

THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP

Newsletter - October 2013

WMRIG July 2013 Event: 'Valuing Recycling in Landfill Management'



The well-attended WMRIG event at University of Stellenbosch Business School with Grant Paterson, Gap Merchant Recyclers in the foreground.

The theme of WMRIG Western Cape's July event held at the University of Stellenbosch Business School premises was 'How to include recycling and realize its value in the costing of landfill management'.

Speakers included Barry Coetzee, Manager: Technical Strategic Support (Utility Services), City of Cape Town, Ronald Brown, Waste Management Services Engineer, Drakenstein Municipality, and Peter Silbernagl, lead waste consultant for Mott MacDonald PDNA. Participants debated challenges and opportunities in the waste management industry regarding true costing of landfill management.

Incentivizing recycling through text message points

A project based in Nigeria aims to incentivize recycling through text message points that can be exchanged for everyday items. It is encouraging citizens to separate plastic bottles and aluminium cans for collection by the startup's bicycle-powered trailers.

Families signing up for the scheme receive points sent to them via SMS depending on how many kilograms of recyclable material they hand over. Every three months, Wecyclers holds an event where customers trade their text message points for goods such as cell phone minutes, foodstuff and household items. The biggest recyclers can also win prizes like clothes and books. See: www.wecyclers.com



'Recycling Municipality of the Year' award for City



The City of Cape Town has been awarded the PET Plastics Recycling Company's (PETCO) 'Recycling Municipality of the Year' award in recognition of its ongoing efforts to minimise waste. PETCO aims to minimise the environmental impact of post-consumer PET.

Pictured: Rustim Keraan, Director of Solid Waste Services with Cheri Scholtz, CEO of PETCO.

Nike Shanghai Store Made From 100 Percent Trash



This store in Shanghai, China is constructed from ceiling panels made from 50,000 recycled CDs and DVDs whose origami design allows them to be shipped stacked and flat. Containing low volatile organic compounds (VOCs), their weight is less than half of that of an aluminum panel. The building's connection joints are made from 5,278 aluminum cans, and the 2,000 yards of tension cables are made from 2,000 post consumer recycled water bottles. The suspension ceiling system is designed to adapt to different

exhibition and retail requirements. Almost everything is adjustable to free the floor plan for future installation and lighting conditions. No glue is used to ensure all materials are 100 percent re-recycled.

Get yours fixed here

Repair Cafés are great events to get your vacuum, waffle iron, or lawn mower fixed. But their community-oriented learning spirit also contains the antidote to our modern day throw-away mentality. Conceived by Martine Postma, a Dutch journalist no longer willing to accept she had to throw things out that could easily be salvaged, the first Repair Café debuted three years ago in Amsterdam.

Since then there has been a spawning of Repair Cafés across Europe, and most recently to other parts of the world. Cape Town next? See for example <http://www.repaircafe-paloalto.org/>



South African Waste Snapshot

The Urban Earth South African Waste Snapshot collates recent information on waste in South Africa in an easy to understand way. Information for this Snapshot has been compiled using data from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and various non-profit recycling organisations in South Africa.

http://urbanearth.co.za/sites/default/files/urban_earth_sa_waste_snapshot.pdf

WISP Workshops

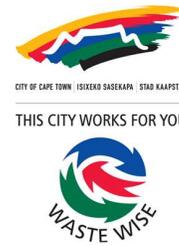
The Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme (WISP) held a workshop on 14 August as part of its mission to build mutually supportive networks of businesses to share and re-use resources (including waste by-products) amongst each other.



The workshop was attended by 41 companies and 590 potential matches were captured. A project of Province's GreenCape programme, more workshops are due to be held. Details about WISP at <http://green-cape.co.za/projects/>

WasteWise programme nominated for Eco-logic Award

The Cape Town Solid Waste Department's public education and outreach 'WasteWise' programme was nominated as a finalist in the Municipal category of the recent national Enviropedia Eco-Logic awards.



Turning waste into worth - innovation in pictures

From fishing nets turned into carpet tiles, shampoo sludge that becomes fertiliser and plastic bottles transformed into Brazilian football kits, waste is being re-used in innovative ways to create new products. This gallery pulls together some of the most interesting examples. See <http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/gallery/waste-to-worth-innovation-in-pictures?CMP>

New labeling system for recyclable materials



Major US brands including Best Buy, Clorox, Minute Maid, Costco Wholesale, General Mills and Seventh Generation are implementing a new labeling system to show the recyclability of packaging materials. Companies use four options including: 'Widely Recycled', 'Limited Recycling', 'Check Locally', 'Not Yet Recycled', and a "Store Drop-off" label for materials accepted at retail locations.. See <http://www.how2recycle.info/>

SAWasteInfo Centre (SAWIC) new website back on line

The South African Waste Information System (SAWIS) website was temporarily shut down from 30 June 2013 due to the changes of service providers for hosting and maintenance of the system. The website has changed from www.sawic.org.za to <http://sawic.environment.gov.za> For any queries contact Ms Nomcebo Dlamini on (012) 310 3605 or email at ndlamini@environment.gov.za

Next WMRIG Event – 17 October - at the Cape Chamber of Commerce.

Theme: 'Lead Cape Town – from waste compliance to waste excellence'. Save the date and watch your inbox for invitations and programme details.

Edited and produced by [GreenEdge](http://www.greenedge.co.za), communication and marketing specialists to the recycling industry. Send your updates, contributions and comments to: info@greenedge.co.za . Thanks to our sponsors:

