

THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP



WMRIG

INSPIRE, DISCOVER, TOGETHER – A WORLD WITHOUT WASTE

WMRIG WESTERN CAPE 2017-2018

WMRIG is an interest group of the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA)'s Western Cape Branch.



OUR VISION

“Inspire, Discover, Together – a World Without Waste”

In our ongoing transition to a more circular economy, in which what are sometimes called ‘wastes’ are increasingly re-included in the economy as useful materials and therefore create income opportunities, in 2018 the WMRIG committee decided to re-look at our objectives and activities.

We see our core competency as gatherers and inspirers towards what our ‘waste’ economy could develop into, which formed the foundation for our identifying statements and objectives below:

Why do we exist?

We exist to shift attitudes towards ‘waste’ by bringing people together to solve ‘waste’ problems.

Who do we want to be?

We want to be a network of similar-minded people across multiple sectors with a vision of a world without waste.

Objectives – we strive to achieve our vision through:

- Educating to change traditional waste mindsets by:
 - Sharing innovations, trends, updates and best practice in a ‘waste’ economy, and
 - Developing position papers on topical issues.
- Facilitating conversations between key role payers to spark change towards re-including ‘waste’ as a resource in our economy.

In refining our focus as a team of volunteers, we defined four themes and deliverables within those streams that are achievable within a two year committee term as well as within the committee’s expertise and limited time available.

Focus areas – from July 2018

1. Enabling waste generators to reconsider their resources – both up- and downstream of ‘waste’ generation.

- Information sharing on circular economy principles:
 - Including the economic potential in our ‘waste’;
 - Valuing our people in a ‘resource’ economy.
- Applicable legislation and policy application in terms of resource (materials) use and waste generation.

2. Making sense of the changing ‘waste’ industry for its stakeholders.

- Information-sharing on circular economy principles:
 - Including the economic potential in our ‘waste’;
 - Valuing our people in a ‘resource’ economy.
- Applicable legislation and policy application in terms of resource (materials) use and waste generation;
- Updates on ‘waste’ industry news, topical issues and innovation.

3. Support to the recycling sector.

- SMME/informal sector focus:
 - Support and inform regarding business growth and funding opportunities;
 - Inform on best practice and innovation in the light of developing a circular economy.

4. New opportunities in our ‘waste’ economy.

- Organic wastes;
- Hazardous wastes.

The committee is currently developing strategic plans for the themes mentioned above, such that all elements are expressed in a two year committee term. There is a focus on monitoring and evaluation on our activities, with the committee asking the question: “How will we know if we have achieved our goals?” Measureables of success are being defined under each theme, and will not simply be a check box of number of events, meetings and even people reached. At each event, an event survey is administered at which WMRIG asks attendees to rate their experience of and the content of the event, for insight into WMRIG’s impact.

WMRIG structure

WMRIG reports to and is supported by the Institute of Waste Management's Western Cape Branch committee.

WMRIG is run by a committee of volunteers operating in the waste management and recycling industry. The 2016-2018 committee comprised:

Alison Davison, vice-chairperson, City of Cape Town

Anthea Fransman, Recycle First

Eric Buti, City of Cape Town, Solid Waste (co-opted)

Hugh Tyrell, communications, Green Edge Communications Consulting

Janine Basson, PETCO, the PET plastic recycling company

Kirsten Barnes, chairperson, GreenCape

Melanie Ludwig, Zero to Landfill Organics

Melvi Todd, Averda, stepped down January 2018

Riaan Burger, Chiron Chemistry

Sam Smout, GreenCape

Tom McLaughlin, Woolworths South Africa, stepped down December 2017

We thank Melvi and Tom for their passion for re-thinking wastes as resources, and wish them well as they engage in new adventures.

The 2018-2020 committee has been elected:

Alison Davison, City of Cape Town, Solid Waste (co-opted)

Anthea Fransman, Recycle First

Eric Buti, City of Cape Town, Solid Waste

Hugh Tyrell, communications, Green Edge Communications Consulting

Janine Basson, vice chairperson, PETCO, the PET plastic recycling company

Melanie Ludwig, Zero to Landfill Organics

Quinton Williams, chairperson, GreenCape

Riaan Burger, Chiron Chemistry

Sam Smout, treasurer, GreenCape

2017-2018 Events and Activities

WMRIG distributes a quarterly newsletter for members with interesting articles on 'waste' minimization and recycling, changes in waste management legislation and other industry-related news.

For copies of our newsletters and presentations from past events, please [click here](#).

OCTOBER 2017

HOW TO GROW YOUR RECYCLING BUSINESS

More than 80 enthusiastic attendees joined WMRIG (the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Interest Group), Western Cape at this free information-sharing and networking event, held at Philippi Village on Thursday 12 October.

Informative and encouraging presentations were given by the Product Responsibility Organisations (PROs): PETCO (the PET Plastic Recycling Company), Polyco (the Polyolefin Recycling Company) and PRASA (the Paper Recycling Association of South Africa).



Says Kirsten Barnes, Chairperson for WMRIG, 'At WMRIG, we are passionate to see our vision of a world without waste realised. We see wastepreneurs as a key sector in the waste economy and, as such, a key priority for us is to improve the jobs and conditions that they work in. We need to have more collectors move up the value chain into more decent work – rather than just having more and more people collecting from landfills and from bins. This future is what WMRIG is working hard to support through our networking and information-sharing strategy.'

Belinda Booker of PETCO emphasised sound business practice, and honest dealings in building one's reputation as a collector and sorter. PETCO offers support by training, as well as funding equipment to SMMEs, including personal protective gear (gloves etc), cages, balers among other offerings.

Polyco's George Blackwood highlighted Polyco's financial support through grants or interest-free loans, through which assets such as trailers, balers, cages, scales, pallet jacks, granulators, bags and bins may be funded.



Ursula Henneberry of PRASA brought her passion for recycling and personal growth for SMME owners in recycling. 'Write your vision big and bold' was the advice, while planning, organising and marketing were all identified as key aspects to any growing business.

For an inspiring SMME, look no further than Blue Sky Recycling – "By Pickers, For Pickers" – co-founded by John McKerry and Gershwin Kohler. John shared of his passion to provide income opportunities for waste collectors in informal areas, and reminded the audience to value the hard and effective work the collectors in our country do. John encouraged the audience to take advantage of opportunities offered and plan for growth in their businesses.

WMRIG was also privileged to have Andile Magadla of the City's Enterprise and Investment Department speak about the City's Business Enquiry Service providing extensive support to SMMEs in the City (business.support@capetown.gov.za); as well as Reza Gallant and Melissa Axford of Black Umbrellas (blackumbrellas.org). Black Umbrellas was recently recognised as the best business incubator globally. Reza emphasised the need to communicate the "why" of your business, to hit the heart and demonstrate the passion for what you do – and wake up with a goal every day.

Eric Buti of the City of Cape Town, second from left with enthusiastic event attendees.



For presentations from the event, please see <http://iwmsa.co.za/waste-minimisation-and-recycling-interest-group-wmrig>, or contact Kirsten Barnes at kirsten@greencape.co.za.

For more information on the PROs, see:

PETCO – www.petco.co.za; Polyco – www.polyco.co.za; PRASA – www.recyclepaper.co.za

For more information on Blue Sky Recycling, see blueskyrecycling.co.za.

MARCH 2018

TAKING THE HAZARD OUT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

Over 25 interested industry members met at Vissershok Waste Management Facility (VWMF) for an update on how to take the 'hazard out of hazardous waste'. After WMRIG deputy chairperson Alison Davison's introductions, presenters shared their expertise. Patricia Schroeder of Reclite enlightened participants on the recovery, processing and recycling of fluorescent bulbs and related items such as electronic waste and solar panels. Stephen Morkel explained the CCT's approach to the responsible management of hazardous waste, including recycling and disposal. Riaan Burger of Chiron Chemistry shared insights on compliance requirements for transport and disposal of hazardous waste. Maree Cockcroft (VWMF) outlined laboratory procedures in classifying and testing incoming waste at the facility. To round off, Wiehan Visser led a site visit to see construction on the latest VWMF landfill cell.



WMRIG EVENTS 2018

16 August 2018

“I bet you thought that was recyclable...”

The event aims to answer the question: How do we stimulate the use and selection of material throughout the packaging value chain for recyclability? We will have speakers across the value chain ranging from packaging designers and product owners, to collectors and aggregators, processors and recyclers, manufacturers and retail.

Case studies will also be presented on best practice in preserving materials at their highest value for recycling ‘back into the economy’, followed by a panel discussion.

2018-2019 ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

The ‘waste’ economy landscape in South Africa is poised for potentially dramatic changes and therefore it is possible there will be opportunities for great strides in valuing our resources currently labelled as ‘wastes’.

Planning and partnerships for valuing our ‘waste’ resources

- The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA; national) showed its commitment to not only diversion of wastes from landfill but in extracting value from these resources in the South African economy. This was highlighted through the Phakisa process which ran for 5 weeks between July and August 2017, and produced recommendations regarding 20 waste beneficiation initiatives. Further work will be done on these recommendations across public and private stakeholders, building on the co-design phase facilitated by Phakisa, with the next phase being fleshing out these proposals.
- Industry waste management plans (IndWMPs) for the paper and packaging, electrical and electronics as well as the lighting industries have been called by the DEA for submission in 2018. Core to these IndWMPs is the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility around which effective recovery and recycling can be supported and improved upon.

Legislation as an enabler of a ‘waste’ resource economy

- The national norms and standards for the sorting, shredding, grinding, crushing, screening or baling of general waste were published in Government Gazette 1093 of 2017, on the 11th of October. These regulations allow these specific activities to occur without needing a national waste licence, which is a time-consuming and costly process. All concerns involved in the activities mentioned must register with the

competent authority (the provincial department of environmental affairs) and comply with the requirements.

- A further draft of the regulations to exclude waste streams from the definition of waste were published as a Government Notice, number 4 of 2018, on the 12th of January. Once promulgated entities may apply for a certain waste stream from a certain process to be de-listed from being a waste, thereby enabling the recovery and beneficiation of that material. Streams already listed in the draft regulations include waste slag from metallurgical processes, ash from combustion and gasification process, gypsum from pulp, paper and cardboard production and processing as well as from combustion and gasification processes, and biomass of plant, animal or micro-organism origin.
- A motivation for the development of national norms and standards for the treatment of organic waste is being drafted by the consultants Cape EAPrac on behalf of the German Society for International Co-operation (GIZ). The principle behind the draft is the liberation and enabling of organic waste beneficiation in South Africa.

Diversion of specific 'waste' streams from landfill

- In terms of the national norms and standards for disposal of waste to landfill (R636 of 2013), the following streams have been banned from landfill:
 - Waste pesticides (other than persistent organic pollutant pesticides listed under the Stockholm Convention)
 - Re-usable, recoverable or recyclable used lubricating mineral oils, as well as oil filters, but excluding other oil containing wastes; and
 - Hazardous waste with a calorific value of > 25 MJ/kg.
- In terms of the national norms and standards for disposal of waste to landfill (R636 of 2013), the following streams will be banned from landfill from August 2018:
 - Reusable, recoverable or recyclable used or spent solvents;
 - Polychlorobiphenyl (PCB) containing wastes (>50 mg/kg or 50 ppm); and
 - Waste tyres (quartered)
- The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), Western Cape Government has instituted diversion targets for organic wastes from landfill – 50% diversion by 2022, and a landfill ban by 2027.

WMRIG will be partnering with IWMSA Western Cape Branch to inform, and engage our members, as well as to collate industry comments on legislation and policy from a local to a national level.

OUR 2017-2018 SPONSORS

We are grateful to our valued sponsors and are pleased to be associated with organisations making a positive impact in our waste industry.



“Through growth, transformation and engagement, we strive to grow our footprint by continuing to position our brand as the leading expert in managing waste across the emerging world. We build infrastructure and resources to help find a better way of managing waste. No matter where we operate, we are part of the community we serve through education, CSR programmes and local employment.”



“JG Afrika (previously Jeffares & Green) is a South African consulting engineering and environmental consulting firm with a complement of some 300 staff comprising engineers, environmental scientists, specialist professionals and administrative staff working together with a common goal: to provide the highest quality of consulting engineering services for the benefit of the community and the environment.”



“PETCO is an industry-driven and industry-financed environmental solution for PET plastic. We are South Africa’s national industry body accountable for managing the PET plastic industry’s Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Incorporated in 2004, our mission is to grow the collection and recycling of PET bottles, after consumer use, on behalf of our members. Our efforts are financed by a voluntary recycling fee, paid by converters on every tonne of raw material they purchase, as well as grants from brand owners, resin producers and retailers. We work with the whole PET value chain – from resin producers through to the converters, bottlers, brand owners, retailers and consumers.”



“POLYCO – The Polyolefin Recycling Company is a non-profit company (NPC) that was established in 2011 by the South African Polyolefin Plastic Packaging Converters. POLYCO’s mission is to reduce the amount of polyolefin packaging going to landfill by increasing the sustainable collection, recycling, recovery and beneficiation of polyolefin plastics (polymer identification codes 2, 4 and 5).”



"Waste-Mart has, over the years, become one of the largest and most successful family-run business concerns in the waste management industry. The company has grown to the extent that it is currently one of the biggest suppliers of waste management services to the City of Cape Town Municipality."



"WastePlan is a national on-site waste management company specialising in recycling and reducing waste to landfill. WastePlan was founded with the heart to do our people and our planet great good. As such we subscribe to sustainable business practice where the health and well-being of our people (WastePlanners and our broader community), as well as the natural environment and financial considerations, are all integral to the strategic and the 'every day' decisions we make in WastePlan."



"As **Woolworths**, we've made a commitment to care for the environment, our people and communities. We call it our Good Business Journey."

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsor logos are displayed on all our communications, including quarterly newsletters and on invitations to at least two events per year, as well as included in an introductory presentation at all events. Sponsors are welcome to display promotional materials and man a table at all WMRIG events.

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