



THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP

Newsletter – November 2012

WMRIG event – a chance to re-evaluate current practice

Three speakers from WasteCon 2012 in East London re-presented their conference papers at the WMRIG event on 24 October which gave local waste minimisation and recycling practitioners a chance to re-evaluate current waste management practice and consider diversified solutions. Aubrey Muswema of the CSIR offered a critique of Industry Waste Management Plans. Prof Harro von Blottnitz of UCT considered a systems approach to improve use of organic waste, while Jan Palm, of Jan Palm Consulting Engineers, asked if separation of waste at source is worth the cost. Presentations are available on the IWMSA WMRIG page <http://www.iwmsa.co.za/site-content/waste-minimisation-ig.html>



Aubrey Muswema explains a point about Industry Waste Management Plans.

National Organic Waste Composting Strategy

DEA national has initiated a strategy project to assist diversion of organic waste from landfill. The objectives are to:



- Assess national and international trends in organic waste treatment and composting and compile a literature review
- Identify and engage stakeholders to identify key issues
- Compile a situation analysis and needs assessment report
- Develop a National Organic Waste Composting Strategy.

To participate, or access the initiative's website go to www.jgi.co.za/stakeholder-registration-form or contact Gower-JacksonS@jgi.co.za

Polyco formed

Another partnership in the suite of plastic recycling industry associations has been formalised. Polyco will support the recycling offtake of plastics with codes 2, 4 and 5. Funding is raised through a voluntary recycling levy of R100 per ton of polyolefin polymer purchased by converters locally or imported. Polyco's goal is a collection rate of 35% by 2015. Current recycling rates (2009): PE-LD/LLD = 41%; PE-HD = 16%; PP = 19%. Sheryl Ozinsky has been appointed CEO. Visit: www.polyco.co.za

SAPRO Best Recycled Products Awards 2012

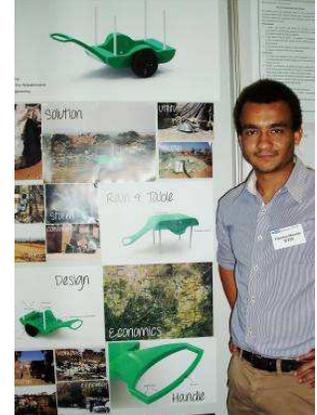


The Bottleworx Building System won the Judges' Special Mention (Merit) Award impressing judges with its unique building system based on re-using specially designed PET bottles of 500 ml, one and two litre volumes to fill and insulate walls.

Using an interlocking cubic design, Bottleworx transforms packaging into a multi-functional material after use. Empty containers are up-cycled as building blocks for a variety of functions including building houses, schools, clinics as well as bed bases, couches and educational toys.

Student design competition winner

The challenge - design a trailer attached to a bicycle, for use by waste collectors. University of the Witwatersrand, University of Johannesburg and the Tshwane University of Technology battled it out with Tiitseko Murray of Wits University Design Dept coming top, and pictured here with a poster about his recycling trailer.



Tyre recycling fight rolls on

A judgment compelling tyre producers to comply with an integrated tyre management plan approved by the minister of environmental affairs, is now being challenged in court. The judgement prohibits tyre producers, that do not belong to an existing waste tyre management plan, from manufacturing, importing, selling or distributing new, retreadable casings. REDISA, the organisation appointed by government to manage the plan, will charge manufacturers and importers a levy of R2.30 a tyre, to fund the operation. Its opposition, South African Tyre Recycling Process Company (SATRP), is applying for a court interdict to challenge the verdict.

What Kraaifontein MRF cannot recycle

These are the problem streams that currently go straight to landfill, so if you're in that area (or in any of the Think Twice recycling programmes), take note:



- Food trays/packaging polystyrene
- Any PVC
- Composite packaging - toothpaste tubes, dog food and washing powder bags, chip packets, chocolate wrappers
- Aerosol cans (fire risk; currently contaminants in the recyclables stream)
- Plastics without a symbol (or non code-marked— mostly domestic mixed bottles).

African Social Entrepreneurs Network recycling forum

This event was held recently where people from the recycling and other sectors met to tackle issues and develop networks to foster partnerships amongst non-profits, community initiatives, SMEs, business and government. For info see website www.asenetwork.org or contact Sabreen Parkar at sabreen@asenetwork.org.

Digital management platform for recycling rewards systems



TrashBack, a Cape Town non-profit, has designed an automated, secure technology for managing payment at recycling drop-off centres in low-income areas. The technology facilitates the management of personal accounts of those bringing in recyclables and distributing rewards. Activity is linked to the biometric fingerprint of the participant, allowing the value of recyclables collected and weighed at the drop-off to be added to personal accounts, and rewards to be redeemed in the form of secure vouchers exchanged for goods at participating local shops, or for airtime, electricity, taxi fares etc. For more information contact Andrew at andrew@trashback.org

Back-hauling for the future.

National retailers with Distribution Centres (DCs) in the greater Cape Town area are moving to back-hauling which has been pioneered by recyclJunction under MD Leisa Jones in the country's other major centres. The process sees retailers retaining control of the packaging resources they own, by not discarding them when the shelves are packed, but returning all cardboard and plastic material back to their DCs in their (previously empty) trucks. Here they are baled to enable efficient onward transport to a recycler. recyclJunction oversees the process which brings in revenue to retailers and makes major reductions in waste to landfill. For more information visit www.recycljunction.co.za

City Home Composting project

A report developed by Alison Davison of the City of Cape Town Solid Waste Department and Noel Johannessen on home composting methods has been put to Council. Initial research results are reported and recommendations for further pilot areas where more research can be undertaken. For the full report, contact Alison on Alison.Davison@capetown.gov.za

The WMRIG Committee wishes all members a festive season and a prosperous new year.

Produced by GreenEdge, marketing and communications specialists to the recycling industry.
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