

Organising the Unorganised

KKPKP

Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat, Pune, India



*Unorganised,
voiceless
yet
resilient*



*Standing up
to inhumane
work conditions
and
police brutality*

Informal waste pickers

- Itinerant, self-employed, informal workers – recovery of recyclable saleable materials from streets, waste bins, containers, garbage dumps and landfills – pick, purchase or barter.
- Approximately 50 lakh waste pickers in India (8,000 in Pune)
- ~400 – 500 Scrap Shops in Pune
- Socio-Economic Status: (Pune)
 - Income: INR 6,000 to 18,000 per month (USD 66 to 200)
 - 75% Women; 99% Illiterate

Informal waste pickers

- Not recognized, no formal work spaces, no social security.
- Precarious: Health, dignity, access to waste uncertain. In conflict with scrap traders, municipal officials, police, society.
- Flexible, fast moving, innovative & resilient. (Economic downturns, Covid)
- Bulk of post-consumer waste recycling in India is through the informal sector.
- Threat of exclusion as municipal collection expands.
- Integrating the sector in formal SWM is critical for sustainable waste management – Pune Example of PMC-SWaCH



**Collective
strength**



Pune's SWaCH Model

98% SEGREGATION



Waste is Generated

9.7 Lakh Premises

SWaCH Composting



Waste picker collects waste

3682 WPs

6000 TPM

Recyclable Dry waste

MLP 90 TPM



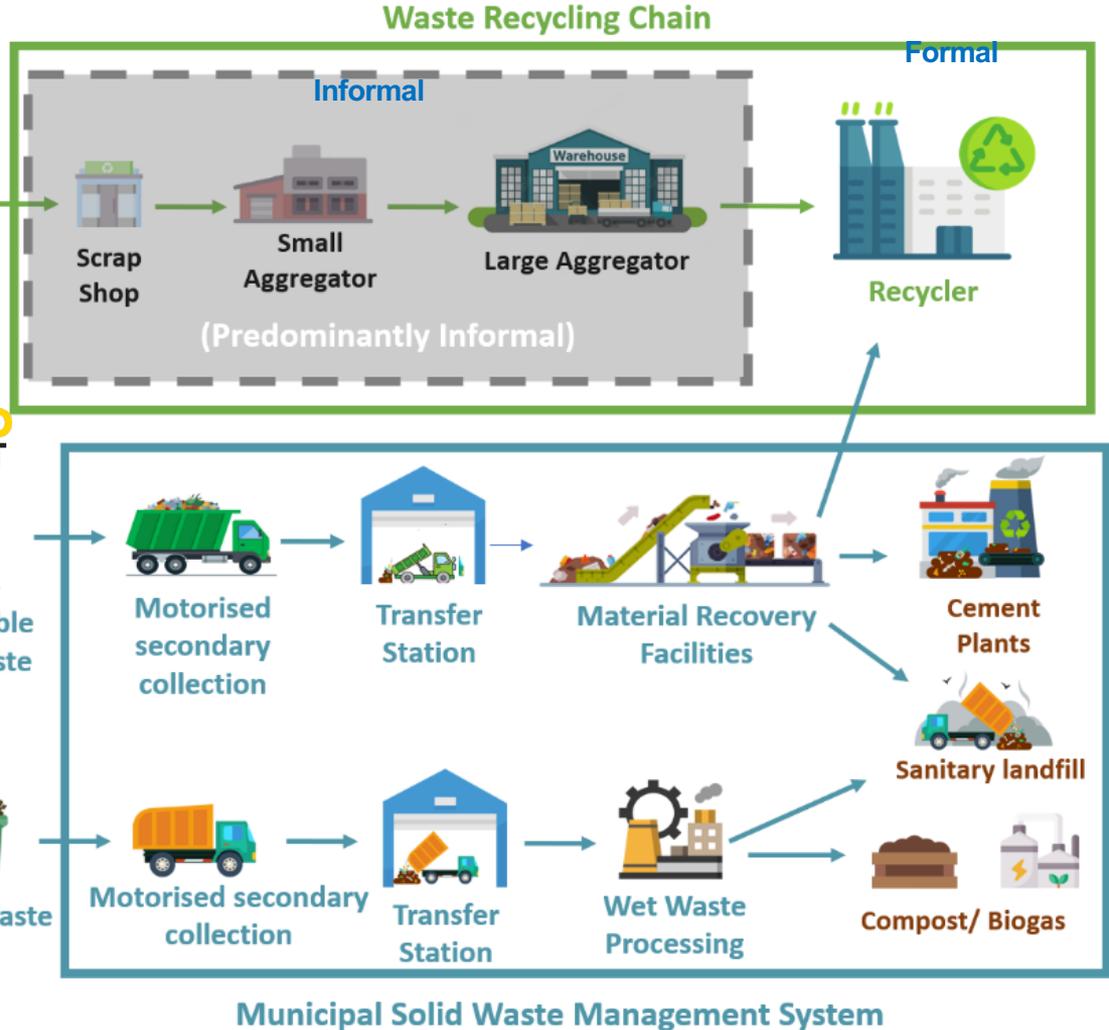
RED DOT



Non-recyclable dry waste



Wet Waste





*Every doorstep,
everyday*



*Every doorstep,
every day*



Pune's Just Transition Journey

1996: ID Cards to WP



2016: 5 Year Contract



2005: Pilot (100,000 properties)

2002: Medical Insurance
2018: Slums Covered



2020: 95% Attendance in Lockdowns



2008-13: 1,800 WPs 330,000 premises

2007: Swachh Cooperative formed by the PMC



2024: 9,70,000 premises serviced



2015 : Social Protection Schemes

Towards Zero Waste: Composting, Biomethanation, Reuse, Recycling



*Diversifying,
innovating*



*Diversifying,
innovating*

Waste collection in slums

- Total Properties in Pune – 1,525,222 (~1.5 Million)
- Total coverage of SWaCH – 981,907 (~1 Million)
- Total Properties in slums – 206,943 (~0.2 Million)
- Total coverage by SWaCH in slums – 169,606 (~0.1 Million)

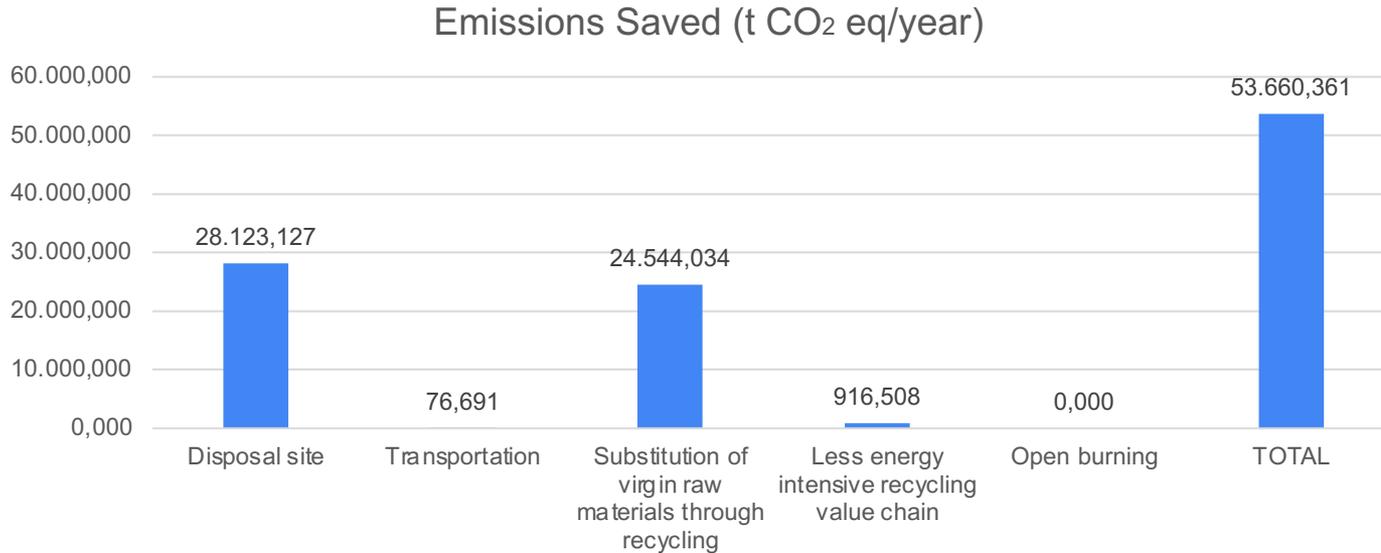
82% of all slum properties are serviced by SWaCH

Slums collection

- Smaller houses, unable to keep waste overnight and need services twice a day
- User fee + Slum Subsidy (paid by Municipality) = ~1 USD per household
- No limit to innovation as long as waste pickers take the lead
- Horizontal and Vertical Integration – compost, biogas, hair collection, grains collection, thermocole and MLP collection

***82% of all slum properties are serviced by SWaCH
25% of all waste pickers collect from slums***

Prevention of GHGs



Results indicate that there is an annual saving of 53,660 Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions to Pune city as a result of the activities of the SWaCH waste pickers.

The majority of these saved emissions come from the large quantum of waste that waste pickers diverted away from the landfill and channeled towards recycling.

The backbone of Pune's Solid Waste Management



*Decentralised,
Equitable
Waste Collection*



Thank you