

# **Towards sustainable community – the evaluation of the local municipal waste collection centers by residents – a case study of Poland**

**Piotr NOWAKOWSKI\***

Silesian University of Technology, Faculty of Transport and Aviation Engineering  
40-019 Katowice, ul. Krasińskiego 8, Poland

**Mariusz WALA**

PST Transgór S.A.  
44-201 Rybnik ul. Jankowicka 9, Poland

*\*Corresponding author. E-mail: [Piotr.Nowakowski@polsl.pl](mailto:Piotr.Nowakowski@polsl.pl)*

## **1. Introduction**

Improvement in waste collection is important to achieve growing recycling targets for secondary raw materials in the European Union. Numerous methods of waste collection are applied in different countries. The separated categories of waste require assigning a fleet of vehicles and collection staff. One of the methods for disposal of municipal waste is bringing various categories of refuse to local or municipal waste collection centers. They are obligatory to be established in each municipality or community. Usually, they are located in the waste collection company base but in some cases, cities or rural communities established special locations. Bringing various waste categories by own vehicles is a demanding task for residents. It requires a suitable vehicle and incurs additional costs by fuel and time required to reach this location and unload the waste.

## **2. Material and methods**

Several factors influence the residents to dispose of waste in municipal or rural centers. This study investigates selected factors by selecting a target group of residents who decided to dispose of various categories of waste. A questionnaire has been prepared and distributed in the waste collection center in the South of Poland. The main answers this research aims to find are:

- the knowledge of the details about the waste collection by residents
- evaluation of the waste collection center
- perception of the protection of the natural environment by residents
- sources of knowledge and information on waste collection in the community

### 3. Results

The survey can give an insight into the activities of rural and municipal activities by the local administration. The results indicate the behavior of the residents in disposing of various categories of waste. We propose guidelines for improvement that can be applied by the local administration and waste collection companies.