

Recyclable waste management in São Paulo, Brazil:

The incorporation of Waste Picker Cooperatives into the municipal system

WPC BACKGROUND

An example of a bottom-up initiative, WPCs were informal businesses that have been favored by public policy and incorporated in the formal system.

CURRENT SITUATION

WPCs emerged as an **alternative for urban poor**, who could then work collecting recyclable waste on the streets and sell the recyclables collectively.

Over the past 25 years, **changes in policy approach** and social behavior allowed for the regularization of these cooperatives, bringing important modifications both to the public perception of waste pickers and to public system management.

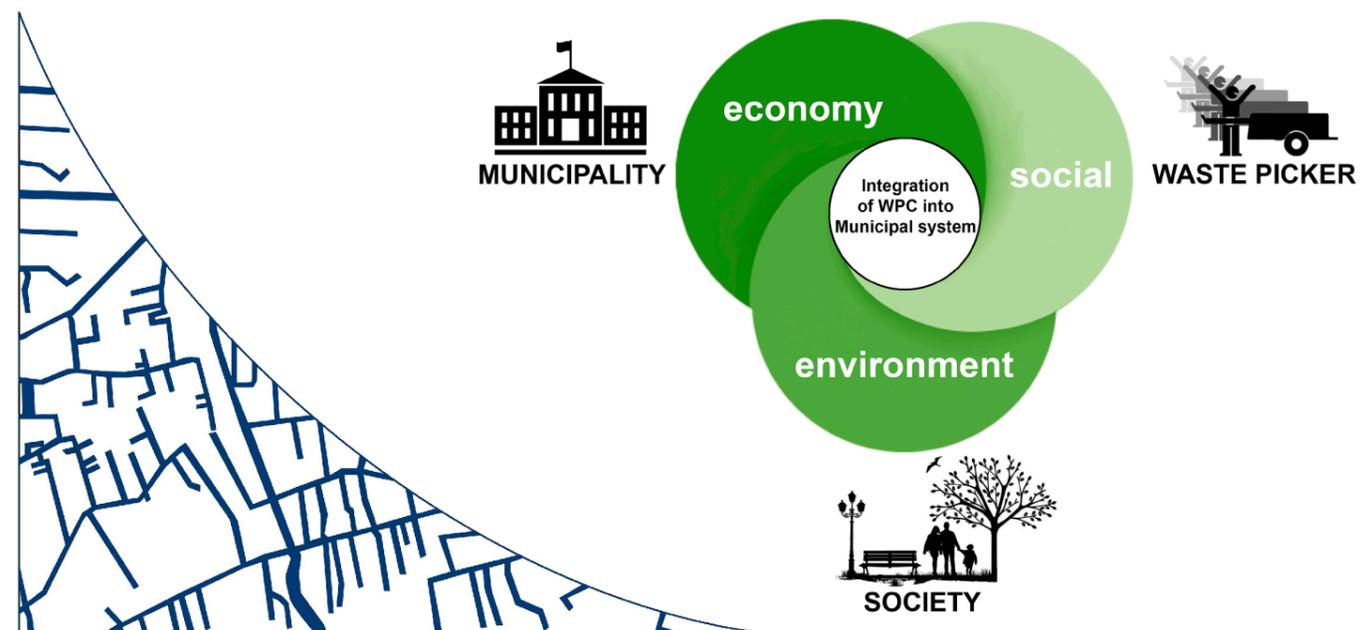
Such policies turned the waste picker into an **environmental agent**. However, their work and life conditions do not match the sustainability of the title.

In order to promote them and to support further public policies, it is important to **identify sustainable measures** in- and outside the system, in view of the enormous variety of cooperatives that have emerged in the city

LOCATING SUSTAINABILITY

The research aims to present the relationship between the government and the WPCs by locating sustainable externalities to this relationship.

For this, the analysis will take into consideration three main actors:



CASE STUDIES

Analysis of the existing system through questionnaires and interviews, looking for the pros and cons it presents each stakeholder and which may result in gaps and opportunities.

References: United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) + specific indicators used on previous academic researches + specific questions

NAME	FUNDATION	INTEGRATION WITH MUNICIPALITY	RELATION WITH MUNICIPALITY	NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER	SITUATION
Coopercity	1989	since 2016	in transition	vulnerable area	beginning
Casa do Catador	2004	since 2004	insider	low income	consolidated
COOPAMARE	1989	not anymore	outsider	high income	consolidated

OPPORTUNITIES

The inclusion of WPCs in the official waste management system can also be an opportunity for good governance, addressing not only waste management but also:

- improving the quality of life for urban poor;
- reducing management costs;
- benefiting the environment by
 - generating public awareness,
 - reducing waste,
 - reducing GHG emissions.

HYPOTHESIS

By comparing the three case studies and assuming waste as a public good, this research aims to prove that when supported by the public power, waste can generate economic, social and environmental benefits. However, sustainable externalities are limited to business interests when supported by private partnerships.

FOLLOW-UP

- Field work interviewing WPCs, neighborhood dwellers, and municipality.
- Analysis of WPCs' current situation, regarding legal, social, economic, and physical conditions.
- Comparative analysis of three case studies to identify sustainable measures.