



# WMRIG

Western Cape

WASTE MINIMISATION AND  
RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP

**MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER**



## **SA Organics Recycling Association takes off.**

The official launch of ORASA – the Organics Recycling Association of South Africa – was held on 18 March at Hotel Verde. Salim Fakir (head of the Futures and Policy Unit at WWF-SA) gave the keynote, followed by ORASA chairperson Melanie Ludwig from ZTL Organics. MC duties were managed by co-founder Emile Fourie (Ywaste). Over 80 people attended and some intense networking followed. ORASA members have worked hard to bring various organics stakeholders together, spurred on by the provincial targets of 50% organic waste reduction to landfill by 2022 and 100% by 2027.



ORASA members Berenice Westmore, Melanie Ludwig (Chair), Emile Fourie with Salim Fakir (WWF).

## **President launches Chemicals and Waste Economy Phakisa**

On 8 March, 18 months since the Phakisa deliberations took place, President Ramaphosa set in motion the Chemicals and Waste Economy Phakisa outcomes. These identified 20 initiatives in four work streams: bulk industrial waste, municipal, minimisation and chemicals to divert 20 million tonnes of waste from landfill. If implemented correctly, this could unlock R11.5 billion per year to help create 45 000 jobs and 4 300 small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs). DEA (national) can now start coordinating the necessary work to achieve the 20 initiatives.



## **Sustainable urban nutrient-cycling & the new plastic economy**



Sustainability representatives from major retailers, materials producers, brand owners, PROs and others gathered at Pick n Pay's headquarters in Kenilworth on 14 and 15 March. Co-hosted by GreenCape and the Sustainable Retailer Forum, the two-day workshop saw participants working together using circular economy principles to better manage bio-economy, new plastics, packaging and related challenges. Overseas guests included representatives from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, WRAP UK, and Contarina in Italy.

## Drakenstein pioneers the inclusion of landfill pickers



Integrating informal landfill pickers so they can maintain an income is a challenge. Drakenstein Municipality has paved the way for the inclusion of pickers as 'independently operating' sorters in their residential at-source recycling collection service which is now being expanded to more residents. Training for the recycling sorters (pictured) was provided by the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

## Design for Recycling Indaba

Spearheaded by WWF-SA and SAPRO, this well supported event was held on 13 March as part of ProPak. Participants grappled with topics such as design and guidelines to facilitate recycling plastic packaging, the role of retailers and brand owners in driving demand for recycle, and value chain collaboration towards a new circular plastics economy. Speakers included Peter Skelton, (WRAP UK), Sonja Wegge (Ellen MacArthur Foundation) who set the stage for the roll out of activities to foster commitment by industry partners to develop a Plastics Pact in South Africa. Link to the presentations: <https://www.plasticrecyclingsa.co.za/presentations/>



From left: Eddie Van Os and Mandy Naude (POLYCO), Sonja Wegge (Ellen MacArthur Foundation), Peter Skelton (WRAP).

## Spotlight on Sunlight Liquid's 100% recycled bottles



Over five years of development work has culminated in the launch of Sunlight Dishwashing Liquid in 100% recycled content and recyclable bottles. Partners in the process were Extrupet, Serioplast and PETCO. The 750ml and 400ml bottles are a milestone in Unilever's ambition to reduce its environmental impact by half by 2030.

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*Thanks to organisations who are contributing premises or time to allow staff to volunteer for managing the ongoing work of WMRIG:*



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