



Image credit: The South African

NEW WASTE STRATEGY APPROVED

On 13 September 2020, the Minister of the Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, announced that Cabinet has approved South Africa's recently updated NWMS. This update to the 2011 NWMS includes a noticeable shift towards facilitating circular economy principles. In the context of waste, it remains very much aligned to the waste hierarchy. **Read more about the strategy [here](#).**

THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD LOSS AND WASTE VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT LAUNCHED

The Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) recently launched this agreement which commits food manufacturers and retailers to reducing food waste to achieve the United Nation's sustainable development goal (SDG) to halve global food waste by 2030. **Read the Minister's speech [here](#) or read more about the agreement [here](#).**



Image credit: Getty Images

STUDY SHOWS THAT REUSABLE PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS ARE BEST

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has released the findings of a life cycle sustainability assessment (LCSA) of 16 types of grocery carrier bags in South Africa. The study shows that reusable plastic carrier bags are the best option in South Africa, as they have a substantially better environmental and socio-economic performance compared to single-use bags – provided that consumers do reuse them. **Read the study [here](#).**



Image credit: Green Living



MANDATORY EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) FOR "PRODUCERS" IMMINENT

EPR has become increasingly central to the local waste management discussion. This follows as South Africa's waste generation continues to increase, with significant volumes still being diverted to already limited landfill space.

EPR is an efficient tool by which producers deliver their responsibility for the life cycle management of their products:

- Design of the packaging
- Choice of materials
- Manufacture for easy emptying/repair/dismantling/separation
- Usage by the consumer
- End of life management
- Uptake of recycled content

Earlier this year, the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries published for comment draft regulations and notices ([Draft EPR Regulations /Notices\) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 59 of 2008 \(NEMWA\)](#) proposing the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, as provided for in section 18, for waste products from select industrial sectors, namely lighting; paper, packaging and some single use products; and electrical and electronic equipment ("Priority EPR Sectors").

This legislation will affect all those in the packaging sector, and if you are in the sector you should be asking yourself: Am I a producer? If I am designated as a producer, what will my responsibilities be? What's it going to cost me? How should I be budgeting for EPR fees for next year? Which Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) should I join? **To read the latest Government Gazettes click more [here](#) and [here](#).**

THE COST OF LANDFILL IS INCREASING

The cost of disposing waste to landfill continues to be relatively low in South Africa compared to benchmarks in more developed economies. Nevertheless, organisations that generate waste still regard landfilling a costly overhead. This is most noticeable in the Western Cape, and especially in Cape Town. The City of Cape Town metropolitan continues to have the highest landfill gate fees for general waste in the country compared to the other seven metros. These landfill costs are expected to increase above inflation over the next couple years. Such increases strengthen the business case and reduce the risk for investors / businesses looking to invest / provide alternatives to landfill solutions to businesses based in Cape Town.

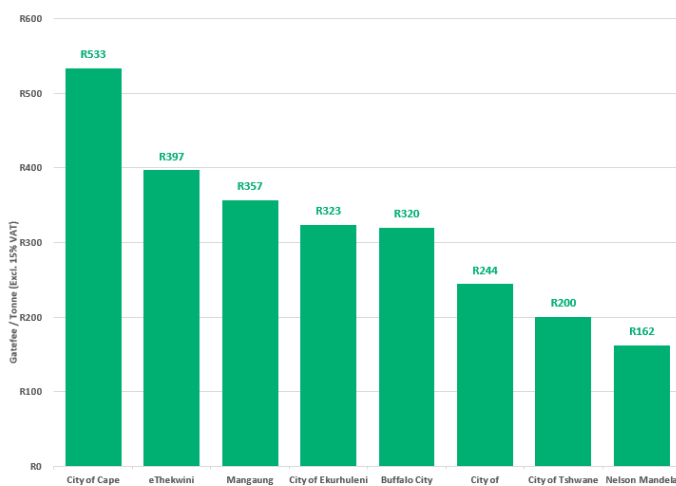


Figure 1: Landfill gate fees for general waste for South Africa's eight metros for 2020/21

Source: Respective metropolitan area tariff books for 2020/21L



Image credit: PETCO

CLEAN-UP AND RECYCLE WEEK 2020 A HUGE SOCIALLY- DISTANCED SUCCESS

The 2020 ICC and Clean-up and Recycle Week was a huge success this year with citizens and organisations hosting as many clean-ups as possible across the globe. Well done to to Plastics|SA for driving these initiatives locally. **See more [here](#).**

UPCOMING EVENTS



WMRIG WEBINAR: COVID: Its Impact on Waste Management 4 November 2020

More details to be sent
closer to the time.



**Wastecon: 9 - 11
February 2021**
Read more [here](#)

