



MEDIA RELEASE

Will we see the death of landfills in South Africa?

IMMEDIATE RELEASE : 23 October 2019

On average, each person of our total population of 57 million generates up to 2 kilograms of waste per day (more than 125 million tonnes of Hazardous and General waste, per year). The major issue with this waste generation is that the majority of it goes to landfill. "South Africa is running out of landfill space and we need to get industry experts together to discuss immediate solutions to this 'waste crisis'," says Chris Wiid – Landfill 2019 Chairman from the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA). This will be the core focus of the [Landfill 2019 Conference and Exhibition](#), set to be held in Cape Town early in November.*

The IWMSA will be hosting Landfill 2019 to bring waste management professionals together to discuss the issue at hand. The Landfill 2019 Conference & Exhibition will be held at [The River Club](#) in Cape Town on 06 and 07 November 2019. Landfill 2019 will seek to bring the Landfill and Alternative Waste Treatment industries together to learn about the latest techniques and developments, and to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

Most major cities and local Municipalities across South Africa have very little airspace left and are in serious trouble. Generally, it will take any Municipality at least 5 years to obtain a Waste Licence (if there is no significant public opposition) and an additional 12 months for the construction of a new landfill facility.

"Government has placed increased pressure on landfill operators; there is a strong drive by the Department of Environmental Affairs to drastically reduce waste to landfill," says Vice Chairperson of Landfill 2019, Reon Pienaar. "For this to happen, we need to discuss alternative technology that looks at tapping into the waste stream for resources; at the end of the day we need to alleviate the pressure on landfill."

Adding to the drive to reduce waste to landfill, Government recently implemented a complete ban of all liquid waste to landfill sites. This came into effect on the 23 August 2019 and signals a massive shift in South African waste legislation.

"In an ideal world, various waste streams would be seen as a 'resource'. South Africa still needs to realise the full potential of the waste economy," Wiid says. South Africa is far behind Europe in implementing the required resource recovery systems that would create economically viable businesses and employment. "At Landfill 2019 we will discuss alternative waste treatment technologies and the recovery of material from the waste stream - this will help us optimise the waste economy. We pose the question 'will landfill be part of our long-term future?'"

“In light of these issues, we would like to invite and encourage waste management industry professionals to meet at Landfill 2019 to explore solutions to overcome these challenges,” says Wiid.

Some of the presentations to look forward to include:

Status and location of landfills in the Western Cape Province, by Shaun Arendse (Western Cape Department of Environmental affairs and Development Planning):

Landfill airspace in the Western Cape Province is at critical stage. Added to this is the lack of compliance with Waste Management Licence conditions and the lack of planning to facilitate management the dwindling airspace available at a number of landfill facilities. As the owners of the waste, Municipalities need to understand the importance of the correct management of the waste by using available tools to generate comprehensive information. This will enable them to make informed decisions around the best practices and solutions.

Landfills as part of the circular economy: the death and resurrection of the Stellenbosch landfill, by Peter Novella and Saliem Haider (Stellenbosch Municipality)

Stellenbosch Municipality has a rich record of the implementation of innovative waste management projects. Driven by dwindling airspace, the need is to develop a workable and sustainable Waste Strategy and to have a strong focus on innovative waste diversion practices, including Waste Beneficiation. Existing projects include the crushing of construction & demolition waste, green waste chipping for composting, as well as the recovery and sorting of dry recyclables. A pilot food waste diversion scheme will soon be rolled out.

Case histories of geosynthetics in landfill and containment applications; geosynthetics workshop by Boyd Ramsey (Boyd Ramsey Consulting LLC)

“Not admitting a mistake is a bigger mistake.” This quotation helps to explain the attraction of case histories. At nearly every conference, the audience tends to rate case histories as the most interesting and informative data that they receive. In addition to illustrating mistakes that occurred, so that they can be avoided in future projects, case histories can illustrate material and design lifespans, usually supporting accelerated testing, but certainly providing definitive real-time and real-world proof of performance. This information can be used as a baseline for any remotely similar project.

For more information about the IWMSA visit their website (<http://iwmsa.co.za/>) or join the waste management conversation on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/iwmsa>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/IWMSA>).

###

Released by Reputation Matters

Media contact:

Chris Bishoff

Mobile Number: your number

chris@reputationmatters.co.za

List of references

*Department of Environmental Affairs. South Africa: State of Waste Report (Second draft report). Accessed online at: <http://sawic.environment.gov.za/documents/9066.pdf> [Published: 22 August 2018].