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TSWELOPELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
A MUNICIPALITY IN PROGRESS

BUILDING CLEANER COMMUNITIES, STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PREPARING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

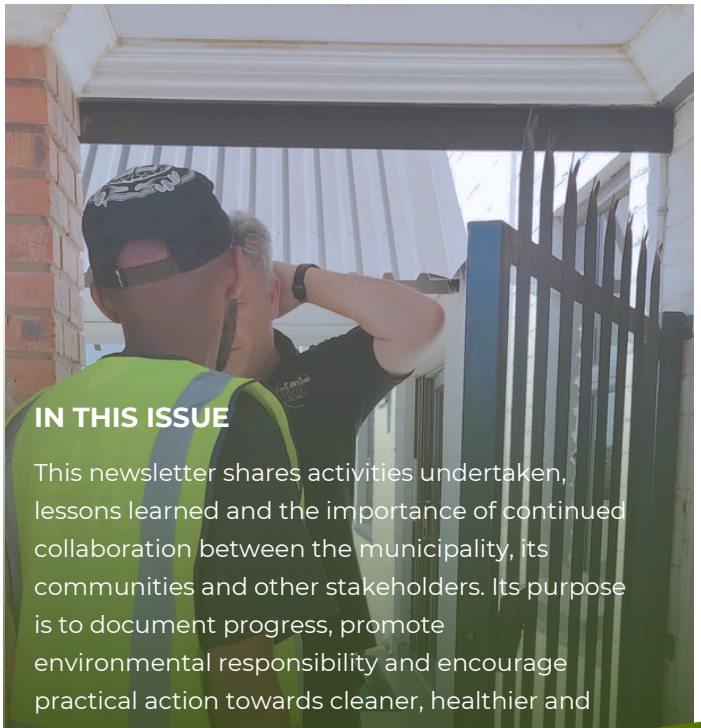
WELCOME TO OUR LATEST EDITION

This year-in-review brings together environmental work across Tswelopele Local Municipality: waste management and public cleanliness, greening, water-awareness, climate resilience, pollution prevention, environmental education and partnerships. It combines publicly documented developments with activity information supplied by the local environmental team.

A MUNICIPALITY-WIDE VIEW

Environmental performance is not limited to one team or project. It includes the day-to-day work of waste services and public-space maintenance, alongside education, monitoring, policy, infrastructure planning and collaboration with provincial and national partners.

The 2026 story also sits within a longer-term local mandate: the municipality's Integrated Development Plan identifies environmental management, waste services, public amenities, water and sanitation, and climate-related risks as connected priorities. These are important context, but IDP commitments are not presented here as completed 2026 achievements.



IN THIS ISSUE

This newsletter shares activities undertaken, lessons learned and the importance of continued collaboration between the municipality, its communities and other stakeholders. Its purpose is to document progress, promote environmental responsibility and encourage practical action towards cleaner, healthier and more sustainable communities.

CLEANER COMMUNITIES. GREENER PUBLIC SPACES. STRONGER ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL

Waste management remained a key environmental priority, with activities including the identification of illegal dumping areas, clean-up interventions and public awareness on responsible waste disposal. Medical waste management surveys were also conducted at local clinics and medical surgeries to identify potential risks associated with healthcare waste handling and disposal.

The municipality's Integrated Waste Management Plan and waste management by-laws provide a framework for these activities. The refurbishment of the Hoopstad landfill site was identified as a procurement priority during the year, while a regional circular economy initiative involving five Lejweleputswa municipalities was announced in May 2026. The initiative promotes cleaning, greening, recycling, waste diversion and employment opportunities.

Tswelopele Local Municipality has invested in a compactor truck to strengthen its waste-management and refuse-collection capacity. The purchase represents an important investment in municipal service delivery, supporting efforts to maintain cleaner communities and improve the management of household waste.

WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation remains essential to sustainable service delivery and environmental protection. In September 2025, the municipality published a total water restrictions notice as part of water-demand management. Awareness activities also addressed water leaks, sanitation and the responsible use of municipal infrastructure.

Continued cooperation between environmental management and water services is important for reducing water losses, encouraging responsible consumption and protecting rivers and wetlands.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

Climate change management is important in strengthening resilience to drought, extreme temperatures, flooding and other environmental risks. The municipality undertook energy conservation awareness activities to encourage responsible electricity use and reduce unnecessary consumption.

In February 2026, the municipality advertised Climate Change Internship positions, reflecting an effort to strengthen environmental management capacity. Climate resilience, energy efficiency and disaster preparedness remain important priorities for sustainable municipal planning.



Tswelopele Local Municipality Invests in Waste-Collection Services: New Compactor Truck

**CLEANER COMMUNITIES, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENTS.
FROM COLLECTION TO FINAL DISPOSAL**

GREENING AND SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Greening initiatives contributed to environmental improvement and awareness among learners and residents. Tree-planting activities took place at schools, within residential areas, public spaces and along roads. Town entrances and entrances to residential locations were also enhanced with plants and shrubs, improving local surroundings and creating greener, more welcoming communities.

The municipality has planted 500 trees to date, contributing to environmental sustainability, urban greening and the enhancement of public spaces across Tswelopele. Progress was affected by budgetary constraints and limited trees received from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and local businesses.

Environmental education included the Eco Club Poster Competition, the Eco Club Recycling Art Competition and the She Evolves initiative, which recognised top-performing learners from four schools in Phahameng and two in Tikwana. Continued watering, maintenance and monitoring remain essential to ensure planted vegetation survives and supports long-term environmental sustainability.

BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Tswelopele's natural environment includes wetlands, rivers, grasslands and other habitats that support biodiversity, soil protection and water regulation. The municipality's environmental planning framework provides a foundation for protecting these resources. Preventing pollution, managing waste responsibly and promoting the protection of sensitive ecosystems remain important to preserving the municipality's natural heritage for future generations.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Community participation is essential for effective environmental management. Awareness activities addressed refuse disposal, water leaks, sanitation, electricity use and municipal infrastructure concerns, encouraging residents to take greater responsibility for their surroundings. Environmental interns also assisted during a Disaster Management Day event, supporting municipal awareness and preparedness activities. Collaboration between environmental and disaster management functions helps communities understand environmental risks and strengthen resilience.



DFFE Environmental Management EPWP Interns Participating in the Tswelopele Greening and Urban Forestry Campaign



Greening and Beautification of Town and Residential Location Entrances

CONSERVING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES TODAY TO SECURE A HEALTHIER ANDMORE SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION

The municipality's environmental work is supported by its Integrated Environmental Management Plan, Integrated Waste Management Plan and waste management by-laws.

These frameworks help guide environmental planning, regulatory compliance and the coordination of activities across municipal functions.

The national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) hosted the National Waste Khoro in March 2026 in Mangaung, Free State. During the ceremony, individual provincial acknowledgements were handed out to honor the standout performers from each region. Tswelopele retained its local crown, taking home the provincial recognition for being the cleanest municipality in the Free State.

LOOKING AHEAD: PRIORITIES FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE TSWELOPELE

Building on the work undertaken during the year, key priorities include:

- Strengthening waste collection, landfill management and illegal dumping prevention.
- Expanding recycling and waste diversion initiatives.
- Improving water conservation and reducing water losses.
- Strengthening climate change adaptation and energy efficiency.
- Protecting wetlands, rivers, grasslands and other natural habitats.
- Maintaining trees and shrubs planted in schools and public spaces.
- Expanding environmental education and community participation.
- Improving environmental monitoring, compliance and performance reporting.

These priorities reinforce the importance of integrating environmental sustainability into municipal planning, infrastructure development and everyday service delivery.



Tswelopele Local Municipality Receives the Cleanest Municipality Award in the Free State Represented by the Mayor, Mantsho Radienyane; the Environmental Coordinator, Thembani Mambalo, and Environmental Manager, Teboho Moepi

BUILDING STRONGER INSTITUTIONS, RECOGNISINGEXCELLENCE, INSPIRING PROGRESS.

TOGETHER FOR A CLEANER, GREENER FUTURE

Environmental sustainability is a shared responsibility. Through municipal programmes, community participation and partnerships, Tswelopele Local Municipality continues working towards cleaner settlements, healthier ecosystems and more resilient communities.

Every tree maintained, every water leak reported and every responsible waste disposal decision contributes to a more sustainable future.



Thoriso Primary School: One of She Evolves Competition Winners in the Tswelopele Local Municipality



Tikwana Comprehensive Secondary School Project: One of the participating schools in the Eco Club Recycling Art Competition

TSWELOPELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY — WORKING TOGETHER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.