



WMRIG

Western Cape



WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP

Newsletter October 2016

WMRIG Food Waste Seminar-Expo



At the registration desk

'Food Waste – The Forgotten Waste Stream' mini-expo and seminar was held on 15 September at the Tygervalley Nature Reserve. The event drew 76 participants to hear a range of speakers on an increasingly important topic. Alison Davison of the City of Cape Town dealt with the success achieved by the City with its home composting kits which were distributed to over 5 000 households across the metro, with many requests for more from ratepayers.

Eddie Hanekom from the Department of

Environmental Affairs spoke of the need to divert organic waste, which currently makes up 38% of the waste stream, from landfill. This he said could be achieved through setting targets to stimulate the organic

waste industry. Melanie Ludwig from

Zero to Landfill Organics (at right) was

the final speaker and detailed the practical aspects of

transporting and processing organic wastes. The presentations

are online at: [http://www.iwmsa.co.za/waste-minimisation-and-](http://www.iwmsa.co.za/waste-minimisation-and-recycling-interest-group-wmrig)

[recycling-interest-group-wmrig](http://www.iwmsa.co.za/waste-minimisation-and-recycling-interest-group-wmrig) Click on 'Past Event Presentations'



Sweden to give tax breaks for repairs

The Swedish government aims to tackle 'throw-away culture' by giving tax breaks on the costs of repairs to everyday items, from bicycles, clothes and shoes to washing machines, fridges and ovens. This will also encourage the home-repairs service industry, providing much-needed jobs. It will also encourage sustainable consumption and reduce waste to landfill.



Cape Town gets state-of-art MRF/waste-to-energy plant

Long-standing local firm WasteMart is in partnership with other companies to install a large waste recovery facility on their premises. Covering several rugby fields in extent, it will take in household solid waste for separating out recyclables before processing the remainder into biogas and refuse derived fuel. WMRIG is planning its next event at the new plant in the new year and will keep our members posted on the date.



Wastecon 2016

The industry's bi-annual waste management and recycling conference and exhibition came and went during October at Emperor's Palace in Johannesburg. The keynote address cautioned government against major policy changes before getting the stats right which would underpin such policies. The recent issuing and retractions of government gazettes on industry waste management plans highlights the charged atmosphere between industry and state over policies, which if implemented could result in unintended consequences impacting negatively on the country's recycling economy.



Province pilots 'wastepreneurs' business support programme



A pilot involving 15 pre-selected small and micro waste entrepreneurs is being conducted on behalf of the provincial government to identify key challenges and constraints, and develop business skills support programmes for each one. Barriers and drivers regarding supply of material and accessibility to markets will also be part of the project. The aim is to improve business efficiencies, leading to increased recovery rates and job creation.

Edited and produced by [GreenEdge](#), marketing and communications service providers to the recycling and waste management industry. Send your snippets and comments to: hugh@greenedge.co.za.

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