



The Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Cape Higher Education Consortium

# WESTERN CAPE ECONOMY INNOVATION AWARDS NOMINATION FORM 2026

**Please complete this nomination form accurately, completely but succinctly.**

## 1. Contact details

Nominator (Person)	Nominating Organisation	Signature	Date	e-mail address
Gareth Morgan	City of Cape Town		1 April 2026	<a href="mailto:GarethRichard.Morgan@capetown.gov.za">GarethRichard.Morgan@capetown.gov.za</a>

Nominated Person(s)	Nominated Organisation	Sub-sector one of the following: Private Sector or Academia or Public Sector or Non-Profit	Cell phone number	Comment: Note that while I as ED FPR am making this nomination, if this was to be selected as an award recipient I would want Phila Mayisela to accept the award on behalf of the City.  e-mail address
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Eugene Hlongwane				

## 2. Short description

**+100 word description of what the innovation / solution is and who needs to be recognised for which parts of the solution.**

*(e.g. new service /product /solution /regulation /infrastructure /institutional capacity)*

The Dunoon Waste Management Innovation is a bold, community-led circular economy model transforming waste services in informal settlements. Developed through design-led thinking, the project responds to the lived realities of residents by co-creating practical solutions to illegal dumping, poor sanitation, and exclusion from economic opportunity. The pilot combines separation at source led by community-elected Waste Ambassadors, integrated waste and greywater infrastructure, and a new, differentiated municipal service delivery model. Implemented over six weeks in close partnership with residents, the initiative reduced dumping, improved environmental health, restored dignity, and created local livelihoods. Now scaling within Dunoon and beyond, the project will be rolled out over the next two years, supported by a USD 1 million Bloomberg Philanthropies award, to inform a new standard for inclusive, sustainable urban waste management.

## 3. Detailed description

Please answer all the questions (a) to (j) below, and place answers in the prescribed place as indicated in the table below (to construct a results chain):

- a. What is the target business group(s) that this innovation serves and improves?
- b. How many of these target businesses have already utilised this new solution?
- c. How did these businesses access and receive the new solution?
- d. What did this new solution help these businesses become better at?
- e. How did this help improve their business performance?
- f. What exactly is this new innovative solution?
- g. What makes it new compared to what existed before? (Novelty in the WC economy)
- h. What makes it better than what existed before?
- i. How is / was the new solution made available to the target market / business group?
- j. What will ensure financial viability and sustainability? Expected longevity?

**See inputs in table below**

<b>Output:</b> A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	<b>Outcome:</b> Improved business environment (for the target business group)	<b>Impact:</b> Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	<b>Longevity:</b> Duration of benefits
<p>f. The innovation is a <b>community-led, circular waste management system for informal settlements</b>, consisting of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Separation-at-source waste collection</b> for organics and recyclables</li> <li>2. <b>Community-run collection and sorting</b>, led by Waste Ambassadors</li> <li>3. <b>Decentralised sorting and aggregation hubs</b></li> <li>4. <b>Integration with formal recycling markets and PROs</b></li> <li>5. <b>(Planned) integrated waste and greywater infrastructure nodes</b></li> </ol>	<p>i. The solution is made available through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Planned City-led pilots with replication and scaling programmes in other informal settlements</b></li> <li>• <b>Integration into EPWP and future municipal contracts</b></li> <li>• <b>Partnerships with PROs and industry</b></li> <li>• <b>Replication toolkits and co-design methodologies</b></li> <li>• <b>Planned contract reform enabling community-based service providers</b></li> </ul> <p>This shifts access from once-off projects to <b>institutionalised municipal systems</b>.</p>	<p>a. The innovation primarily serves and improves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Informal, community-based waste management micro-enterprises</b>, specifically the <b>Waste Ambassadors</b> and collectors drawn from the Dunoon community</li> <li>• <b>Informal recyclers and waste pickers</b>, newly integrated into the formal waste value chain</li> <li>• <b>Emerging circular-economy enterprises</b>, including small recycling, aggregation, and sorting operations linked to Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs)</li> <li>• <b>Local cooperative development</b>, supported through EPWP, SEDFA training, and future contract reform</li> </ul> <p>These groups represent <b>small,</b></p>	<p>j. Financial viability and sustainability are ensured through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blended funding model</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Municipal budgets</li> <li>○ EPWP</li> <li>○ PRO and industry contributions</li> <li>○ Revenue from recyclables</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Low-cost, modular infrastructure</b></li> <li>• <b>Community-run operations with strong social incentives</b></li> <li>• <b>Formalisation into City contracts and policies</b></li> <li>• <b>Strong competitive advantage</b> through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local trust</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>6. <b>A new, differentiated service delivery and contracting model</b></p>	<p>c. Target businesses accessed the solution through:</p>	<p><b>informal, and emerging enterprises</b> operating in the informal-settlement economy, rather than large formal firms.</p>	

This operates as a **hybrid service, social enterprise, and environmental innovation.**

- **Community co-design workshops**, where solutions were jointly created and refined

- **Formal onboarding into the pilot**, including:

- Selection/election as Waste Ambassadors
- EPWP engagement and stipends

- **Training and capacity-building**, delivered by:

- City of Cape Town's Urban Waste Management and Environmental Management departments- with separation at source, organics and SMART Living training
- PROs- including PETCO and Polyco (and their training service provider)
- SEDFA (cooperative management and business skills)
- SETA (Waste processing)

b. The pilot directly involved **18 Waste Ambassadors and 8 EPWP workers** (organised into collection teams across four zones)

- These ambassadors collectively served **390 participating households**, acting as **micro-operators** in waste collection, sorting, and aggregation
- In addition, **3 Producer Responsibility Organisations / industry partners** actively participated by supplying equipment, training, and market access

In practical terms:

- **~20 micro-enterprise operators** directly utilised the solution during piloting
- **Multiple downstream recyclers and market actors** utilised the outputs (recyclables and organics)

- Contextual knowledge

- Lower service delivery costs

**Expected longevity**

- **Medium to long term: 10+ years**
- Designed for **institutionalisation and city-wide scaling**
- Aligned with national waste, circular economy, and informal settlement strategies

g. Novel elements include:

- **First structured, city-supported community led separation-at-source system** in a dense informal settlement
- **Formal integration of informal waste collectors into municipal service delivery**
- **Community-elected Waste Ambassadors**, rather than externally appointed contractors
- **Direct Revenue-sharing model**, where community collectors benefit from recyclables
- **Design-led co-creation approach**, rarely used in municipal service innovation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Planned multi-functional waste + water infrastructure nodes</b></li> </ul> <p>Previously, waste services were <b>top-down, inconsistent, and excluded informal actors.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provision of enabling infrastructure and tools, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PPE, trolleys, pull carts, trailers</li> <li>○ Separation-at-source bags, bulk bags and buckets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>d. The solution enabled participating businesses and micro-operators to become better at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reliable waste collection in dense, informal environments</b></li> <li>• <b>Waste separation at source (organics and recyclables)</b></li> </ul>	
<p>h. It is an improvement on the status quo because it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reduces illegal dumping more effectively</b></li> <li>• <b>Improves service reach in inaccessible areas</b></li> <li>• <b>Creates livelihoods instead of treating waste purely as a cost</b></li> <li>• <b>Encourages behaviour change through trust and proximity</b></li> <li>• <b>Improves environmental and public health outcomes</b></li> <li>• <b>Is adaptable, scalable, and context-specific</b></li> </ul> <p>The pilot demonstrated <b>measurable waste diversion,</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to sorting and aggregation spaces at community facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Material aggregation, sorting, and quality control</b></li> <li>• <b>Operating within a circular-economy value chain</b></li> <li>• <b>Monitoring, reporting, and coordinating collection activities</b></li> <li>• <b>Engaging households and driving behavioural change</b></li> <li>• <b>Linking informal labour to formal markets and institutions</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <p>e. The solution improved business performance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Income generation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stipends via EPWP during the pilot</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

cleaner streets, and higher community compliance.

- Revenue from the **sale of recyclables** retained by Waste Ambassadors
- **Lower operating barriers**
  - Free access to equipment, PPE, tools, and training
- **Higher productivity**
  - Door-to-door collection systems increased volumes and efficiency
- **Market access**
  - Direct linkages to recyclers and PROs reduced reliance on exploitative intermediaries
- **Employment creation**
  - Short-term employment during piloting
  - Medium-term prospects for expanded roles as the system scales across Dunoon

While increased exports were not a focus, **employment, income stability, and cost reduction** were targeted.

After completing the table, read from left to right. Check for coherence and improve if needed.

#### 4. Declaration of Evidence to verify results chain

What supporting evidence can you provide to verify the results stated above are as stated?

	<b>Output:</b> A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	<b>Outcome:</b> Improved business environment (for the target business group)	<b>Impact:</b> Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	<b>Longevity:</b> Duration of benefits
<b>What evidence can be provided?</b> e.g. Records, reports, peer reviews, and so forth	Reports	Anecdotal evidence and report	Programme records	Results from pilot and last quarter

#### 5. Select the best category of award for this innovation

Sector	Award	Mark with "X"
<b>Private Sector</b>	6 x Catalytic innovations that contribute to growth.	
<b>Public Sector</b>	1 x Provincial- or National-government systemic innovation most impactful on economic growth	
<b>Public Sector</b>	1 x Municipal (LM+DM) innovation that is impactful on growth of their local economy	<b>x</b>
<b>Public Sector</b>	1 x Public-sector innovation, enhancing good governance.	
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b>	1 x Innovation enhancing precinct safety & security.	
<b>Labour Market</b>	1 x Labour market efficacy award Reducing impediments to increased employment.	
<b>Academia</b>	1 x Research most impactful on competitiveness of Industry	
<b>Academia</b>	1 x Tertiary education best aligned to Industry / market needs	
<b>Academia</b>	1 x Most successful start-up / spin out	
<b>Academia</b>	1 x Entrepreneurship development in higher education	
<b>Industry Sector Bodies</b>	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their Industry.	
<b>Organised Business</b>	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their business precincts.	