



## THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP

Newsletter - July 2014

### Snippets from WCapeRAG (Recycling Action Group) meeting on 19 June:

The provincial government Waste Directorate is lobbying for the Municipal Infrastructure Grant system to free up funds for waste management as it is not yet seen as a bulk service. Province is also supporting training for waste collectors in Cederberg and Caledonia. The CSIR is working on the waste pricing strategy for DEA. National government has set a target of 20% diversion from landfill by 2019, though WCape feels around 10-15% is more realistic.

Recovered paper fibre supply has dropped by 25-30% in SA due to digital information trends. Paper packaging has however increased by 8%. PlasticsSA is developing a toolkit with sample plastic types for educating recycling companies. The first bottle-to-bottle PET plant is starting production at the end of the year in Wadeville, Gauteng. A best-practice WCape municipal separation-at-source recycling survey has been completed by GreenEdge, sponsored by PlasticsSA's Sustainability Council.



Tedcor is managing an EPWP project to install infrastructure e.g. weighing pads. RecycleTech, a pyrolysis company is opening in Atlantis. A National Biogas Conference will be held in October in Cape Town. A Green Economy Finance Desk is being set up at GreenCape which is also doing an Effective Stakeholder Mapping study on waste management/recycling industry in the WCape.

### Plastic out of thin air



Dell has become the second high-profile US IT company to use an innovative plastic material from Newlight Technologies created by pulling carbon out of the air. Newlight recently announced a relationship with Sprint, under which it is making "carbon-negative" iPhone accessories. Dell's plan is to use AirCarbon for sleeves to protect their new Latitude series notebooks. More about the material at <http://www.newlight.com/aircarbon-thermoplastic.php>

### Mobile smelting unit makes useful items on the run

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, more than 80% of recyclables are collected by informal waste collectors known as Catadores. A local design studio helps the Catadores add extra value to their collected recycling with a mobile smelting unit. It runs off waste cooking fuel and burnable materials, allowing street collectors to melt down and mould old



aluminium cans into useful products, including outdoor stools. See how it all works at:  
<http://vimeo.com/76584800>

### American recycling network facing challenges



David Steiner, CEO of Waste Management, America's largest waste management and recycling company, spoke out about current challenges in recycling, including a changing waste stream, resulting in very different types of materials: a dramatic reduction in newspaper use combined with an increase in various types of plastics packaging. Recyclers are receiving half as much newspaper but an exponential growth in the volume and types of plastics, and more single-serve packaging. Many of the new types of materials weigh less, take more space in the recycling stream and don't have viable reuse markets. This new mix of materials has contributed to

dramatic increases in operating costs at recycling facilities, with a dilution in the overall value of recyclables to process.

### Discarded plastic becomes public art



A public art installation during Beijing Design Week turned discarded PET bottles into the Cola-Bow - a large-scale statement against plastic pollution made from steel mesh with PET bottles inserted in the gaps. University students who could swap 10 empty bottles for a full Coke, collected 17,000 bottles which was turned into a sculptural art piece that's become a popular meeting place.

### Next WMRIG Event - 21st August at UStell Business School - – Diarise now!

**' Extended Producer Responsibility in South Africa'** – ways and means for stimulating landfill diversion. Speakers from national DEA plus short presentation inputs from representatives of industry groups and associations. Questions to be addressed: What are the main challenges your industry faces in terms of EPR? What mechanism to stimulate EPR would be effective in your industry and why? How should EPR be championed and communicated to all industry? Make sure you're there for this topical event.

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

