

Building Climate-Resilient W²EF Infrastructure through Evidence-Based Decision Support Tools

Prof Cristina Trois - Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES)

Photo by Ignus Dreyer

South Africa is a wonderful country...



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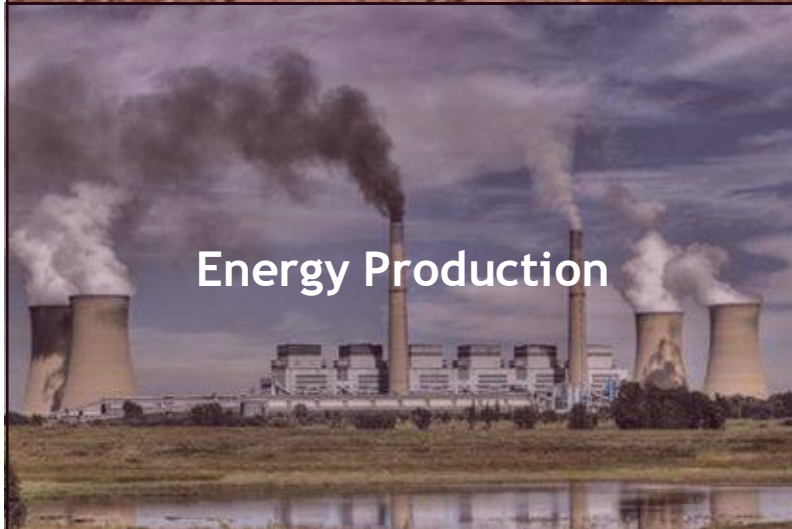
... that faces W²EF challenges on a daily basis



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Waste management in an emerging economy
is a complex social, technical, and environmental challenge



The Challenge in SA

>100M

tonnes of waste disposed yearly

80%

waste to landfill/dumps

6.5%

carbon emissions from waste

..... and Globally



>2b

tonnes of waste generated

>30%

Ends up in dumps

3%

carbon emissions from waste

Key features of the model



Waste data and emission factors



LCA integrated with MCDA



Context specific solution

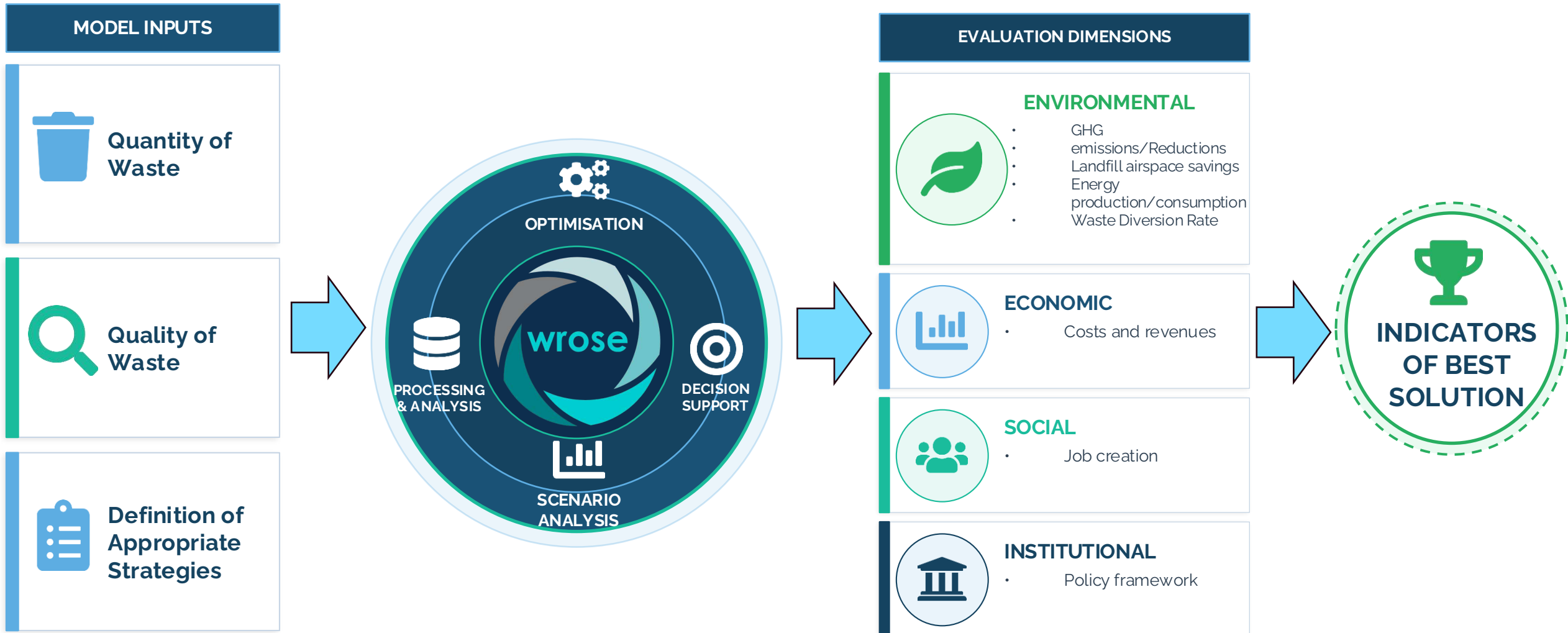

 CONSULTANTS /
 RESEARCHERS


 POLICY MAKERS


 INDUSTRIES /
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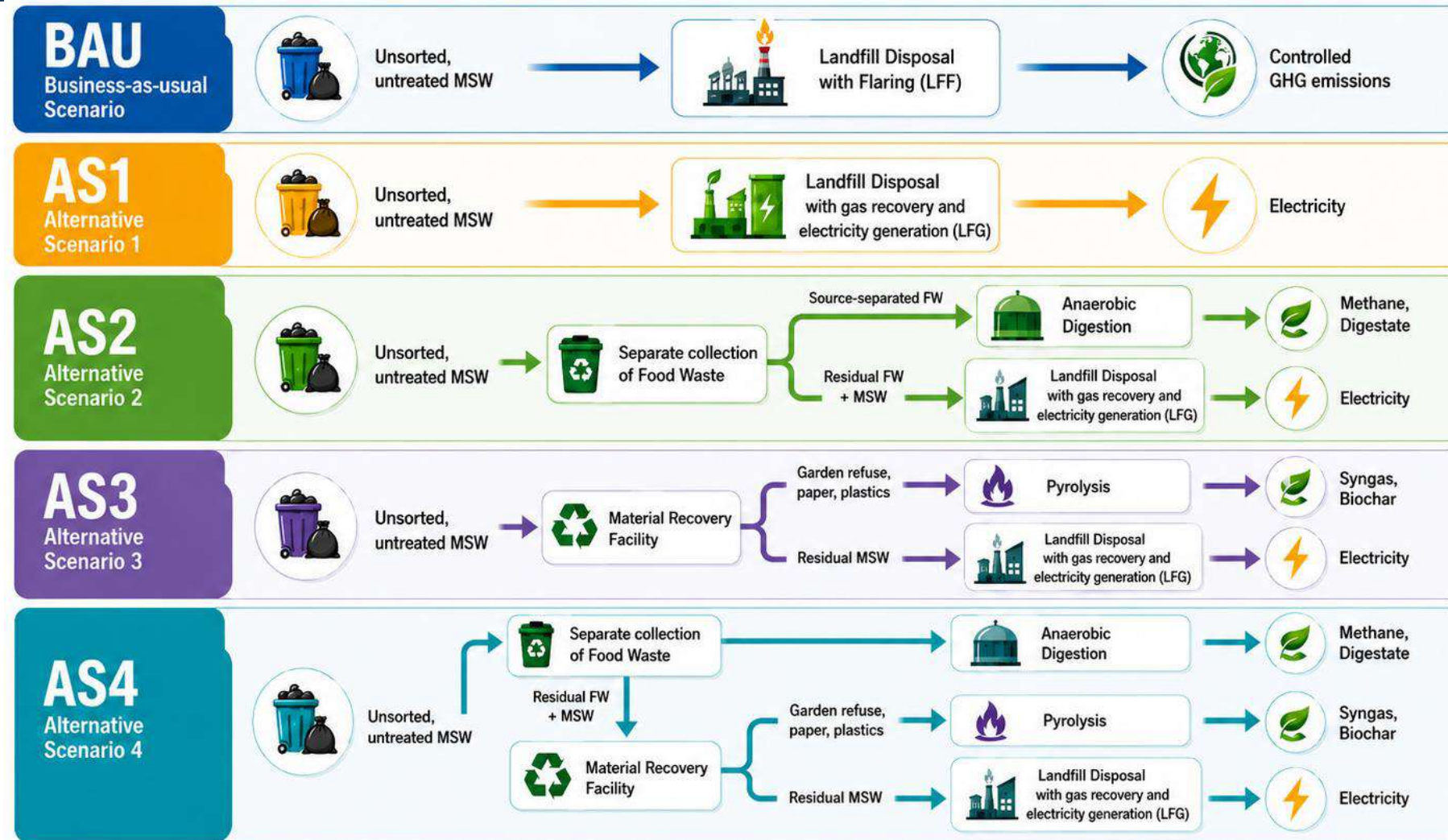

 MUNICIPALITIES





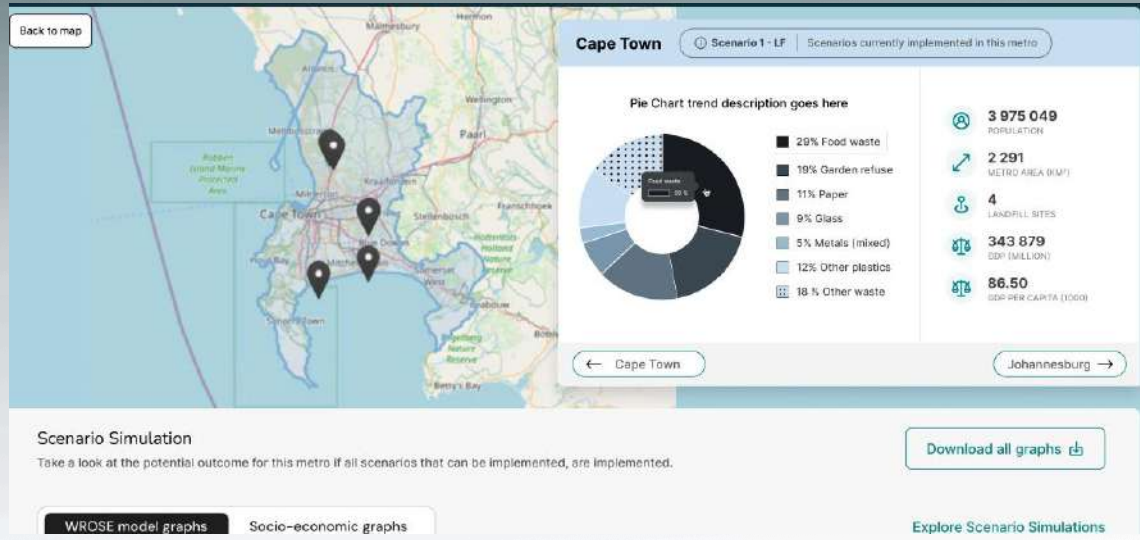
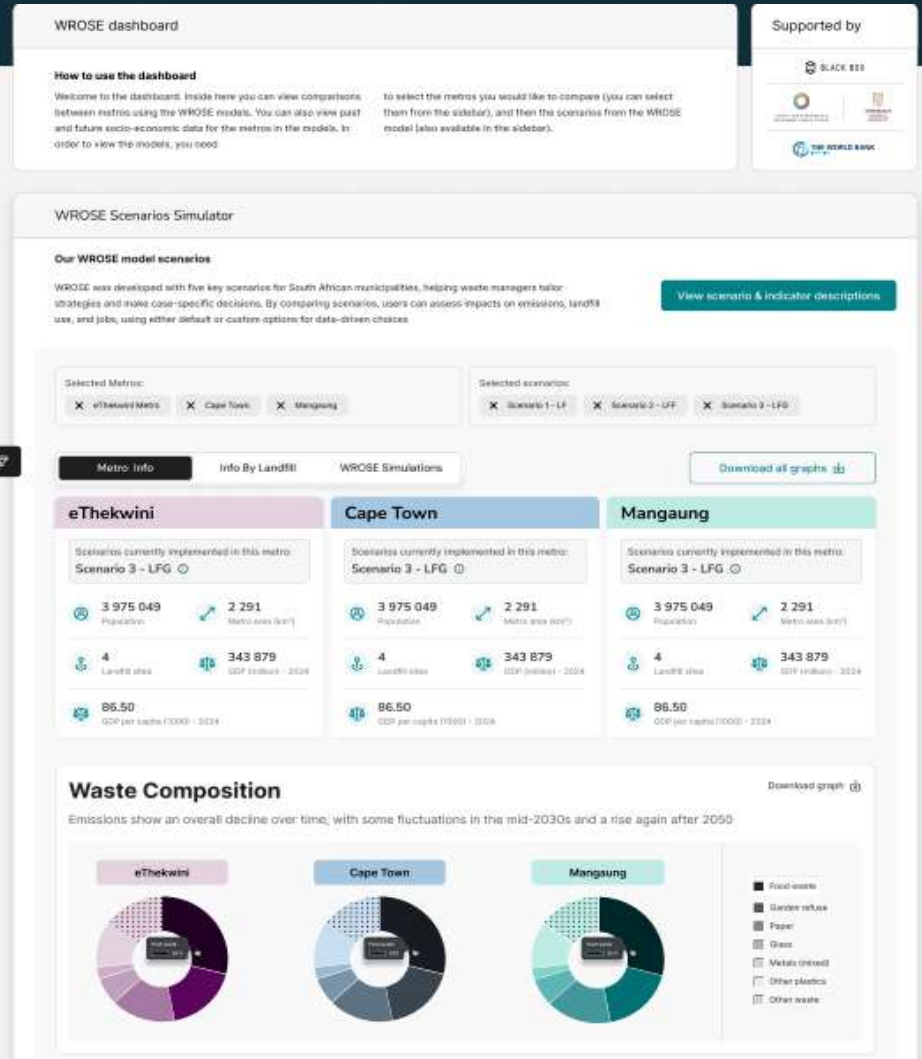
Indicators

- Environmental indicators
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
 - Landfill airspace savings
 - Landfill monetary savings
 - Waste diversion rate
- Energy consumption/production
- Economic indicators
- Social indicators
- Institutional indicators

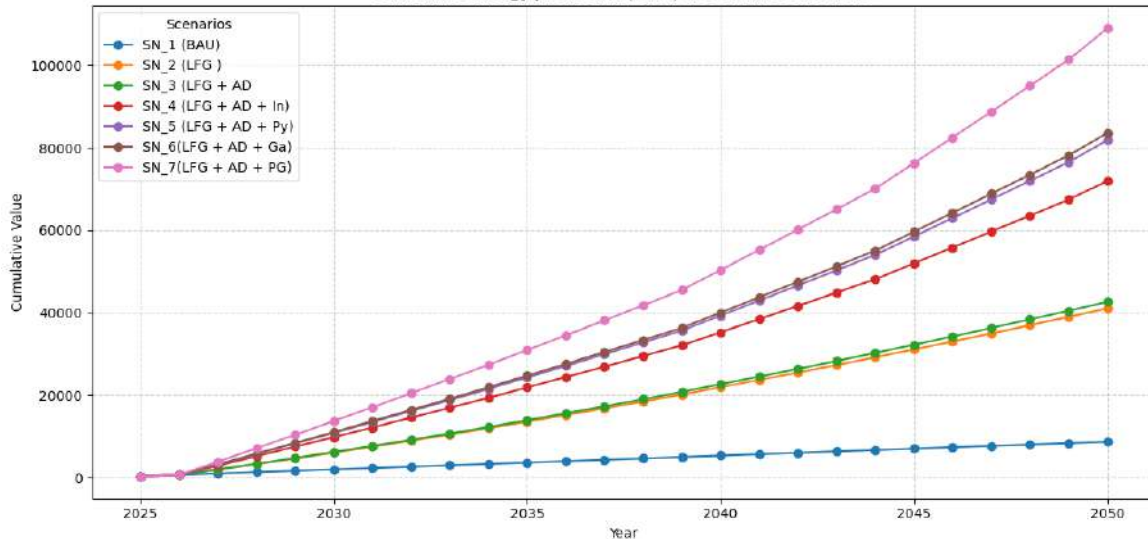




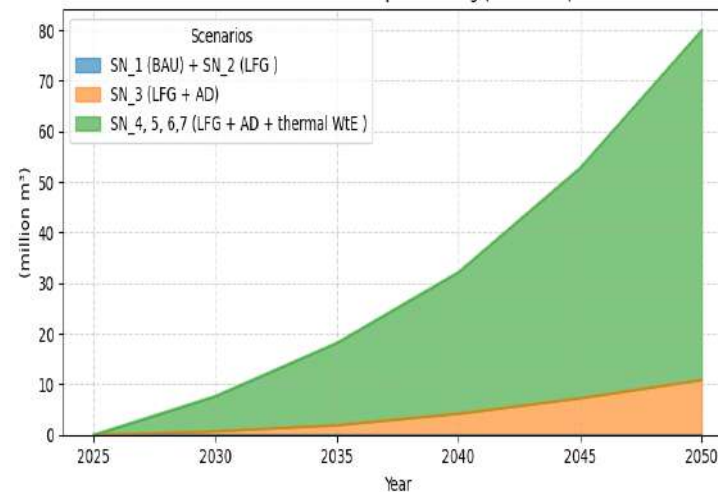
Software package



Cumulative Energy production (GWh) of Scenarios over Years



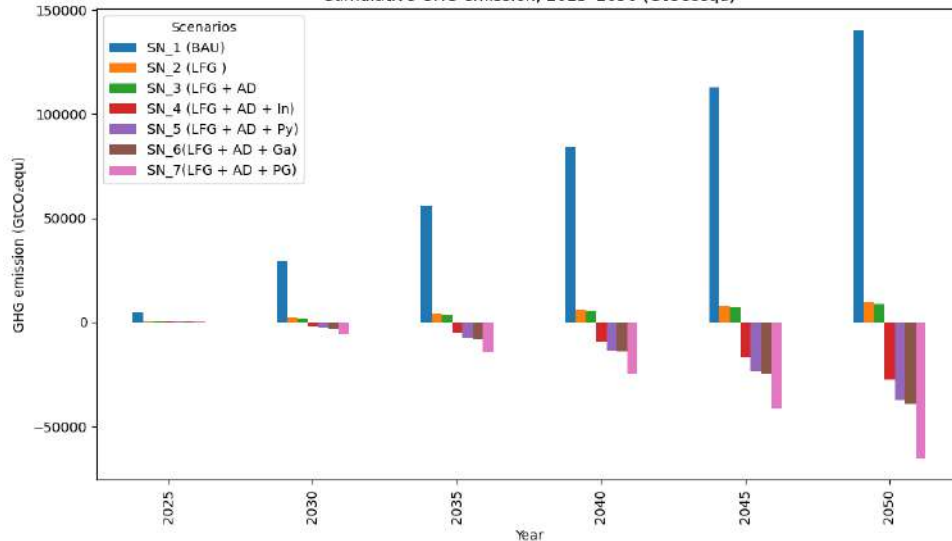
Cumulative Landfill-space-saving (million m³)



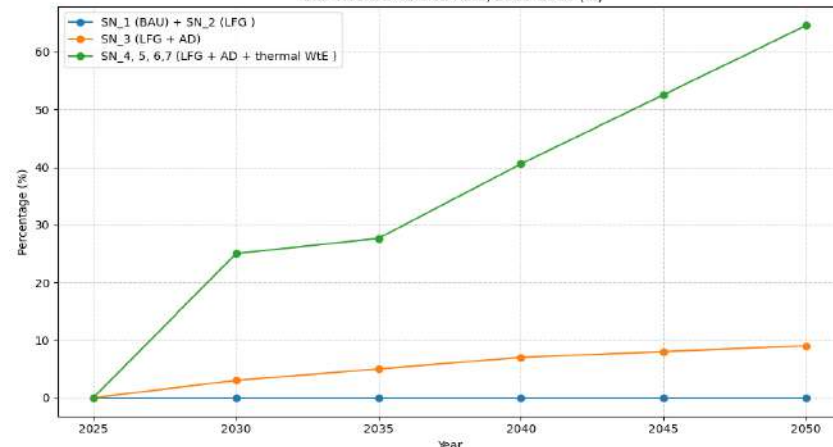
Prolong the landfill lifespan



Cumulative GHG emission, 2025-2050 (GtCO₂eq)



Total Waste Diversion Rate, 2025-2050 (%)



From national data to global insight through institutional endorsement

- Waste RDI Roadmap (grants 42 and 51)

Waste Research, Development
and Innovation Roadmap

A waste R&D and innovation programme for South Africa



THE OCEAN
CLEANUP



From national data to global insight through institutional endorsement



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Umlazi river – Mega city 14-4-22

From national data to global insight through institutional endorsement



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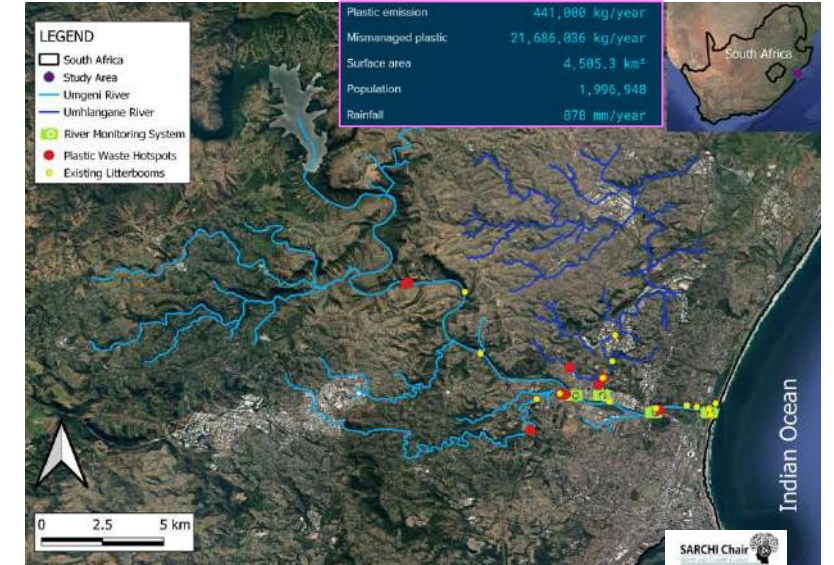


From national data to global insight through institutional endorsement

- Waste RDI Roadmap (grants 42 and 51)



THE OCEAN CLEANUP



Tagging Stocks of Anthropogenic Debris with Coded Polygons



Code	Description
0	"dense" cluster
1	"scattered" cluster
2	building/construction "rubble" cluster

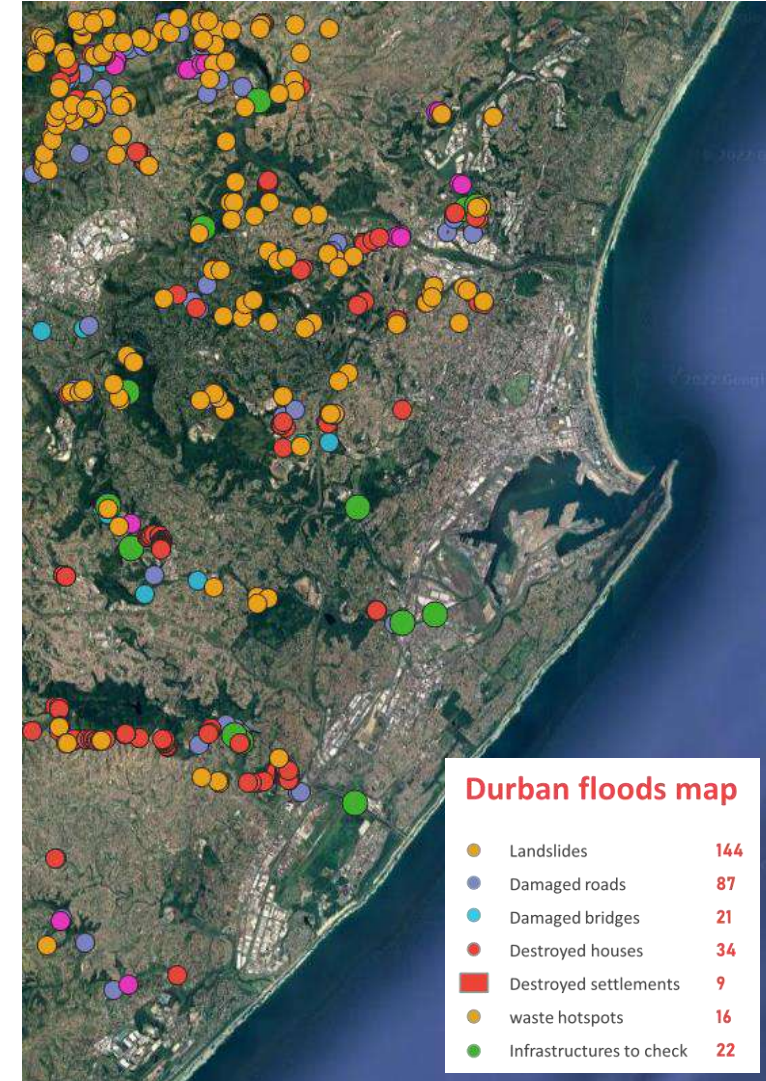
From national data to global insight through institutional endorsement



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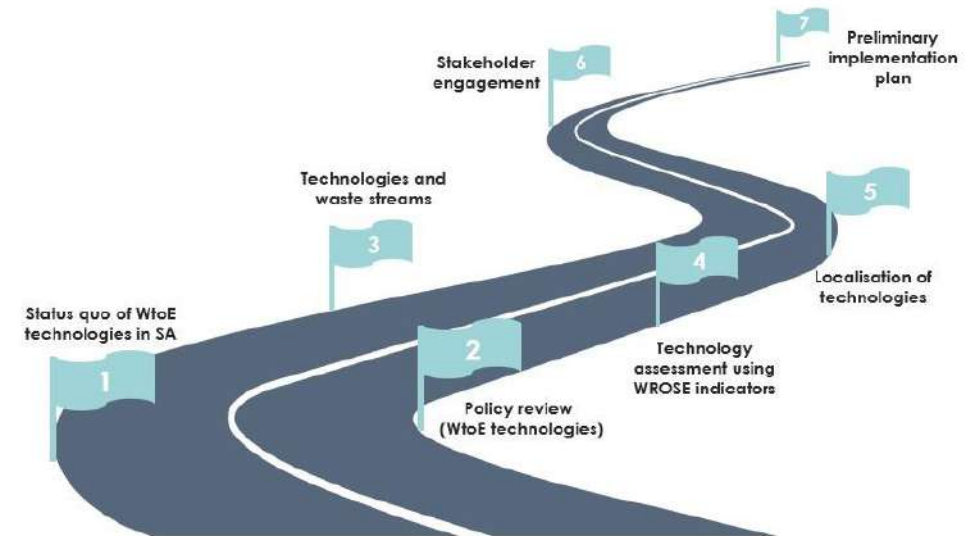


From national data to global insight through institutional endorsement

- DSTI Waste RDI Roadmap (grants 42 and 51)



- SANEDI Waste-to-Energy Roadmap



From national data to global insight through institutional endorsement



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- DSTI Waste RDI Roadmap (grants 42 and 51)



THE OCEAN CLEANUP

- SANEDI Waste-to-Energy Roadmap



- World Bank study

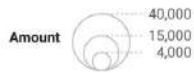
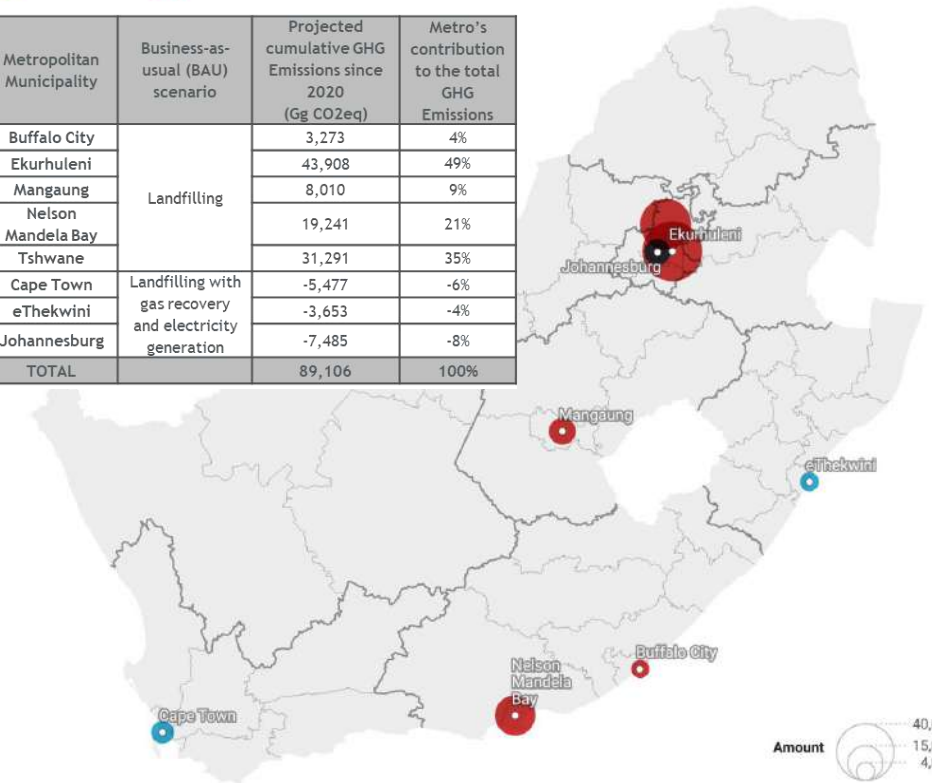
- “South Africa: Assessment of Emission Reduction Potential from Organic Municipal Solid Waste and Possible Mitigation Pathways”



2020-2050 Projected Cumulative GHG Emissions (Gg CO2eq) for the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario

■ Negative emissions ■ Positive emissions

Metropolitan Municipality	Business-as-usual (BAU) scenario	Projected cumulative GHG Emissions since 2020 (Gg CO2eq)	Metro's contribution to the total GHG Emissions
Buffalo City	Landfilling	3,273	4%
Ekurhuleni		43,908	49%
Mangaung		8,010	9%
Nelson Mandela Bay		19,241	21%
Tshwane		31,291	35%
Cape Town	Landfilling with gas recovery and electricity generation	-5,477	-6%
eThekweni		-3,653	-4%
Johannesburg		-7,485	-8%
TOTAL		89,106	100%



Map: SARCHI Chair in Waste and Climate Change • Created with Datawrapper

From national data to global insight through institutional endorsement



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- DSTI Waste RDI Roadmap (grants 42 and 51)



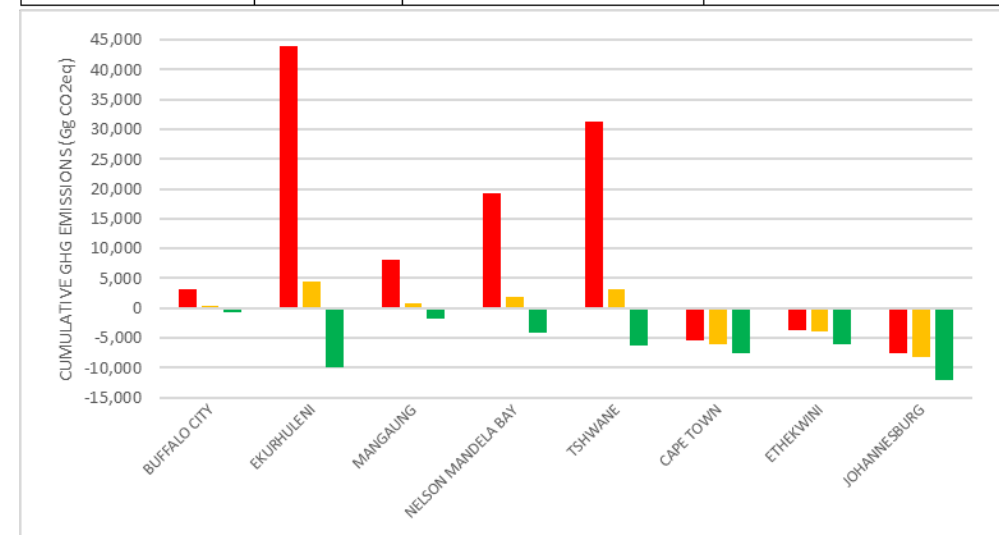
- SANEDI Waste-to-Energy Roadmap



- World Bank study
 - “South Africa: Assessment of Emission Reduction Potential from Organic Municipal Solid Waste and Possible Mitigation Pathways”



Metropolitan Municipality	WEM (BAU)	WAM (fixed RR = 5 percent)	WAM (progressively increasing RR (5 to 40 percent), every five years)
Buffalo City	Landfilling <i>(Scenario 1)</i>	Landfilling with gas recovery and electricity generation	Landfilling with gas recovery and electricity generation
Ekurhuleni			
Mangaung			
Nelson Mandela Bay			
Tshwane	Landfilling with gas recovery and electricity generation <i>(Scenario 3)</i>	+ recycling + anaerobic digestion <i>(Scenario 5)</i>	+ recycling + anaerobic digestion <i>(Scenario 5)</i>
Cape Town			
eThekweni			
Johannesburg			



Empowering municipal strategy through data

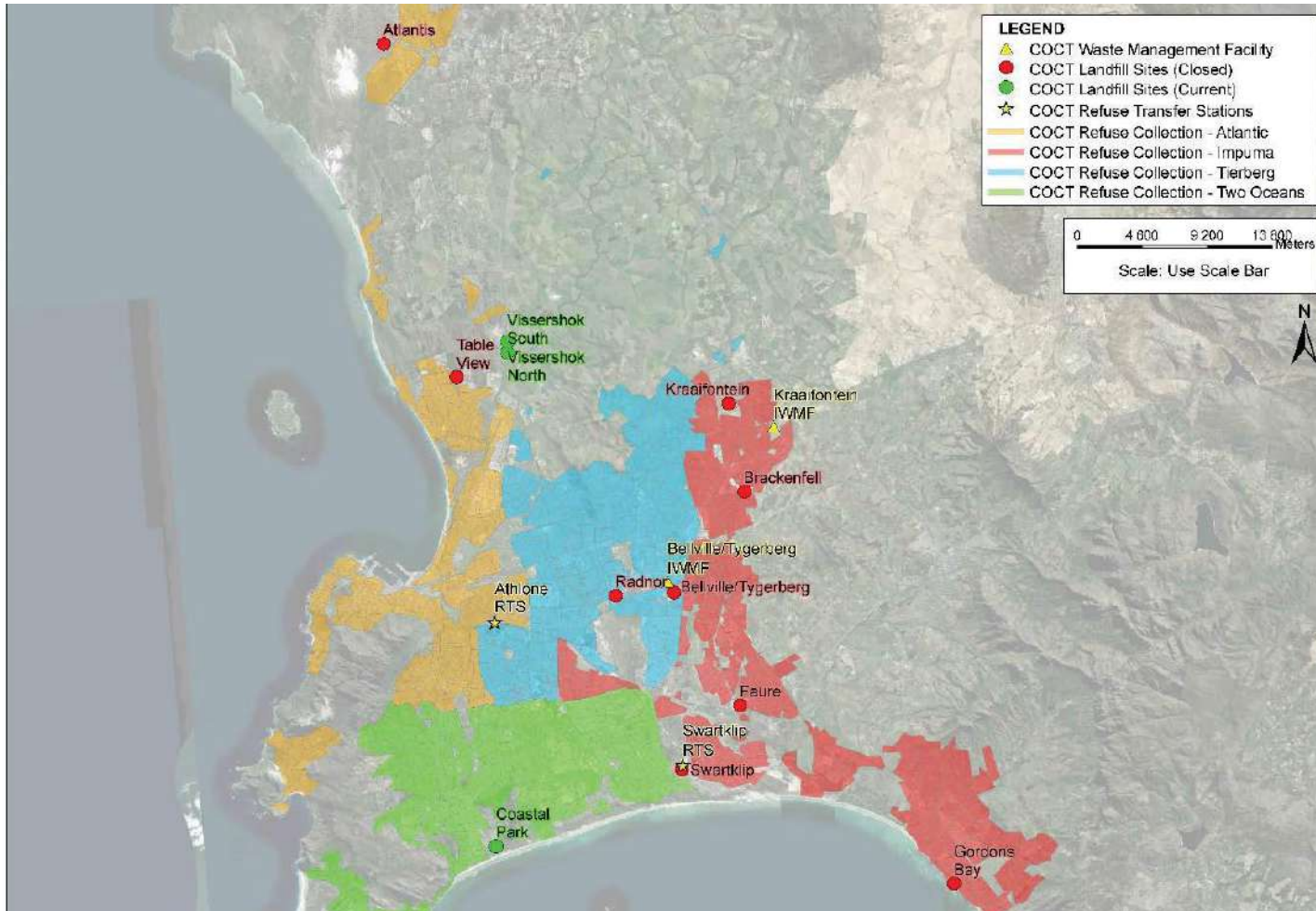


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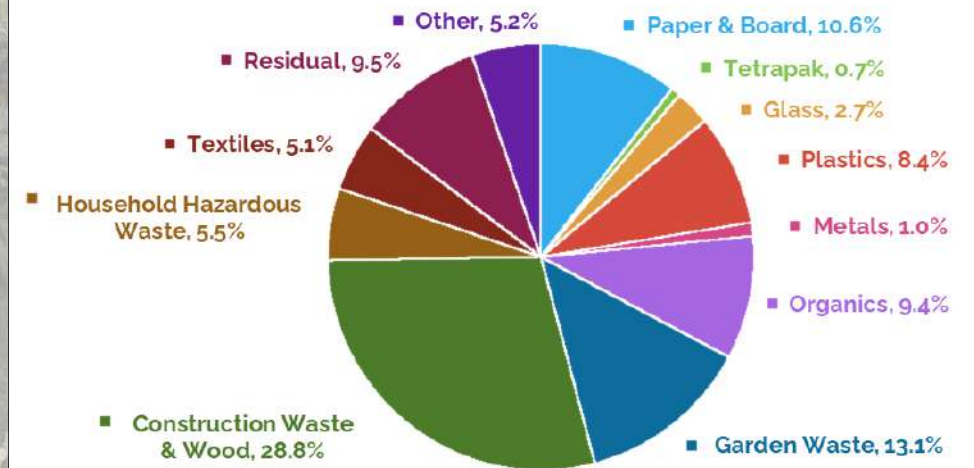


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WROSE model application and scenario analysis for the City of Cape Town regional waste management facility



MSW COMPOSITION (2023) - CITY OF CAPE TOWN




Empowering municipal strategy through data


WROSE model application and scenario analysis for the City of Cape Town regional waste management facility




Option 0 (baseline)

- MRF sorting
- Composting
- C&D waste diversion

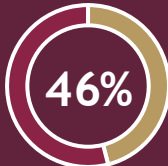
Diversion potential  40%


Landfill footprint  285 ha


Estimated CAPEX  R3.5b

Option 1

- MRF sorting
- Composting
- C&D waste diversion
- Anaerobic Digestion
- Pyrolysis

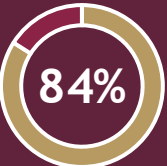
Diversion potential  46%


Landfill footprint  272 ha


Estimated CAPEX  R4.3b

Option 2

- MRF sorting
- Composting
- C&D waste diversion
- Anaerobic Digestion
- Incineration

Diversion potential  84%

Landfill footprint  148 ha

Estimated CAPEX  R9.8b

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WROSE model application and scenario analysis for the City of Cape Town regional waste management facility



infrastructurenews

HOME

FEATURED

WATER & SANITATION ▾

GREEN ECONOMY ▾

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE ▾

DIGIMAG ▾



Cape Town's Waste Strategy Wins Global Award

May 18, 2026 |

City of Cape Town

ReSource Sustainability Hero

Waste management

The **City of Cape Town** has secured global recognition after being named one of the winners of the Bloomberg Mayor's Challenge 2025, an international competition that rewards cities developing bold solutions to complex urban issues.

Empowering municipal strategy through data



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eThekweni Integrated Energy Complex (EIEC) Feasibility Study



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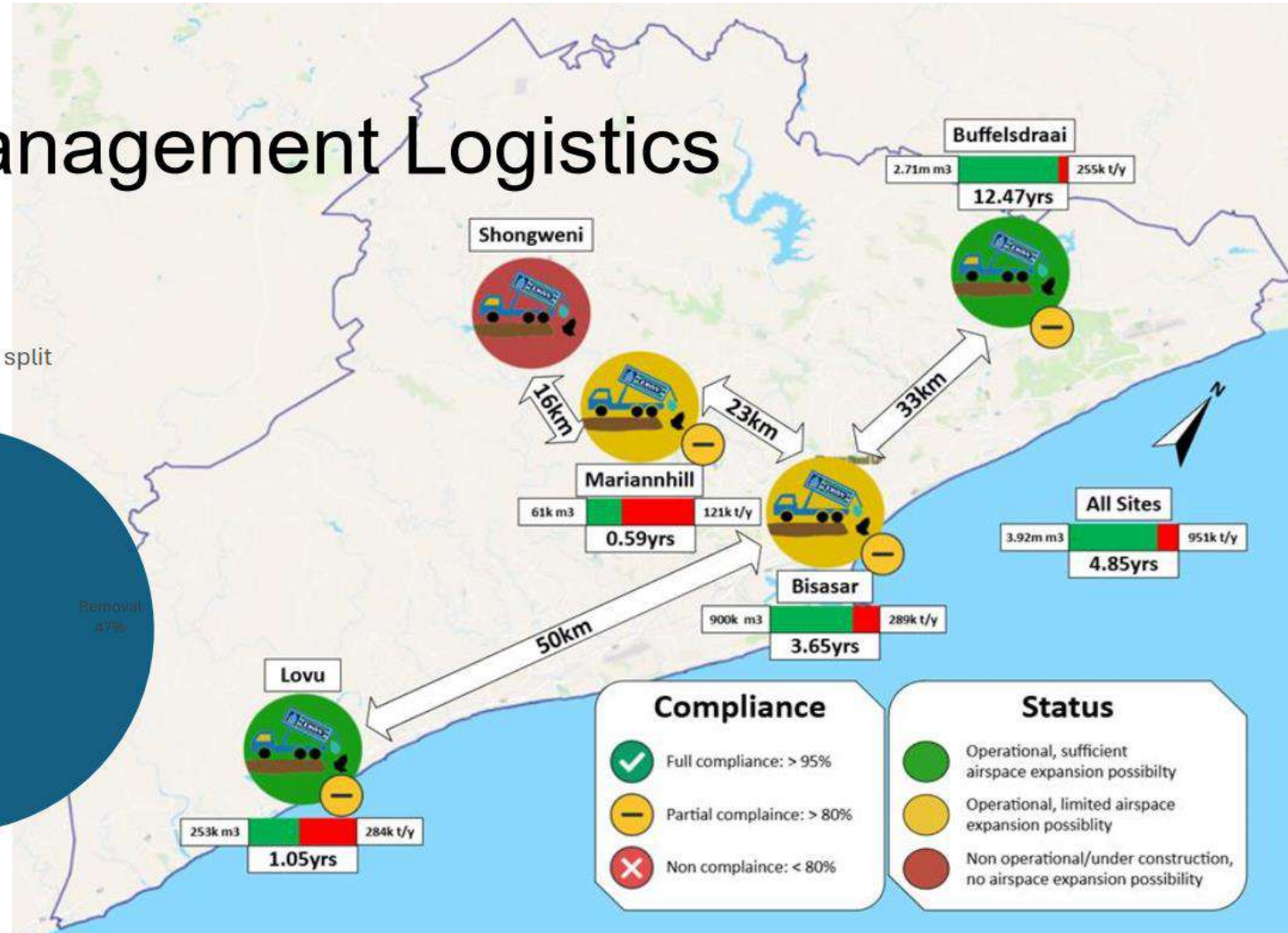
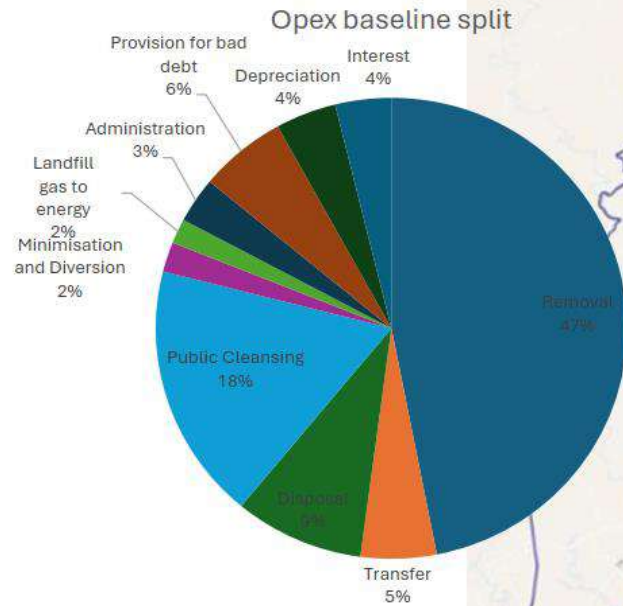


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eThekweni Integrated Energy Complex (EIEC) Feasibility Study



Waste Management Logistics



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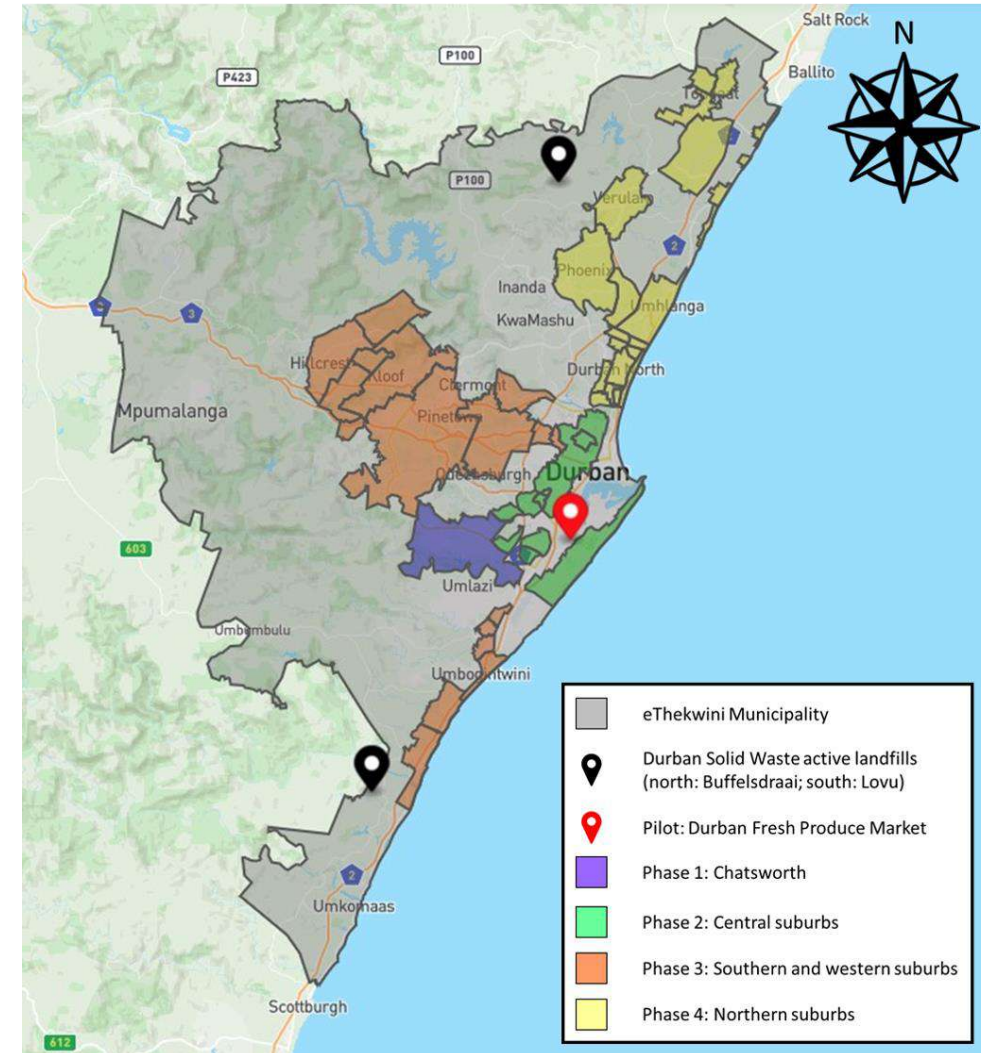
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eThekweni Integrated Energy Complex (EIEC) Feasibility Study



Definition of a source-separation scheme for organic waste

- **Pilot phase (2027-2028)**
 - 5,831 t/y (2.1% of OFMSW production)
- **Phase 1 (2029-2030)**
 - 11,549 t/y (4.0% of OFMSW production)
- **Phase 2 (2031-2032)**
 - 18,454 t/y (6.3% of OFMSW production)
- **Phase 3 (2033-2034)**
 - 28,397 t/y (9.6% of OFMSW production)
- **Phase 4 (2035-2050)**
 - 39,030 t/y (13.1% of OFMSW production)

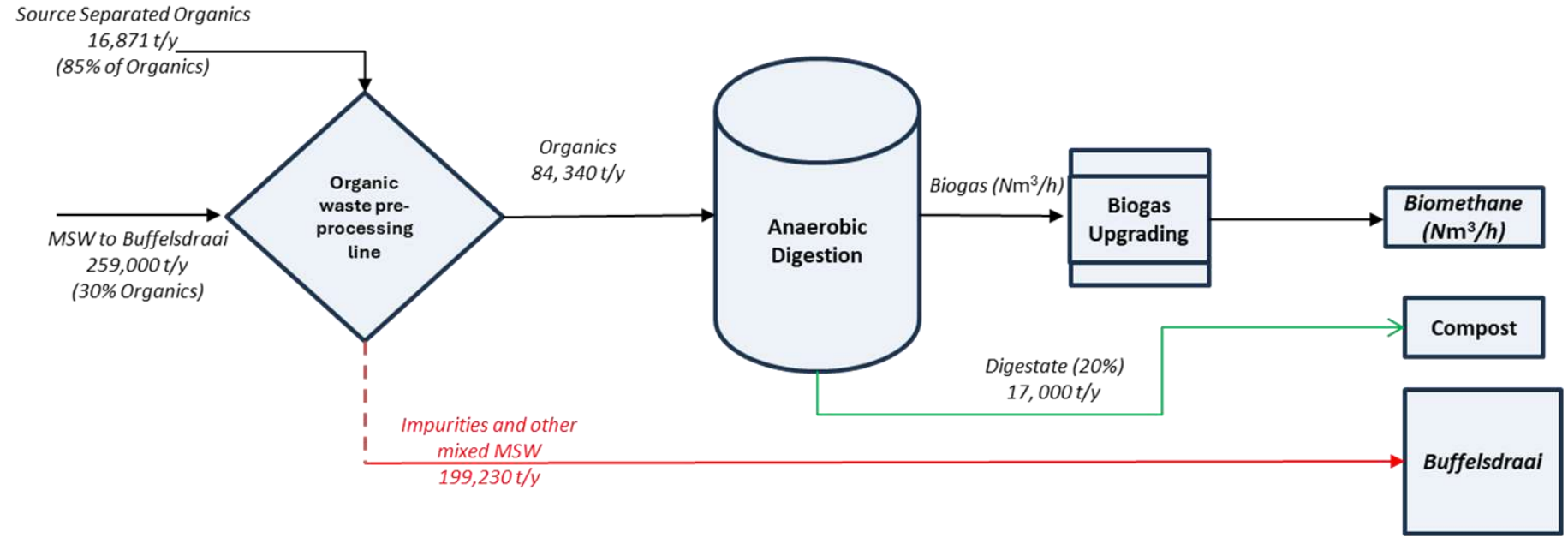


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eThekweni Integrated Energy Complex (EIEC) Feasibility Study



Scenario AD-Biomethane: (Source Segregation Organic + MSW at Buffelsdraai AD Plant)



Mixed MSW entering landfill	SSO feedstock	Organic feedstock	Total Energy Consumption	Potential CH4 production	Potential diesel replacement	GHG emission reduction	Landfill space savings	Waste diversion rate
[t/y]	[t/y]	[t/y]	[MWh/y]	[Nm3/y]	[L/y]	[tCO2eq/y]	[m3/y]	[%]
259,000	16,871	84,340		7,008,000	7,000,000	122,307	99,224	31.2


Empowering municipal strategy through data


eThekweni Integrated Energy Complex (EIEC) Feasibility Study

1 COSTS – CAPEX and OPEX ESTIMATION*

TOTAL CAPEX
R 645 880 000




 Organic Waste Pre-Processing Line
R 215 690 000 (33.4%)

 Anaerobic Digestion
R 118 950 000 (18.4%)

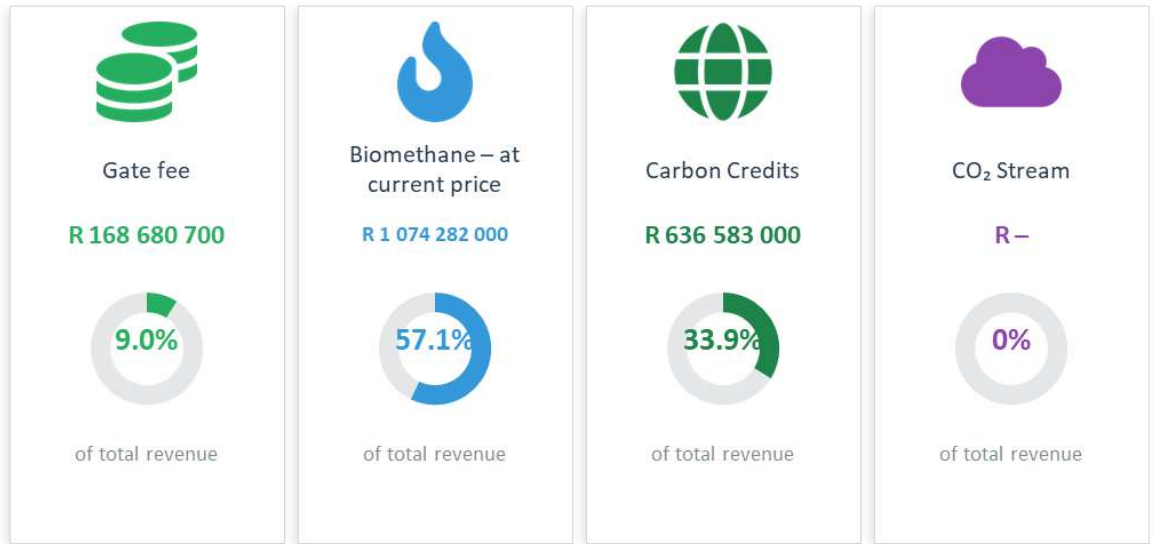
 Biogas Upgrading
R 102 520 000 (15.9%)

 Civil works
R 208 720 000 (32.3%)

OPTION  CO₂ Liquefaction R 54 400 000 (8.4%)

 OPEX:
R 30 000 000 /y


2 REVENUE ESTIMATION (20 YEARS)



\$ TOTAL REVENUE (20 YEARS): R 1 879 545 700

3 KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

 Total CAPEX
R 645 880 000

 Annual OPEX
R 30 000 000 /y

\$ Total Revenue (20 years)
R 1 879 545 700

International policy and crisis response



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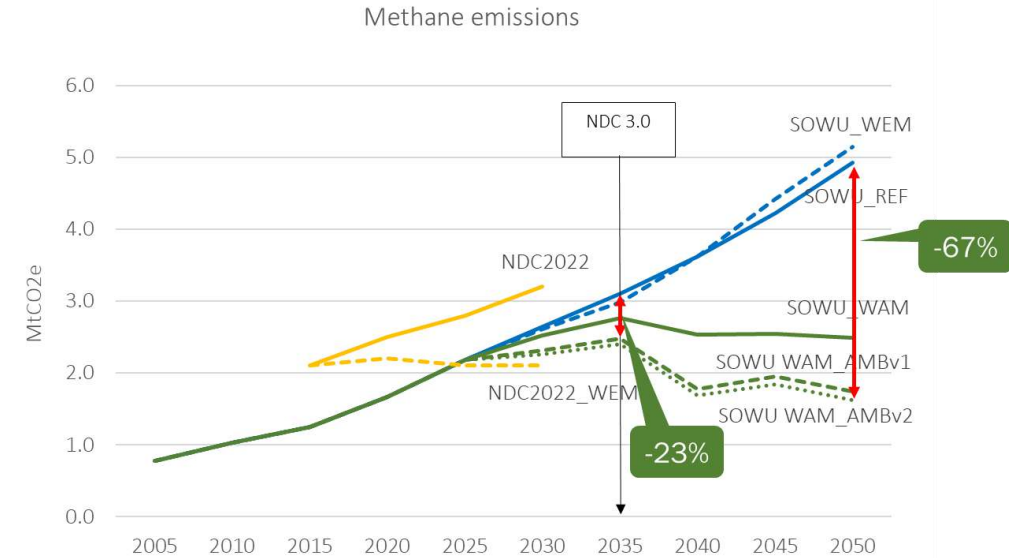
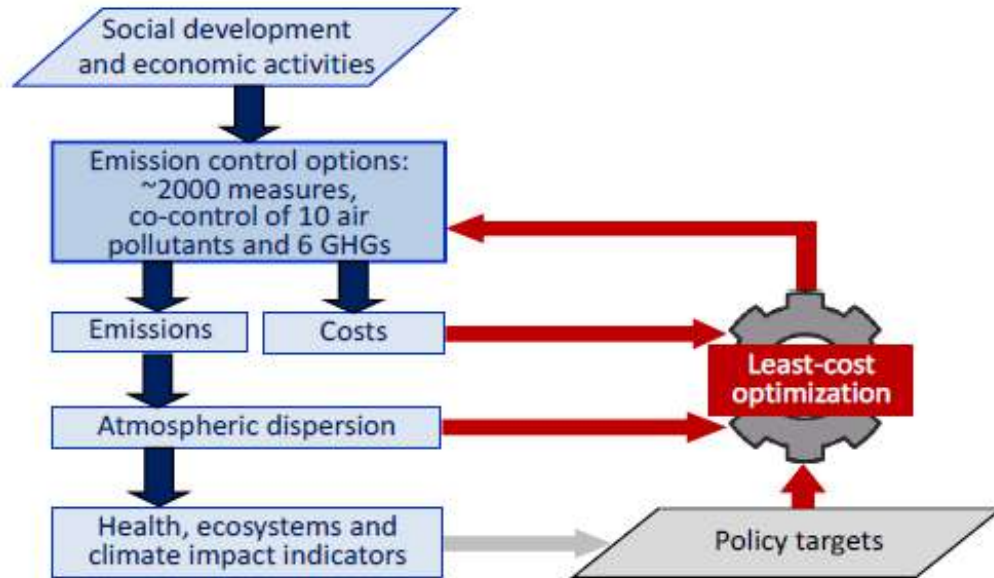
Strategy for Organic Waste Management Uganda (SOWU)

- Kiteezi landfill, 10 August 2024 - over 30 casualties, 200 people lost their homes, thousands still survive off scavenging



International policy and crisis response

Strategy for Organic Waste Management Uganda (SOWU)



International policy and crisis response

Strategy for Organic Waste Management Uganda (SOWU)



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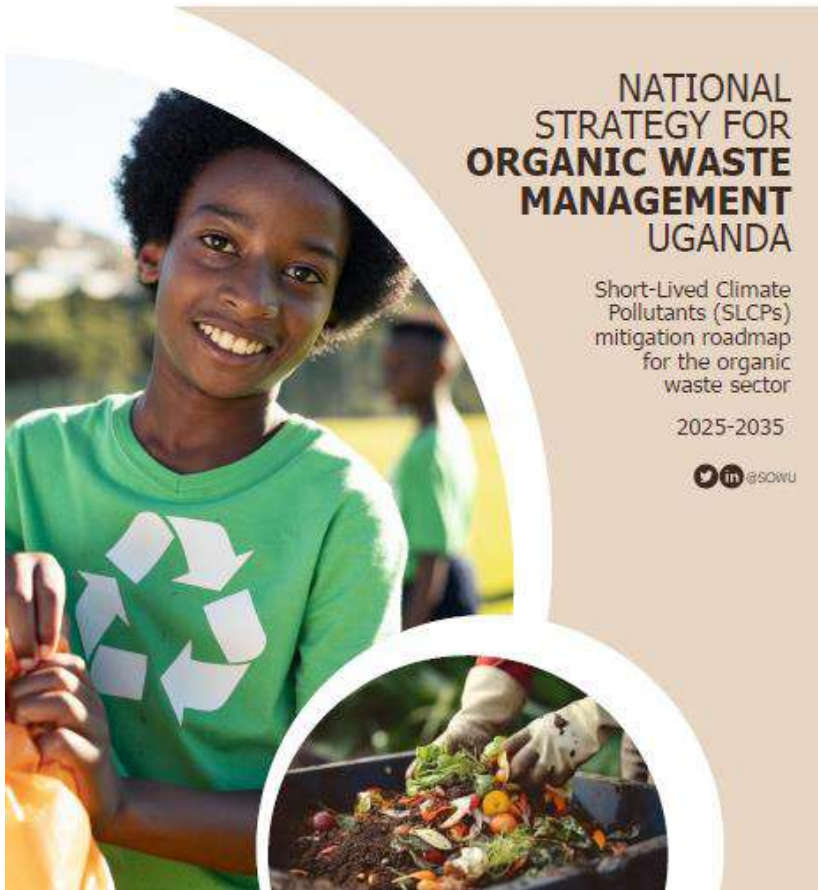
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NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT UGANDA

Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) mitigation roadmap for the organic waste sector

2025-2035



Organic Waste Sorting Manual



2026



POLICY BRIEF

SOWU POLICY BRIEF 2026 - 03



Methane Emissions Reduction through Organic Waste Management: Lessons from Uganda's Waste Policy Framework

Key Messages from the SOWU Project

- Organic waste generation and management is an urgent urban development challenge in Uganda, requiring immediate and coordinated action at all levels.
- Fast adoption and implementation of the new National Waste Management Policy 2025 and Uganda's National Organic Waste Management (OWM) Strategy, supported by clear institutional mandates, adequate financing, and strong enforcement mechanisms is essential to accelerate sustainable and circular organic waste management solutions.¹
- Strengthen governance and coordination at all levels by aligning national policies with local implementation capacities and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration through the Community of Practice, ensuring coherent and effective decision-making for organic waste management².
- Allocate funds for integrated waste management facilities, which offer multiple benefits: they enable organic waste valorization while also allowing separation and recovery of inorganic fractions, supporting both environmental sustainability and resource efficiency.
- Build capacity for the implementation of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework among government agencies, local authorities, and key stakeholders to ensure consistent data quality and effective use in decision-making.

Executive Summary

Uganda faces a growing challenge from unmanaged organic waste, which contributes substantially to methane emissions, local air pollution, and public health risks. Currently, emissions from organic waste account for about one-fifth of Uganda's total CO₂ emissions, about 5.3 Mt tons annually (Figure 1).

By implementing both existing and additional ambitious policies and measures, it is estimated that up to 1.2 Mt CO₂e of methane emissions could be avoided by 2035, with a potential reduction of 2.8 Mt CO₂e by 2050 (Figure 1).

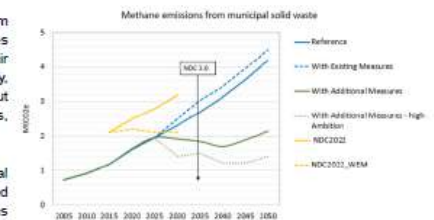


Figure 1. Impact of methane emission mitigation measures
Source: Gómez-Sanabria, 2024

Findings from the SOWU Project's newly developed emissions inventory indicate that implementing effective organic waste management could reduce methane emissions by up to 87% by 2050 compared to the reference scenario³. Implementing existing and additional ambitious policies and measures could avoid up to 1.2 Mt CO₂e per year of methane emissions by 2035, compared to reference emissions of 2.7 Mt CO₂e per year. By 2050, avoided emissions could reach 2.8 Mt CO₂e per year, relative to reference emissions of 4.2 Mt CO₂e per year. (Figure 1).

¹ Uganda's New Waste Policy Targets Transformation with Public Power
² Community of Practice Report - SOWU project 2022
³ SOWU Emissions Inventory



Addressing W²EF challenges with multinational cooperation



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Addressing W²EF challenges with multinational cooperation

- BIOTHEREP: Hybrid Biochemical and Thermochemical conversion of Slaughterhouse biowaste for Renewable Energy production



Addressing W²EF challenges with multinational cooperation

- BIOTHEREP: Hybrid Biochemical and Thermochemical conversion of Slaughterhouse biowaste for Renewable Energy production



LEAP-RE
Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research
and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy



science, technology
& innovation
Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



- TUM SEED Center



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Addressing W²EF challenges with multinational cooperation

- BIOTHEREP: Hybrid Biochemical and Thermochemical conversion of Slaughterhouse biowaste for Renewable Energy production



- TUM SEED Center



- HyREC²A: Hybrid Renewable Energy Collaborative Climate Action



Addressing W²EF challenges with multinational cooperation



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Vines4Future: Living Heritage, Climate Change and Sustainability in South African Agriculture



OLD VINE PROJECT



Cultiver



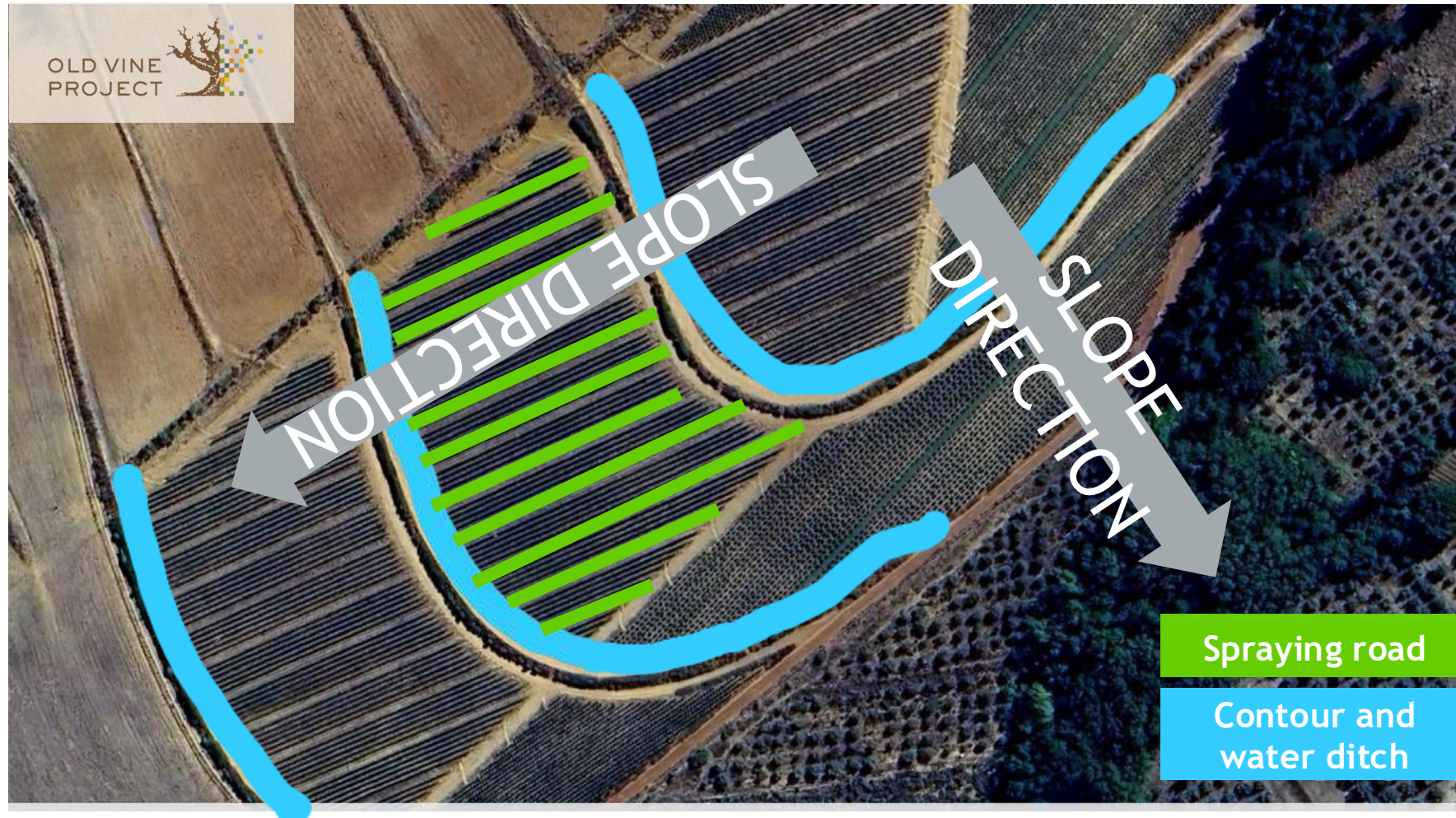
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Vines4Future: Living Heritage, Climate Change and Sustainability in South African Agriculture



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Vines4Future: Living Heritage, Climate Change and Sustainability in South African Agriculture



Unlocking Circular Value from Vine Waste using the **WROSE Model:**

Insights for Sustainable Wine Industry

Prof. Cristina Trois
Dr Yared Abera
Dr Andrea Dell'Orto
Miss Martina Mariani



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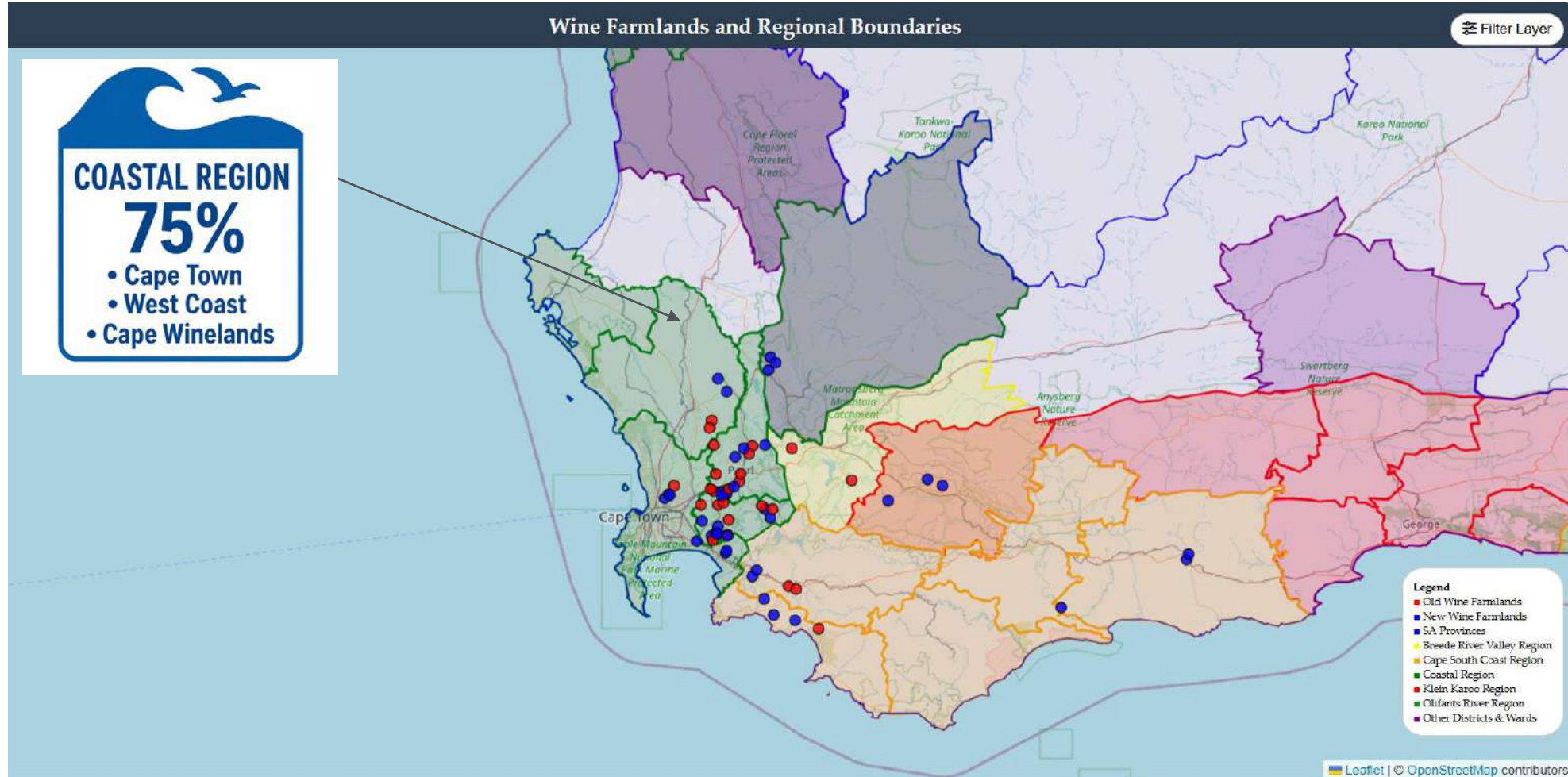


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Vines4Future: Living Heritage, Climate Change and Sustainability in South African Agriculture



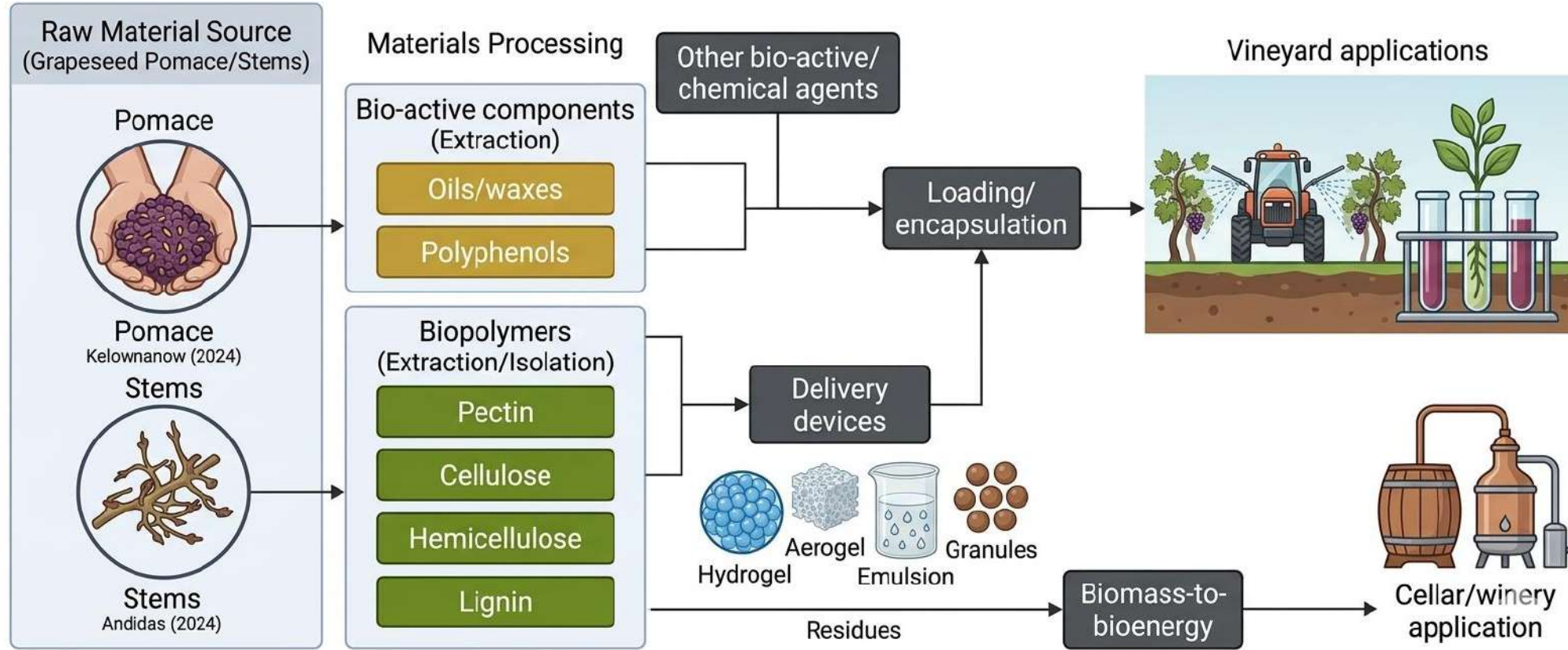
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6 - 192 GWh/yr
Electricity generation potential

6 - 178 kt CO₂eq
GHG emissions avoided annually

106.7M L
Bioethanol production potential

17.7 kt
Biochar for soil carbon sequestration

24,04 Kt
Bio-oil production Potential

15,1 Kt
Syngas production Potential

National and international leadership: CoPs, ARUA CoE and ARUA-Guild CoRE-RE

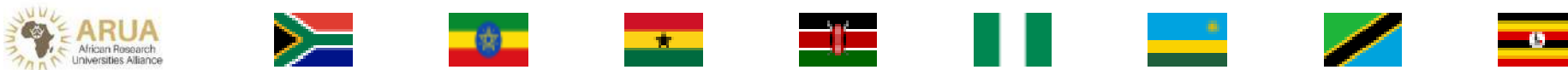
- Community of Practice “*Waste to Value: Transitioning South Africa towards a Waste-to-Resource Circular Economy*”



- Community of Practice “*Climate Research in Collaboration with Society*”



- ARUA Centre of Excellence in Energy



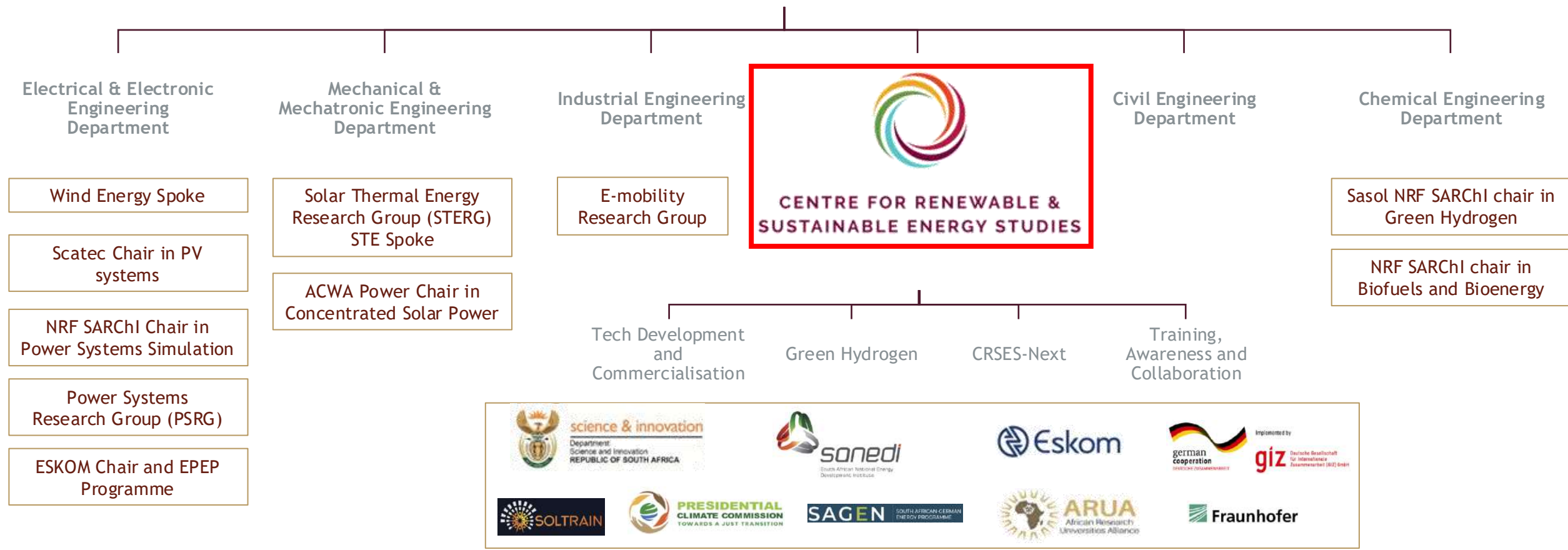
- ARUA-Guild Cluster of Research Excellence in Renewable Energy







Internal support for a strengthened CRSES



Faculty of Engineering



Partner with us to build the future!

	Researchers & Academic Consultants	Policy Makers & National Authorities	Municipalities & Local Government	Industry & Private Companies
	Lack of localised multi-disciplinary baseline data in Africa	National strategy planning lacks quantified emission forecasting	Critical climate risks and rapidly shrinking landfill airspace	Rising corporate carbon taxes and organic waste penalties
	Access an advanced, TIA-funded mathematical optimisation engine	Run macro-level strategic scenario planning tailored to South Africa	Simulate short-, medium- and long-term tech scenarios before spend	Model techno-economic feasibility for complex biowaste streams
	Fast-track research validation and high-impact co-authorship	Vetted, evidence-based data approved by the World Bank	De-risked public infrastructure and successful civic strategy	High financial returns on bioenergy and off-grid security

Partner with us to build the future!



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Thank you
Enkosi
Dankie

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Photo by Stefan Els