



WMRIG

Western Cape



WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

How do we stimulate appropriate packaging for recycling? The recent WMRIG event held at the Novalis Ubuntu Institute in Wynberg brought together industry experts, brand owners, manufacturers, collectors, converters and others from across the industry to answer the question: “How do we stimulate the selection of appropriate packaging material throughout the value chain to ensure it is actually recycled?” Speaker topics included debunking common myths about recycling rates, what can and can’t be recycled, design for recycling, the circular economy, which made for a stimulating and informative morning for the 60 or so people who attended.



Volunteers free Robben Island from waste. One of South Africa’s most famous landmarks, Robben Island, was freed from some of its waste burden as more than 100 volunteers, guided by PETCO and Plastics SA, embarked on the island’s biggest ever waste collection drive. The event comes amid continued warnings that litter is growing faster than the human population. In Cape Town, the amount of litter washing up on the city’s beaches increased by 300 per cent between 1994 and 2012 alone.



Shoprite Group incentivises customers to use recyclable bags. The new 100% recyclable plastic bags cost R3, and each time a customer re-uses the bag they will receive 50 cents off their grocery purchase. Shoprite also said their packaging of broccoli, cauliflower, baby marrows, gems, and fruit packs will switch to fully biodegradable and compostable containers from November. Hopefully Shoprite will educate their customers to avoid getting the biodegradable packaging into the plastic waste stream and how to compost it instead at home.



Organic waste bans to landfill on the way. A pioneer amongst provinces in the waste management sector, the Western Cape government is requiring a 50% diversion of organic waste from landfill by 2022, and 100% ban from 2027. Municipalities and private landfill owners will have to start setting annual targets and procedures to meet these requirements. The ban will also put pressure on generators and managers of organic waste now sending it to landfill, to steadily reduce or prevent organic waste in the coming years.



For the provincial government statement, see <https://tinyurl.com/y74ov3nv>

WasteCon presentation papers on recycling. Some of the papers on recycling that were presented at WasteCon included: 'Incentivised recycling and its application in the South African context' by L Potgieter; 'The potential for composting in medium-density urban households in South Africa' by M Else and R du Plessis; 'Sustainability of waste management recycling: a case study of Paarl' by L Rossouw and R du Plessis. If you're interested in a copy, mail: hugh@greenedge.co.za



DEA Municipal S@S Report calls for guidelines instead of by-laws



DEA has completed its study on the status quo of municipal separation-at-source programmes around the country. The consensus is that guidelines should be available to assist municipalities to implement S@S systems rather than making them mandatory through by-laws. Also that a supportive environment could be created through the packaging industry's EPR plans. For DEA's presentation on the report outcomes, contact Boitumelo Dlamini on BSDlamini@environment.gov.za

Cape Town representatives of ACEN, Africa's circular economy network organisation (acen.africa), will be joining this year's DIF online conference on 15th November (10:00 GMT) together with colleagues from Rwanda, Morocco and Nigeria on the theme of 'Africa: Can It Become a Circular Continent'. For more visit: thinkdif.co



Produced by GreenEdge, marketing and communication specialists to the waste management and recycling industry. Send your comments and contributions to: hugh@greenedge.co.za

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