.
- People can develop cancer or asthma and other lung and chest diseases.
- Birth defects may occur and children growing up close to landfill sites can show stunted growth and be sickly.
- Landfill sites attract animals and insects that may carry germs and diseases, for instance rats, mice and flies, and that can transmit these germs and diseases to people who come into direct contact with the site.

The project

Various communities participated in the project by inspecting their local landfill sites and answering 33 questions (counting 25 points altogether) in respect of these sites. This contributed to the data used for the audit of compliance with the minimum requirements for landfill sites. They were accompanied by AfriForum's provincial coordinators and various other stakeholders, including municipal officials, the media and service providers.

The Director-General for Waste Management of the Department of Environmental Affairs provided AfriForum with the contact details of the department's provincial waste management officials so that they could be invited to the landfill site audits. They are also available to assist AfriForum after the conclusion of the project.

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) as well as waste management officials from private companies joined forces with AfriForum in 2017 to conduct a landfill site audit and provide input for the compilation of a new audit questionnaire.

AfriForum audits landfill sites in cooperation with the Rand West City municipality. Here the Libanon landfill site in Westonaria is visited.



Almost every licensed landfill site is required to be audited annually by independent parties or organisations. AfriForum is therefore well positioned as a community watchdog to conduct a reliable audit on the various local landfill sites.

Participants were encouraged to take photos as evidence to increase the credibility of the study. A final score was calculated by awarding one point for each category complying with the minimum requirements. The final score was multiplied by four to achieve a compliance score out of 100.

In 2016 private landfill site companies approached AfriForum to showcase the standards upheld in the private sector. Since 2016, AfriForum has therefore been auditing the private sector's landfill sites as well, in order to compare their results with those of the government.

Example: 15 of the 33 questions (with a total of 25 points) comply with the requirements. (Please note: Certain points carry more weight than others, depending on the importance of the standard.)

Therefore: $15 \times 4 = 60\%$

PLEASE NOTE: Each municipality achieving more than 80% will receive a certificate of appreciation from AfriForum. Sites that are managed in an excellent way can achieve 100%. Such sites will receive special recognition and a floating trophy on which the name of the municipality concerned will be affixed.

Please refer to the plan of action below relating to municipalities obtaining a score of less than 80%.

Results

AfriForum audits in previous years (as from 2014) at landfill sites all over South Africa were as follows:

- 2014: 83 sites
- 2015: 56 sites
- 2016: 83, of which 3 in the private sector
- 2017: 105, of which 3 in the private sector
- 2018: 114, of which 5 in the private sector
- 2019: 127, of which 3 in the private sector
- 2020: 135, of which 3 in the private sector

The most remarkable observation was that six landfill sites closed permanently during this period of time.

The results of the landfill sites audited between 2014 and 2019 are also included

in this report so that they can be compared with the 2020 results. The results can be summarised as follows:

Only 24 of the 135 landfill sites that were audited in 2020 (17%) met 80% or more of the minimum requirements for landfill sites. This means that 111 municipalities (83%) did not meet the minimum requirements. This clearly points to major shortcomings with respect to systems and people responsible for proper waste management across the entire country.

This indicates a deterioration compared with the 2019 results, when 22% of sites met 80% of minimum requirements for landfill sites.

The table below indicates the number of landfill sites that were audited in each province, as well as the number that complied with or did not comply with the minimum requirements for landfill sites.

Table 1: Statistics on compliance/noncompliance with minimum requirements for landfill sites, per province

Province	Number of landfill sites audited										Number of landfill sites complying with 80% or more of minimum requirements										Number of landfill sites not complying with minimum requirements									
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020									
Western Cape	8	5	9	10	8	9	19	3	2	2	3	4	4	8	5	3	7	7	4	5	11									
Northern Cape	7	5	9	10	8	12	15	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	4	5	8	9	8	10	15									
Eastern Cape	-	7	5	3	7	6	6	-	1	1	0	1	2	1	-	6	4	3	6	4	5									
Free State	11	10	13	14	14	20	25	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	10	10	11	13	14	20	25									
Mpumalanga	11	8	11	17	24	25	19	0	1	0	0	5	2	0	11	7	11	17	19	23	19									
Gauteng	12	4	10	22	20	21	16	3	0	2	13	15	11	11	9	4	8	9	5	10	5									
Limpopo	10	7	8	9	13	12	9	3	1	3	3	4	4	1	7	6	5	6	9	8	8									
KwaZulu-Natal	13	3	6	7	6	7	8	5	0	1	1	1	2	1	8	3	5	6	5	5	7									
North West	11	7	12	13	14	14	18	3	1	3	1	3	1	2	8	6	9	12	11	13	16									
National total	83	56	83	105	114	127	135	21	6	15	23	33	28	24	57	50	68	82	81	99	111									

Hatherley landfill site, just outside Pretoria in Gauteng



The information in Table 1 above can be better visualised by way of the column graphs in Figure 1 and 2.

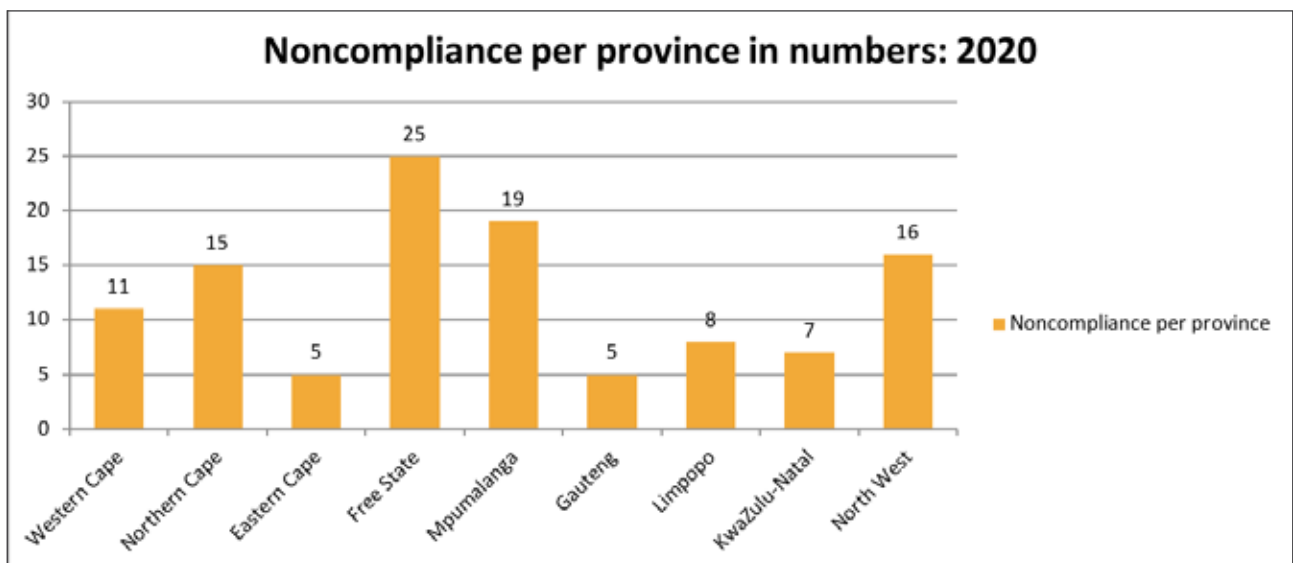


Figure 1: Number of landfill site per province not complying with minimum requirements, 2020

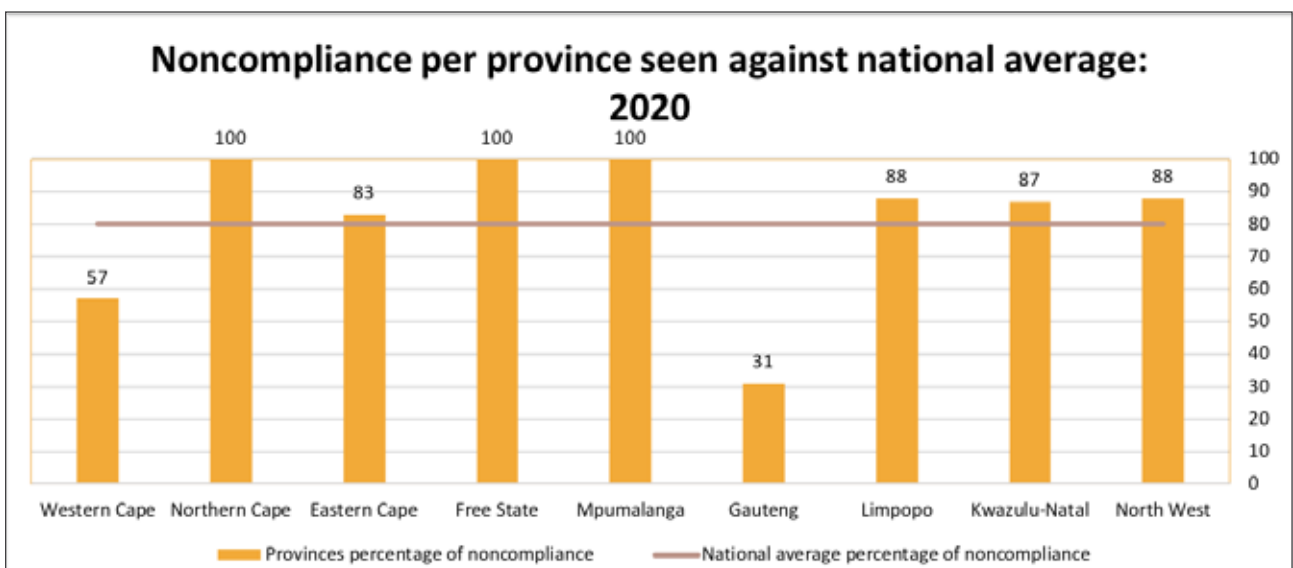


Figure 2: The national average of landfill sites in comparison with the provincial average of landfill sites not complying with minimum requirements, 2020

Figure 3 below shows the percentage of all landfill sites in the country that complied with/did not comply with the minimum requirements for landfill sites in 2020.

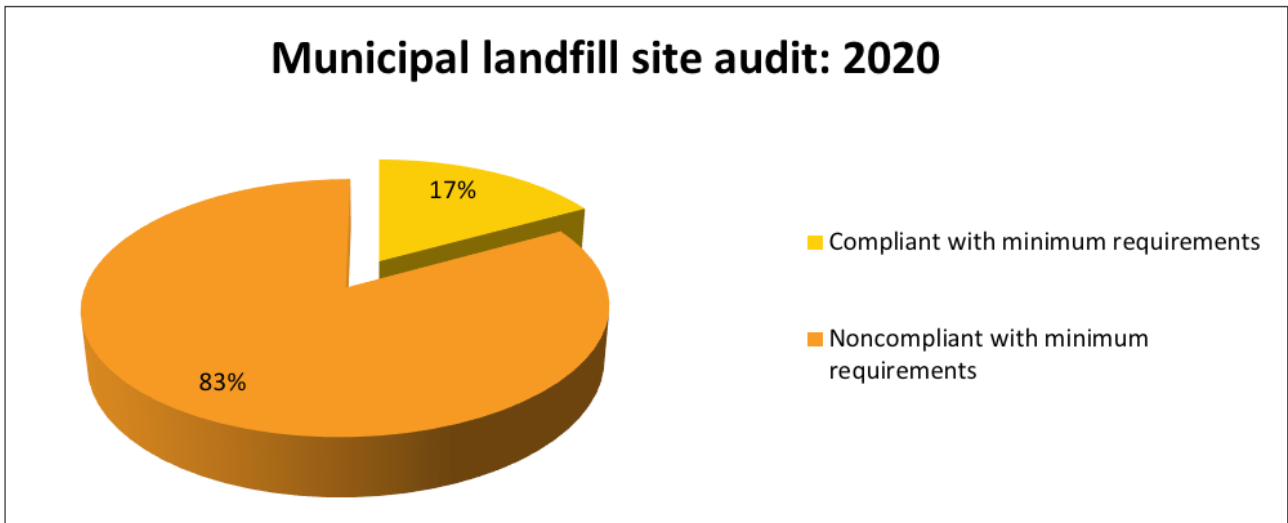


Figure 3: Percentage of audited landfill sites complying/not complying with minimum requirements

The column graph below (Figure 4) compares the audit results of 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. The graph does not indicate whether the performance of landfill sites improved or deteriorated.

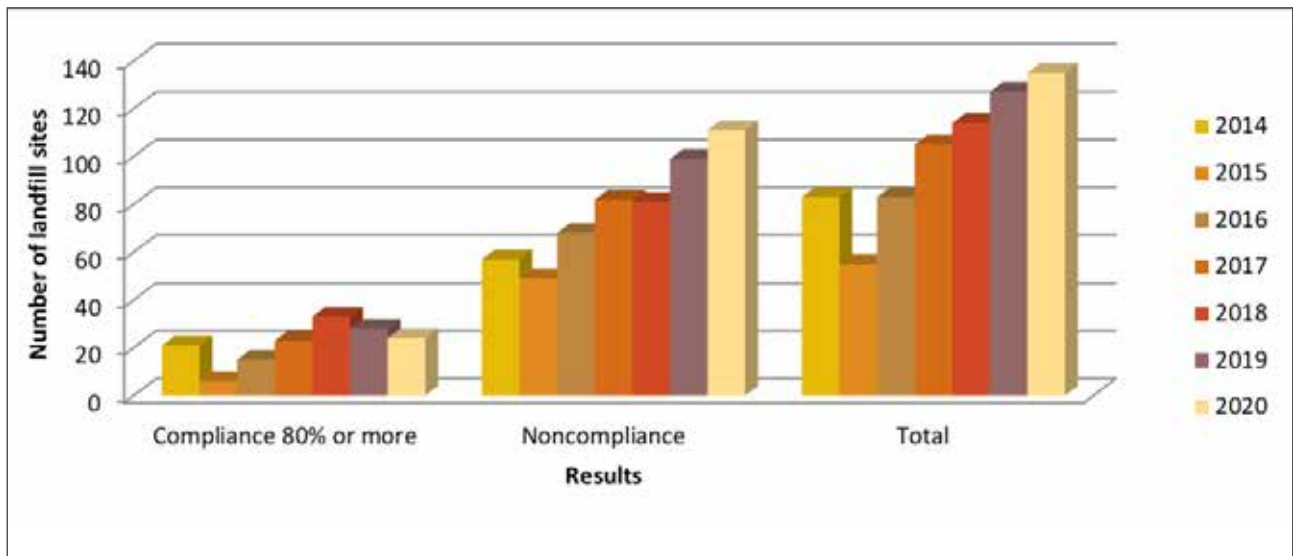


Figure 4: Comparison of number of landfill sites complying/not complying for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

Table 2 below shows the percentage allocated to individual landfill sites from 2014 up to and including 2020 based on the landfill site audit questionnaire from each municipality.

Table 2: AfriForum audit scores for the period of time 2014–2020

Name of branch/ landfill site	Municipality/ Responsible authority	Licence number	Compliance score (%)					
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Eastern Cape:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Aliwal North	Maletswai LM	12/9/11/P131	-	-	-	30	34	36
Barkly East	Senqu LM	16/2/7/U601/B3/ P470	88	92	-	-	-	-
Burgersdorp	Walter Sisulu LM	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cradock	Inxuba Yethemba LM	B33/2/1000/33/ P122	24	36	-	-	-	-
East London	Buffalo City Metro	16/2/7/R301/D1/29/ P381	-	-	-	76	-	-
Elliot	Sakhisizwe LM	-	16	-	-	0	2	4
Hankey	Kouga LM	BB33/2/1100/5/ P209	-	-	-	-	40	72
Hofmeyr	Enoch Mgijima LM	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Jeffreys Bay (Humansdorp)	Kouga LM	12/9/17/P53	-	-	-	-	58	88
Krakeelrivier	Kou-Kamma LM	-	36	40	-	-	-	-
Louterwater	Kou-Kamma LM	-	8	32	-	-	-	-
Molteno	Enoch Mgijima LM	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Port Elizabeth	Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	16/2/7/M200/ D1/21/P278	76	-	-	99	90	78
Queenstown	Enoch Mgijima LM	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Tarkastad	Enoch Mgijima LM	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Twee Riviere	Kou-Kamma LM	-	12	40	-	-	-	-
Uitenhage (Koedoeskloof)	Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	B/33/2/1200/7/P37	-	-	-	-	90	74
Free State:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Allanridge	Matjhabeng LM	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Bethlehem	Dihlabeng LM	-	-	-	56	22	16	6
Bloemfontein North	Mangaung Metro	16/2/7/C351/2/289	72	96	89	18	10	16
Bloemfontein South	Mangaung Metro	16/2/7/C351/2/289	68	80	68	18	14	20
Boshof	Tokologo LM	-	-	-	19	11	18	26
Bothaville	Nala LM	16/2/7/C604/D1/Z1/ P340	8	4	-	4	-	4
Brandfort	Masilonyana LM	WML/BAR/13/2014	4	24	9	-	2	2
Bultfontein	Tswelopele LM	WML/BAR/07/2014	-	-	42	-	24	28
Dealesville	Tokologo LM	12/9/11/L886/2		52	31	3	26	52

Edenville	Ngwathe LM	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Frankfort	Mafube LM	-	48	16	1	0	3	4
Harrismith	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	-	24	16	-	20	13	18
Heilbron	Ngwathe LM	-	12	8	0	0	-	0
Henneman	Matjhbeng LM	-	-	-	-	-	26	0
Hertzogville	Tokologo LM	WML/BAR/10/2014	-	-	-	52	36	56
Kroonstad	Moqhaka LM	-	-	-	-	-	16	8
Odendaalsrus	Matjhabeng LM	-	-	-	-	-	7	2
Parys	Ngwathe LM	16/2/7/C233//D1/Z1/P336	-	-	-	8	16	8
Petrus Steyn	Nketoana LM	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Reitz	Nketoana LM	16/2/7/C805/D4/721/P341	68	-	-	-	13	12
Sasolburg	Metsimaholo LM	-	-	36	16	18	18	20
Senekal	Setsoto LM	-	-	-	-	23	-	22
Steynsrus	Moqhaka LM	B33/2/340/88/P112	-	-	-	-	-	4
Theunissen	Masilonyana LM	16/2/7/c402/D3/21/D339	-	24	33	-	24	8
Verkeerdevlei	Mosilonyana LM	WML/BAR/15/2014	-	-	6	-	-	-
Virginia transfer station	Matjhabeng LM	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Welkom	Matjhabeng LM	B33/2/340/32/P85	-	16	33	-	13	12
Winburg	Masilonyana LM	B33/2/340/20/P48	12	12	11	13	54	28
Gauteng:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alberton (Heidelberg Road transfer station)	Ekurhuleni LM	16/2/7/C221/0494Z10/P465	-	-	93	97	-	-
Alberton (Platkop)	Ekurhuleni LM	33/2/2/321/1450	-	-	-	-	97	95
Benoni	Ekurhuleni LM	-	-	-	76	-	-	-
Boksburg (Rooikraal)	Ekurhuleni LM	16/2/7/c221/D24/21/P512	-	-	-	97	97	97.
Bon Accord	The Waste Group	B33/2/123/154/P191	-	-	98	98	94	98
Brakpan (Weltevreden)	Ekurhuleni LM	B33/2/321/172/P137	-	-	89	97	94	91
Bronkhorstspuit	City of Tshwane Metro	B33/2/220/116	-	64	75	88	84	84
Carletonville	Merafong City LM	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
Cullinan transfer station	City of Tshwane Metro	-	64	-	7	-	-	-
Ga-Rankuwa	City of Tshwane Metro	16/2/7/A230/D9/Z3/P489	-	-	83	92	92	74
Germiston (Simmer & Jack)	Ekurhuleni LM	B33/2/0322/494/P223	-	-	92	100	78	84

Hatherley	City of Tshwane Metro	B33/2/123/88/P215	-	36	80	80	88	88
Heidelberg transfer station	Lesedi LM	12/9/11/P80	32	-	18	30	18	-
Interwaste FG	Interwaste Environmental Solutions	GAUT 002/10-11/W0030	-	100	100	100	Toe	Closed
Kempton Park (Chloorkop)	Ekurhuleni LM	-	-	-	97	-	-	Closed
Kempton Park (Highveld transfer station)	Ekurhuleni LM	-	-	40	97	-	72	-
Magalieskruin	City of Tshwane Metro	-	-	52	-	-	-	-
Meyerton	Midvaal LM	002/12-13/W0001	-	-	96	96	100	96
Mooikloof	City of Tshwane Metro	-	60	-	-	-	-	-
Mooiplaats	The Waste Group	16/2/7/A230/154/21/p311	-	76	99	98	96	96
Norkempark transfer station	Ekurhuleni LM	-	-	-	-	-	75	-
Onderstepoort	City of Tshwane Metro	B33/2/123/7/P6	-	52	70	84	76	Closed
Pretoria East	City of Tshwane Metro	-	60	-	-	-	-	-
Primrose	Ekurhuleni LM	-	-	68	41	-	-	-
Randfontein	Rand West City	B33/2/323/34/P12	-	-	33	26	46	Closed
Roodepoort	City of Johannesburg	-	-	-	-	-	34	Closed
Rooihuiskraal	City of Tshwane Metro	-	-	84	-	-	-	-
Soshanguve	City of Tshwane Metro	B33/2/123/101/P43	-	-	83	84	78	86
Springs (Rietfontein)	Ekurhuleni LM	16/2/7/C221/D494/P275	-	-	88	86	88	94
Vanderbijlpark (Boitshepi)	Emfuleni LM	-	-	-	28	38	32	26
Vereeniging (Sonlandpark transfer station)	Emfuleni LM	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Waldrift	Emfuleni LM	006/15-16/W0004	-	-	-	-	68	60
Westonaria (Libanon)	Rand West City	16/2/7/C231/D21/Z	-	-	47	9	100	48
KwaZulu-Natal:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Hluhluwe	The Big Five False Bay LM	-	-	24	0	20	2	0
Margate	Ray Nkonyeni LM	16/2/7/T402/DS/Z1/P26/A1	-	-	70	-	96	96
Newcastle	Newcastle LM	16/2/7/3V301/B2/Y2/P476	-	80	80	80	88	60
Paulpietersburg	eDumbe LM	-	4	16	14	10	14	4
Pongola	uPhongolo LM	DC26/WML/0001/2014	-	68	54	68	52	38

Richards Bay	uMhlathuze LM	B33/2/2112/006/P245	-	-	-	-	-	60
Utrecht	eMadlangeni LM	-	32	68	16	7	0	12
Vryheid	AbaQulusi LM	-	40	32	41	24	3	6
Limpopo:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Ellisras	Lephalale LM	-	-	-	58	32	16	22
Groblersdal	Elias Motsoaledi LM	12/4//10-B/10M2	20	72	90	92	98	-
Hoedspruit	Maruleng LM	-	-	-	18	18	20	-
Leeupoort	Thabazimbi LM	16/2/7/A240/D21/21/P354	52	-	-	2	4	Closed
Louis Trichardt	Makhado LM	12/9/11/L413/5	-	32	70	80	84	Closed
Marble Hall	Ephraim Mogale LM	16/2/7/B300/D58/Z1/P261	72	88	84	84	84	78
Naboomspruit	Mookgophong LM	16/2/7/A600/D7/Z2/P399	28	36	19	32	34	30
Naboomspruit (Die Oog transfer station)	Mookgophong LM	-	-	-	-	32	-	-
Naboomspruit (Western Breeze transfer station)	Mookgophong LM	-	-	-	-	20	20	-
Nylstroom	Modimolle LM	16/2/7/A600/D2/Z1/P380	48	16	-	12	0	4
Phalaborwa	Ba-Phalaborwa LM	16/2/7/B700/016/21/P276	84	80	32	64	36	54
Rooiberg	Thabazimbi LM	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Thabazimbi	Thabazimbi LM	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Tzaneen	Greater Tzaneen LM	16/2/7/B800/D2/Z23/1/P501	-	100	100	100	100	98
Warmbaths	Bela-Bela LM	B33/2/123/3	-	56	40	37	40	38
Northern Cape:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Barkly West	Dikgatlong LM	-	-	16	-	-	-	-
Deben	Gamagara LM	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Douglas	Siyancuma LM	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
Hartswater	Phokwane LM	-	-	76	-	57	14	2
Hopetown	Thembelihle LM	-	-	-	-	-	2	10
Jan Kempdorp	Phokwane LM	-	-	32	-	-	10	0
Kamieskroon	Kamiesberg LM	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Kathu	Gamagara LM	B33/2/4441/15/P116	-	56	19	16	28	26
Keimoes	Kai !Garib LM	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
Kimberley	Sol Plaatje LM	16/2/7/C901/D2/P265	48	36	-	-	82	52

Kuruman	Ga-Segonyana LM	B33/2/441/9/P128	72	56	39	27	10	52
Olifantshoek	Gamagara LM	-	-	-	14	-	-	-
Orania	Orania Town Council	NC/PIX/SIY/ORA/04/2016			95	-	80	66
Postmasburg	Tsantsabane LM	-		56	12	41	20	
Prieska	Siyathemba LM	16/2/7/D720/D1/Z1/P479	-	-	-	-	-	16
Springbok	Nama Khoi LM	16/2/7/F300/D9/21/P315	8	20	7	0	0	4
Upington	Khara Hais LM	-		84	8	4	6	18
Warrenton	Magareng LM	-	-	-	6	-	-	14
Williston	Karoo Hoogland LM	-	8	-	10	10	4	22
North West:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bloemhof	Lekwa-Teemane LM	NWP/WM/DR4/2011/11	16	20	2	10	6	44
Brits (Hartebeesfontein)	Madibeng LM	B33/2/0121/41/P81	-	84	-	-	-	26
Christiana	Lekwa-Teemane LM	NWP/WM/DR4/2011/09		36	4	12	4	18
Coligny	Ditsobotla LM	-	12	8	0	0	0	0
Delareyville	Tswaing LM	B33/2/330/44/P219	8	8	9	2	10	28
Klerksdorp	City of Matlosana LM	16/2/7/C241/D4Z2/P514	64	-	45	18	10	36
Koster	Kgetlengrivier LM	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
Lichtenburg	Ditsobotla LM	B33/2/330/3/P58	-	8	-	-	16	2
Mooi-nooi	Sebanye-Stilwater (Interwaste)	16/2/7/A210/C29/Z1/P379	-	-	-	-	94	94
Ottosdal	Tswaing LM	NWP/WM/NM4/2012/11	-	40	29	2	-	-
Potchefstroom	Tlokwe LM	16/2/7/C231/D13/Z1/P	-	100	90	94	64	16
Potchefstroom transfer station	Tlokwe LM	-	-	-	-	89	-	-
Rustenburg (Waterval)	Rustenburg LM	D09202-01	-	-	37	88	62	94
Sannieshof	Tswaing LM	NWP/WM/NM4/2012/09	-	12	2	2	2	34
Schweizer-Reneke	Mamusa LM	16/2/7/C301/D2/23/P421	-	64	17	-	8	22
Stella	Naledi LM	NWP/WM/DR1/2013/16	12	16	4	2	-	-
Swartruggens	Kgetlengrivier LM	-	-	-	0	0	-	0
Ventersdorp	JB Marks LM	-	-	--		3	-	0
Vryburg	Naledi LM	NWP/WM/DR1/2009/01	92	96	50	52	32	28

Wolmaransstad	Maquassi Hills LM	B33/2/330/19/P166	-	-	-	-	34	8
Zeerust	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	-	-	-	-	-	4	16
Mpumalanga:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Amersfoort	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Arnot transfer station	Steve Tswete LM	-	-	-	-	-	75	-
Barberton	Mbombela LM	B33/2/10960/P131	-	-	-	-	-	46
Belfast	Emakhazeni LM	12/9/11/P95	-	8	10	14	41	48
Bethal	Govan Mbeki LM	17/4/WL/MP/307/13/02	72	12	17	11	10	5
Breyten	Msukaligwa LM	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Carolina	Albert Luthuli LM	-	-	-	-	0	4	0
Delmas	Victor Khanye LM	B33/2/220/9/P218	48	24	14	6	12	30
Dullstroom	Emakhazeni LM	-	-	12	2	0	4	0
Ermelo	Msukaligwa LM	16/2/7/C112/D1/Z1/P427	84	52	42	18	2	18
Evander	Govan Mbeki LM	-	-	-	-	0	0	6
Hendrina transfer station	Steve Tshwete LM	-	-	-	-	67	55	-
Kinross	Govan Mbeki LM	17/4/WL/MP/307/15/01	-	-	6	6	6	4
Leandra	Govan Mbeki LM	-	-	-	-	20	6	6
Lydenburg	Thaba Chweu LM	-	56	12	35	36	33	10
Machadodorp	Emakhazeni LM	-	16	16	6	3	10	6
Middelburg	Steve Tshwete LM	16/2/7/B10/D33/Z1/P412	-	-	36	95	28	58
Middelburg (Dennesig transfer station)	Steve Tshwete LM	-	-	-	44	94	86	-
Middelburg transfer station	Steve Tshwete LM	-	-	-	-	100	92	-
Morgenzon	Lekwa LM	-	-	-	1	1	0	0
Nelspruit	Mbombela LM	12/9/11/P5	-	-	64	80	74	-
Piet Retief	Mkhondo LM	-	40	68	57	39	12	48
Secunda	Govan Mbeki LM	17/4/WL/MP/307/13/01		76	42	19	24	10
Standerton	Lekwa LM	17/4/A18/MP305/10/01	24	32	26	14	0	18
Volksrust	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme LM	-	--	-	-	16	2	16
Witbank	Emalaheni LM	B33/2/210/32/P136	68	64	47	30	60	34

White River transfer station	Mbombela LM	-	-	-	74	80	80	-
Western Cape:			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bellville	City of Cape Town Metro	19/2/5/4/A5/6/WL0050/12	80	-	80	97	-	90
Bredasdorp	Cape Agulhas LM	16/2/7/G501/D1/Z1/P329	-	-	-	-	-	46
Gansbaai	Overstrand LM	16/2/7/G400/D24/21/P335	-	96	-	-	-	86
George	George LM	WL0683/4	-	52	41	52	52	44
Gordons Bay transfer station	City of Cape Town Metro	-	-	-	-	-	96	-
Hermanus	Overstrand LM	16/2/7/G501/D3/Z3/P374	92	88	100	100	-	86
Klawer	Matzikama LM	19/2/5/4/F3/6/WL0042/19	60	44	43	-	-	24
Kraaifontein	Interwaste Management Facility	12/9/11/P124	-	-	-	-	98	98
Lutzville	Matzikama LM	19/2/5/4/F3/10/WL0006/18	-	36	44	-	-	22
Malmesbury (Highlands)	Mossel Bay LM	B/33/2/720/132/P67	-	-	-	-	96	94
Malmesbury (Chatsworth)	Swartland LM	B33/2/900/3/5/P167	-	-	-	-	-	80
Mosselbaai	Swartland LM	19/2/5/1/D6/17/WL0084/14	-	64	80	-	68	96
Oudtshoorn	Oudtshoorn LM	B33/2/900/3/5/P167	40	32	0	26	38	48
Riversdal	Hessequa LM	-	-	-	-	84	-	-
Stellenbosch	Stellenbosch LM	16/2/7/G203/D16/21/P331	-	-	-	89	66	96
Stilbaai	Hessequa LM	19/2/5/1/D/11/WL0060/14	-	-	62	38	-	72
Vanrhynsdorp	Bergrivier LM	19/2/5/4/F3/16/WL0044/18	-	68	73	-	-	54
Velddrif	Matzikama LM	-	-	-	-	69	26	48
Vredendal	Matzikama LM	19/2/5/4/F3/17/WL0032/18	-	28	53	-	-	74
Wellington	Drakenstein LM	-	-	-	-	68	80	68
Worcester	Breede Valley LM	-	-	-	-	-	-	70

Key:

Landfill site with permit	
Landfill site without permit	
Private landfill site	
Transfer station	

An average audit was calculated for each province in which the landfill sites were audited between 2014 and 2020. The percentage allocated to each individual site in a particular province was aggregated and the total was then divided by the number of sites in that province.

In the graph below (Figure 5), the average audit scores for each province for 2014-2020 are indicated.

Example: In Mpumalanga, six landfill sites were audited in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Therefore:

$$76\% + 8\% + 40\% + 64\% + 32\% + 64\% = 284\% \text{ and } 284\%/6 = 47\% \text{ average in 2014}$$

$$84\% + 16\% + 56\% + 40\% + 24\% + 68\% = 288\%; \text{ therefore } 288\%/6 = 48\% \text{ average in 2015}$$

The conclusion can therefore be made that in 2015 the landfill sites in this province have improved by 1% in comparison with the previous year.

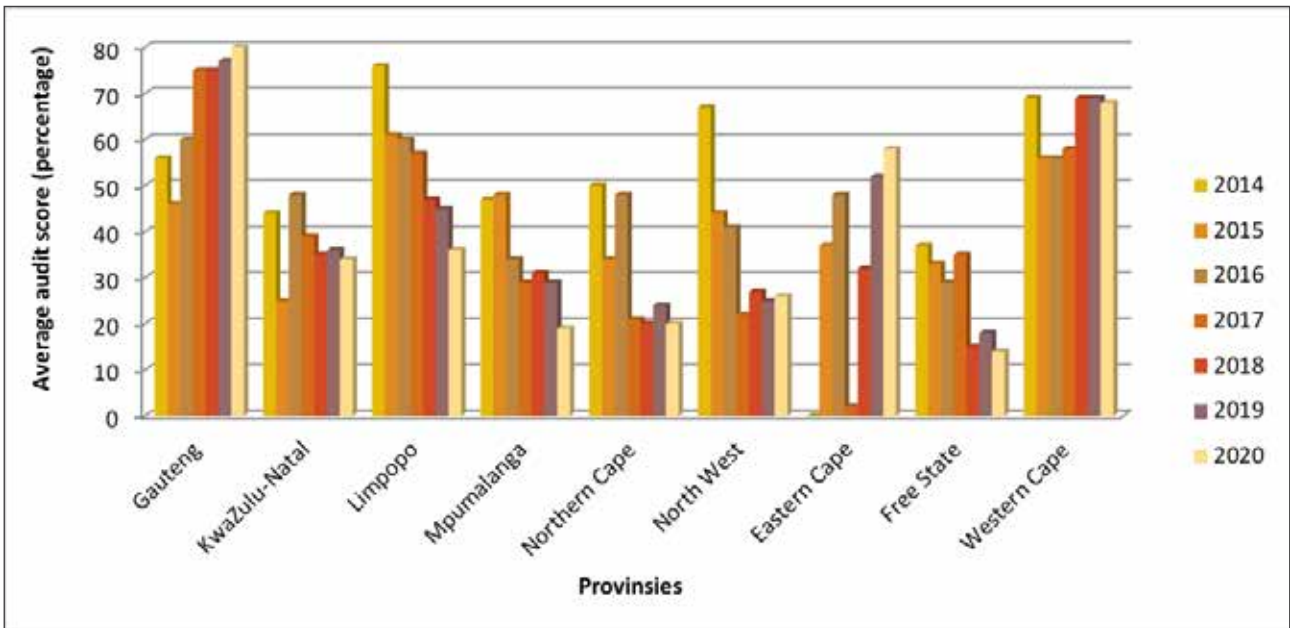


Figure 5: Average annual audit score (in percentages) for the period 2014-2020, per province

The line graph below (Figure 6) shows the percentage of compliance at national level for the period 2014-2020.

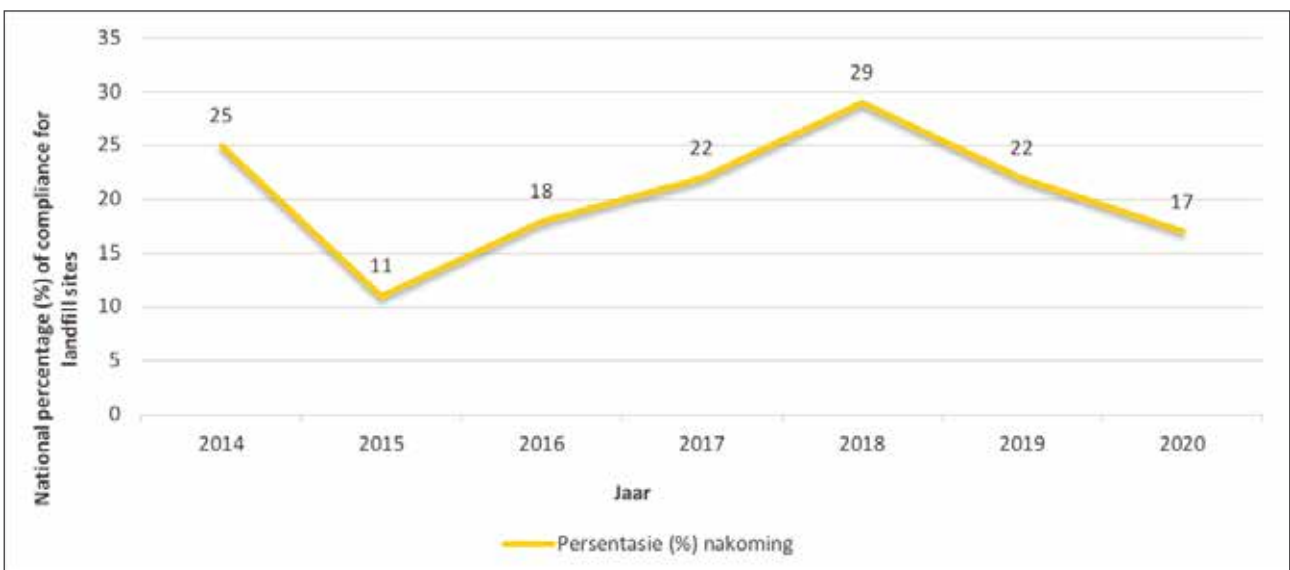


Figure 6: Average annual national compliance score (in percentages) for the period 2014-2020

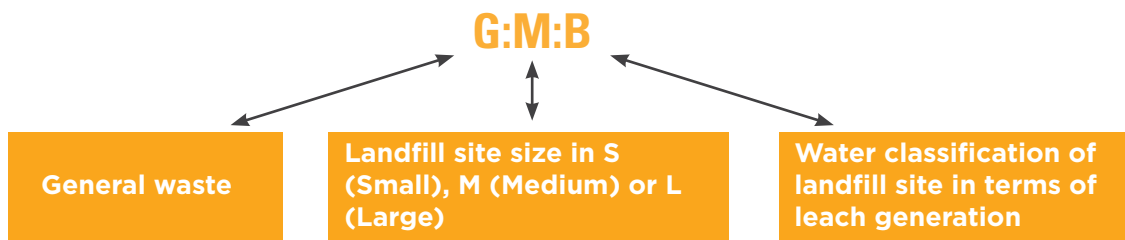
Questionnaire

The questionnaire used for landfill site audits from 2017 to 2020 was revised and differs from the one used in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The 33 questions now cover all the minimum requirements for a landfill site.

The questionnaire was compiled to establish whether a landfill site complies with the minimum requirements for landfill sites as prescribed in the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008. To pass this audit, a landfill site has to comply with at least 80% of the minimum requirements¹ and then strive to improve on the 20% non-compliance.

The challenge for the community is that each landfill site has a unique permit or licence with requirements that can be even stricter than the abovementioned minimum requirements. Inadmissible waste in terms of the legislation can for example be permitted on certain conditions and requirements that have to be met by that particular landfill site. In addition, landfill sites are categorised into three sizes – each with its own conditions. The general rule is: the bigger the site, the stricter the requirements.

Accordingly, AfriForum decided to compile a questionnaire that can apply to any general (G type) landfill site. The classification system works as follows:



Example:

The questionnaire is divided into five main and **sub-categories**

The sum total of the points for the questionnaire is 25. This can be multiplied by 4 to obtain the percentage (%) of the result.

Minimum requirement	Fully compliant 1	Partially compliant ½	Non-compliant 0	Comments	Score
1. Access and control					/ 8
1.1 Signs					
a) Signs in the appropriate official languages must be erected in the vicinity of the landfill, indicating the route and distance to the landfill site from the nearest main roads.	x				½ / ½
b) Is there a sign at the gate indicating what type of waste can be dumped as well as the operating hours of the site?		x			1/½
1.2 Road access					
a) Are all roads to and within the site maintained?			x		0 / 1

Score for main category

Weight of question

Mark with x in appropriate box. Use own discretion, with minimum requirement as outcome.

Comments are important for evidence, notes and additional information for discussions with authorities after the audit.

¹ The minimum requirements for landfill sites (1998, 2nd edition) as published by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. See <http://sawic.environment.gov.za/documents/266.pdf> (accessed 6 May 2020).

Table 3: Questionnaire

AFRIFORUM'S GENERAL CHECKLIST ON MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LANDFILL SITES 2019

(Take photos as proof of maladministration)

What is the name of the landfill site?					
Who is the responsible authority?					
Small/medium/large site (see classification below)					
Minimum requirement	Fully compliant 1	Partially compliant ½	Non-compliant 0	Comments	Marks
1. Access and controls					/ 8
1.1 Signs					
a) Signs in the appropriate official languages must be erected in the vicinity of the landfill, indicating the route and distance to the landfill site from the nearest main roads.					/ ½
b) Is there a sign at the gate indicating what type of waste can be dumped, as well as the operating hours of the site?					/ ½
1.2 Road access					
a) Are all roads to and within the site maintained?					/1
b) Two-way traffic must be possible in all weather conditions.					/ ½
c) Unsurfaced roads must be watered regularly to restrict dust levels.					/ ½
1.3 Access control and security					
a) Is there a proper 1,8 m fence around the landfill to keep people and animals out?					/ ½
b) Is the fencing fixed/whole and maintained?					/ ½
c) Is there access control at the landfill's gate(s)?					/1
d) Does the site have security guards patrolling the site?					/1
1.4 Waste acceptance and waste types					
a) Prior to waste being accepted, it must be inspected to confirm that it is general waste.					/1

1.5 Tariffs					
a) Disposal tariffs to be displayed on notice boards.					/ ½
b) Are disposal fees collected?					/ ½
2. Resources					/ 3
2.1 Infrastructure					
a) There must be services such as water, sewerage, electricity, weigh bridges and site offices.					/1
2.2 Plant and equipment					
a) There must be sufficient machinery and equipment should be in working condition.					/1
2.3 Staff					
a) The operation of all sites must be carried out under the direction of sufficiently qualified staff, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Supervisor • Landfill Manager 					/1
3. Operations					/ 7 ½
3.1. Operating plan					
a) Does the responsible authority have a waste operating management plan? The plan must include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Excavation sequence ii. Projected/progressive development of landfill with time iii. Daily cell construction iv. Provision of wet weather cells v. Site access vi. Drainage vii. Operating monitoring procedures, including the role of a monitoring committee viii. Action plans in response to problems detected by monitoring. 					/1
b) Does the responsible authority have a response action plan? This includes an emergency evacuation plan.					/ ½
3.2 Site development and cells					
a) Is waste compacted daily and covered with soil to prevent waste being blown away by the wind?					/1

b) An easily accessible wet weather cell (with a well-drained gravel-type base) must be constructed close to the site entrance, for use under wet weather conditions.					/1
3.3 Control of nuisances					
a) There may be no fires burning on the site.					/1
b) All litter must be contained within the site itself (preferably to be contained in the disposal area only)					/1
3.4 Waste reclamation					
a) Because of the risk to health and safety, waste reclamation by reclaimers must be prohibited at general waste disposal sites. Therefore, no reclaimers may be present at the site.					/ ½
b) If waste reclamation/recycling is taking place: are there facilities/provisions available for recycling?					/ ½
3.5 Prohibited waste (unless specifically authorised by the permit or licence)					
a) No dumping of medical or animal waste (carcasses, bones, stomach content) occurs.					/ ½
b) No dumping of tyres occurs.					/ ½
4. Drainage					/ 3
a) Is there a proper and operational storm water infrastructure on the site?					/1
b) All drains must be maintained to promote run-off without excessive erosion.					/1
c) All contaminated water and leachate that forms on site must be stored in a sump or retention dam.					/1
5. Monitoring and recordkeeping					/ 3 ½
a) Records must be kept of all waste entering the site.					/1
b) Does the landfill site have a permit or waste management licence? What is the permit or licence number? A copy of the permit/licence should be available on site.				Permit/licence No:	/1

c) Was the correct personal protective equipment issued to municipal workers on site?					1 ½
d) All landfills must be audited and inspected internally every 12 months. Copies should be made available for public comment/ input (e.g. landfill audit committee).					1 ½
e) Is there a landfill audit committee within the municipality of which communities can form part?					1 ½
Total					/ 25



What has been achieved so far?

National landfill site audit project

After the completion of the 2016 landfill site audit report, a number of meetings were held with the Waste Management Division of the Department of Environmental Affairs. AfriForum also made a submission to the department's waste management licensing task team to have one landfill site per province rehabilitated.

Liaison with national, provincial and local governments

A positive relationship has been established with the Department of Environmental Affairs. Mr Mark Gordon, Deputy Director-General of Chemicals and Waste Management, wrote a letter to AfriForum in which he provided the provincial waste management officers' contact details so that branches were able to involve them in the audit.

On the basis of the 2017 report, AfriForum Environmental Affairs identified the two weakest landfill sites and focused on these, in close cooperation with the Gauteng

Province's departments responsible for landfill site monitoring, legal compliance and licensing. As a result of this cooperation, there has been a significant improvement in the Hatherley landfill site in Pretoria. However, the Libanon landfill site in the West Rand, serving Westonaria and Randfontein, initially did not show sufficient improvements to pass the audit. Subsequently further steps have been taken against the management of the Libanon landfill site; the positive results are set out below.

At the Hatherley landfill site, which is responsible for the greater part of waste in Gauteng North, positive change has been implemented at the site after discussions with the relevant authorities. In the landfill site audit project of 2016, the site scored 36%. This landfill site was prioritised by AfriForum on behalf of the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Tshwane Metro. After numerous meetings and discussions on the topic of rehabilitating the landfill site, the site scored 80% for two consecutive years.

The Libanon landfill site on the West Rand also showed major improvements in the period 2018–2019 as a result of continued pressure and sound cooperation between AfriForum and the Department of Environmental Affairs. This landfill site obtained a score of 9% in 2018

but within a period of 6 months scored a full 100%. At present consideration is given to the possibility of taking this landfill site to the next level and to launch a sustainable project in cooperation with the Waste-to-Energy company in terms of energy generation by combusting waste.

At the end of 2019 AfriForum's Environmental Affairs team met with the responsible minister as well as with officials of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries. The parties pledged to start a mutual project in 2020 to improve the poorest scoring landfill sites in each province where possible. AfriForum will continue to liaise with the department in this regard throughout the year.

AfriForum's Environmental Affairs team met with a number of experts in the waste industry as from the end of 2019 up till now. Meetings were held with several organisations, including Unisa, the University of the Western Cape, the CSIR, the Waste Group and other private companies. Every participant showed wide acceptance of the objectives AfriForum is attempting to reach through the project.

AfriForum's liaison with the Department of Environmental Affairs is on a satisfactory level and at the end of 2019 a positive relationship was established with the minister as well as the department itself. The director-general sent a letter to AfriForum containing the contact details of the provincial waste management officials, enabling AfriForum branches to engage these officials in the audit process. The director-general also requested meetings after completion of the project in order to discuss the results.

Court cases

AfriForum's Naboomspruit branch was involved in a landfill site court case, which was heard on 9 October 2017, but with the decision of the court pending. Judgment was eventually delivered in favour of AfriForum in a court case against the Lim 368 Local Municipality. Judgment was also delivered in favour of AfriForum in the Northern Gauteng High Court on 7 February 2018, with costs, regarding the appalling way in which the Naboomspruit landfill site was managed.

Since then, there has been little improvement to this landfill site. AfriForum is keeping a close eye on the site's performance and if necessary will prepare a contempt application in the Northern Gauteng High Court in order to force the landfill site management to raise standards to the required minimum.

Plan of action

The 2020 report touched on various issues with municipalities across the country that are responsible for waste management.

Several municipalities that did not meet the minimum requirements in the period 2014–2019 also did not respond to the letters AfriForum sent to them regarding the mismanagement of the landfill sites under their control. Letters were once again sent to all the municipalities that did not comply with the minimum requirements in 2019. Some sites even deteriorated further since the 2019 audit took place. AfriForum will monitor the progress of these sites and will act more decisively to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements.

In 2019 AfriForum brought up the landfill site issue during the public participation process for the integrated development plan in the various municipalities. AfriForum branches also started to compile action lists and submitting these to municipal managers to address the landfill site issue. In this way, AfriForum wants to ensure that the municipalities concerned budget sufficiently in the coming financial year to meet the needs of the community with respect to landfill sites.

The 2020 report will be used as a constant against which to measure the same infrastructure in all the other AfriForum branches in 2021.

The process for ensuring compliance includes the following:

1. A comprehensive track record or paper trail was started to keep a record of specific sites.
2. Noncompliance will be addressed in a

letter demanding a comprehensive plan of action from the responsible authority. The municipality must indicate how and by what dates they will meet the requirements with which they do not comply at present.

3. Provincial departments are responsible for monitoring landfill sites, enforcing the law and issuing licences for unlicensed landfill sites. AfriForum will continue to exert pressure on the provinces to carry out their duties.
4. Should municipalities fail to resolve the issues, legal action will be taken. It is possible to open a criminal case against the administrative official.
5. AfriForum will also be obliged to rehabilitate landfill sites that do not comply with the minimum requirements, and to claim the money back from the municipality in question.
6. This report will also be handed to the Green Scorpions (Environmental Management Inspectors or EMIs) for further investigation of landfill sites not complying with the minimum requirements.

7. The 2020 report – which contains landfill site records over a period of seven years – will be submitted to the relevant minister and the department to discuss and implement strategies that will address the problems.

8. AfriForum will attempt in 2020 to take control of landfill sites by way of public-private partnerships of PPPs, or will facilitate this process between the state and private companies that are suitable to perform the duties involved.

AfriForum believes that municipalities and the relevant departments will collaborate in order to resolve for these important matters and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all people in South Africa.

AfriForum will constantly investigate new technologies in terms of alternatives for landfill sites and in this way attempt to bring relief from the overburdening of landfill sites, ensuring that not all waste end up in landfill sites. AfriForum will make some proposals in this regard.

Alternative solutions for landfill sites: Waste-to-energy

In collaboration with waste-to-energy (WTE) companies AfriForum envisages to put alternative solutions for landfill sites and recycling on the table. This process can be implemented by following the following steps as set out in Figure 7 below.

The handling of municipal waste is an expenditure which can be turned into a profit by extracting the energy locked in the waste, through a process of combustion or gasification. This is common practice in many countries and provides high yields.



Figure 7: Possible steps to be followed by communities to bring about sustainable improvement at a landfill site

Only a small portion of waste which is not combustible or gasifiable needs to be removed and taken to a landfill site or must be treated by another suitable process.

The health risks associated with a combustion or gasification plant are substantially less than those associated with operating a landfill site. No significant poisonous gasses are released. However, a gasification process should not be mistaken for a fermentation process. A gasification process is a fire-related or pyrolytic process, whereas a fermentation process is anaerobic in nature and produces methane gas, which is four times more damaging to the earth when compared to carbon dioxide.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) can be successfully converted into combined heat and power (CHP) energy, instead of storing it at high cost in landfill sites. Two methods which are applied all over the world for reaching this goal are combustion and gasification. The combustion option requires a one-time design of a plant generating steam to feed a steam turbine which will drive a generator.

An even better option is to gasify the MSW, which produces a flammable gas consisting mainly of carbon monoxide and hydrogen and which is called Syngas. The Syngas is then used to power an internal combustion engine (ICE) similar to a diesel or petrol engine. The rotating ICE in turn drives a generator to generate electricity. The Syngas can also be directly combusted in steam boilers to generate steam and hot water. Enormous amounts of heat energy in the form of steam and hot water is generated during the cooling phase of the process. Such heat energy can be transferred directly to nearby industries.

The gasification process produces a higher yield when compared to the combustion process. It also produces more by-products which can be sold at a profit, such as biochar and biomass concentrates. Biochar is a valuable commodity to be used in agriculture to enrich the carbon content of poor agricultural soil. Biomass concentrate is also used as an ingredient of insecticides.

In this way a landfill site can serve as a power plant providing CHP energy to an industrial plant and/or a community or settlement. The provision of power to such an industrial park or community will also not be subject to power supply interruptions.

An aspect which should definitely be taken into account is the stakeholder community who makes a living out of landfill sites. Such people can be employed and/or their collected waste can be bought from them for purposes of gasification or recycling. In addition, a portion of the share capital should be reserved for the upliftment of the surrounding poor communities. Without such initiatives the gasification plants will be opposed by the local community. Investors should take the utmost care that no members of the stakeholder community are disadvantaged in the process. In this way the goodwill surrounding the construction of a WTE plant will be noticed and appreciated, leading to the initiation of more projects of this kind.

The life expectancy of such a plant can be more than 50 years. Taking into account the fact that the combined plant consists of a number of separate modules, the whole plant does not need to be switched off for repair or maintenance work. The surface area needed for a gasification plant is substantially smaller than that needed for a landfill site.

Key words:

English
waste to energy (WTE)
municipal solid waste (MSW)
refuse-derived fuel (RDF)
combined heat and power (CHP)
internal combustion engine (ICE)
internal rate of return (IRR)
kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy
megawatt (MW) power

Eco bricks

AfriForum believes alternative products can be manufactured from waste which will assist in relieving the pressure of the enormous quantities of waste which are dumped unnecessarily on landfill sites although they could be used in economically viable ways. One of the proposals to realise this objective is the manufacturing of so-called ecobricks which will relieve pressure on landfill sites as well as contribute to the erection of low-cost housing.

An ecobrick basically consists of a plastic 2-litre bottle which is filled with clean, dry, non-recyclable waste which is compacted in the bottle. Such a bottle, when compacted, can then be used as building material for low-cost housing as well as for manufacturing various kinds of furniture.

Plastic roads

The notion of a “plastic road” is a fairly new concept in the world and in South Africa. In 2019 the first section of a plastic road was built in Jeffreys Bay in the Eastern Cape. The process allows for an efficient way of recycling plastic optimally and shows exciting potential for job creation, reduction of waste and pollution as well as cost savings.

The project involved “tarring” a 300 m stretch of a road by making use of plastic waste. The companies who successfully completed this product were the Scottish manufacturer MacRebur in collaboration with the Port Elizabeth-based companies SP Excel and Scribante.

This type of project has been successfully implemented in countries such as the Netherlands, Canada, Australia and the UK (Scotland). It is one of the alternatives for recycling plastics which AfriForum will research in future and where possible put to the test.

PPPs

A public-private partnership or PPP refers to a long-term agreement between an organ of

HOW TO MAKE AN ECOBRICK



Warning. This is a temporary solution. Reusable solutions should replace problematic materials.

1

USE A CLEAN PLASTIC BOTTLE



2

LOCATE A STICK

3

FIND OUT WHAT IS NOT BEING RECYCLED IN YOUR COMMUNITY



4

STUFF THE CLEAN & DRY NON-RECYCLABLES TIGHTLY INTO THE BOTTLE

state such as a municipality and a private entity, usually a registered company. The objective of a PPP is to transfer services or functions for which an organ of state is responsible to a private company which will then deliver such services or functions. The



A street in Jeffreys Bay is repaired by making use of plastic waste

agreement involves a concomitant financial risk for the private partner.

Municipalities find themselves in a rapidly changing technological environment and often cannot access such technologies because of competitive costs. In contrast, the private sector competes on a level playing field and makes use of proven management processes and technologies. A PPP creates an ideal opportunity to bridge the gap which has developed in this respect in an efficient way.

Without reinventing the wheel, the use of proven technologies, experience and expertise can be shared, which will be cost-efficient to organs of state. For the general public it will entail delivery of better and cost-efficient services, which will leave a surplus of financial means to deliver even more services.

Summary

AfriForum's landfill site audit project shows the need for clear political intent and decisions to reuse, recycle and reduce waste in a sustainable way, as well as to maintain and manage the infrastructure for waste management. For this reason, the minister

was approached in 2016 to address the poor communication on the local level of government and to create political will at grassroot level.

It becomes clear from the 2020 audit report that the watchdog function performed by AfriForum bears fruit at the local level, and in particular in stimulating communication between communities and government officials. According to the 2020 landfill site audit report only 17% of municipalities met the minimum requirements. This shows a deterioration when compared with the 22% of landfill sites meeting 80% or more of the minimum requirements in 2019. However, both scores are clearly exemplary of unacceptable levels of performance in South Africa and indicate basic and serious shortcomings in waste management among people and organisations responsible for proper waste management countrywide.

Mismanagement of landfill sites is caused by a number of factors, including the following:

- corruption
- lack of political will
- lack of leadership and denial of accountability
- lack of the necessary skills in respect of waste management

- gross contempt for the relevant legislation as well as for the natural environment
- insufficient funds for rehabilitation
- mismanagement of available funds
- low priority given to managing landfill sites.

The report also shows that not a single illegal landfill site (a site which does not have a licence nor a waste management plan) conforms to the minimum legal requirements; yet municipalities continue to use these sites as dumping terrains. Very little or no recycling takes place on these sites, and this greatly increases the associated risks for people's health and the environment. This problem should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The most peculiar observation from the report was that six landfill sites were permanently closed. This is a matter of grave concern since it implies that some towns or cities do not have a single landfill site anymore. This means that illegal dumping is now the only option. There was no indication that new sites have been identified for future use.

Furthermore, the report shows that success was obtained in the management of certain of the above-mentioned problems. These successes can be ascribed to four important elements which will be briefly discussed.

In the first place it became clear that wherever the AfriForum branch is involved in an efficient way in the waste management of the local municipality, the watchdog function of the community is automatically activated. This enhances the transparency of the services delivered by the municipality and thus improves the management of waste processing in general.

Secondly, the municipality's participation in the democratic process was improved, for

instance by insisting on the municipality's obligation to create forums where the community can provide inputs and keep a critical eye on operations. This exerts pressure on municipalities to comply with and progressively improve on their constitutional obligation, namely to manage landfill sites in a sustainable way.

Thirdly, the role of the provincial departments in charge of monitoring, legal compliance and issuing of licenses was placed under the search light. By involving the provincial regulators in AfriForum's annual landfill site audit project, cooperation between the AfriForum branches and the provincial departments was promoted. It also forces the provincial departments to comply with their constitutional obligations where in the past this may have been omitted. In future, AfriForum plans to work closely with the national departments to restore some of the landfill sites and to investigate the potential of PPPs.

In the fourth place AfriForum continuously investigates new technologies and alternative ways to improve the functioning of landfill sites as well as looking at alternatives for dumping waste in landfill sites.

Finally the focus is directed to the most important contributions by national government: the overall supervision of the two lower spheres of government, and the creation of the legislative and regulatory framework which must define South Africa's waste management strategies and the standards set for these. The challenge is to bring together the three spheres of government and the local communities so that they can function in harmony to manage the country's solid waste in a sustainable way.

AfriForum will continue to monitor the landfill sites that have been audited, and investigate alternatives for satisfactory waste management in South Africa.

AFRIFORUM REPORT

ON THE MUNICIPAL LANDFILL SITE AUDIT PROJECT

FOR 2020

