

## Community Reference Groups (CRGs)

Strong community stakeholder relationships are integral to SUEZ's endeavour to be a responsible corporate citizen and a sustainable business. The value of community stakeholder engagement is recognised at every level of SUEZ and we consider our neighbouring communities and businesses, non-government organisations and all levels of government, to be key partners.

An important aspect of SUEZ's business plan is our commitment to seek input from our community stakeholders, ensuring consistent environmental performance improvement. SUEZ will always investigate issues raised by our community stakeholders and, where possible, find solutions that balance community and customer expectations with business needs and regulatory requirements. While providing an essential public service, SUEZ will always seek to improve upon sustainable waste management and resource recovery practices based around proven technologies that will help to combat climate change through a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill.

SUEZ wants to interact with community representatives in a consultative forum to monitor the operations of its waste management and organic processing facilities and provide input on a wide range of resource recovery, sustainability and corporate citizenship topics.

To achieve this, SUEZ has committed to establishing CRGs for each of its Infrastructure facilities where a CRG is deemed necessary.

### Objectives of a CRG:

The objectives of a SUEZ facility CRG are to:

- facilitate community awareness of the operations, environmental performance and any short, medium and long term development of the facility;
- provide community members with the opportunity to engage in dialogue with SUEZ regarding any issues of concern related to the facility;
- provide community members with an opportunity, wherever practicable, to provide input into SUEZ's decision making process regarding the facility; and
- foster understanding and cooperation between community members and SUEZ staff in minimising the impact of the facility on the local community.

### Role of a CRG:

The role of a CRG is advisory. SUEZ will consider comments and suggestions made by the CRG and provide responses where warranted. The CRG will be asked to provide advice on a range of issues raised by SUEZ and members of the CRG. The CRG may make recommendations to SUEZ, including communication of a negotiated position that reflects community members' views, for SUEZ to consider and respond to as part of the CRG process. However, the CRG is not required to reach consensus or express unified views on matters discussed.

## **Membership of a CRG:**

CRG members will be appointed for a period of two (2) years and are responsible for seeking and presenting the views of the local community they represent concerning the operation of SUEZ facilities. Members are also responsible for providing input on a wide range of resource recovery, sustainability and corporate citizenship topics. Membership is based on principles of cross-sectional representation to ensure the full spectrum of community stakeholder concerns and interests are included and balanced from social, environmental and economic perspectives.

## **Participation in a CRG:**

CRGs meet four to twelve times per year dependent on the relevant facility's operations and the schedule as agreed upon by CRG members are SUEZ staff. Meetings run for up to two hours.

Participation in a CRG is voluntary and open to:

- Any interested person who lives, works or has an interest in the vicinity of the relevant SUEZ facility
- Any interested locally based community group representing those who have an interest in the vicinity of the relevant SUEZ facility.

The guiding principles for participation as a member of a CRG are to:

- Contribute to an open, encouraging, motivating environment for discussion
- Present a responsive and active approach toward safety and environmental management of SUEZ facilities
- Be willing to introduce or consider new and innovative ideas to assist SUEZ to develop and grow in a sustainable manner with due regard to the environment, the community and the economy
- Operate in a responsible, ethical and honest manner in all dealings and negotiations relevant to the CRG.

## **Further Information**

If you have an interest in becoming a SUEZ CRG member or wish to get in touch with your CRG representative, contact SUEZ's Stakeholder Engagement Manager:

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