

THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP

Newsletter - March 2013

Spur's Used Cooking Oil Powers Engines

Over a million litres of vegetable cooking oil used by the Spur Corporation across three of its restaurant operations in the Western Cape have been converted to biodiesel to power fishing vessels, trucks and mining equipment. The oil recycling initiative has been running for six years. Cooking oil waste is collected from restaurants once a week.

The company has also gone from plastic-intensive takeaway packaging to paper-based packaging and reduced ink coverage and colours on all packaging.
More at: <http://www.cbn.co.za/dailynews/6631.html>



Drop-Off Staff Make Funky Waste Art



The Kommetjie Drop-off Facility is changing the way drop-off facilities are perceived; offering well-maintained gardens with creative displays. As indicated by Quinton Isaacs, the foreman of this transformed facility, every piece of art displayed has been created from recycling that has been dropped off by the public. The green waste is replanted into beautiful, landscaped spaces punctuated with various crafts thoughtfully put together. In 2010, Kommetjie won the Best Drop-Off Facility Award, proving that one man's garbage is certainly another man's treasure! More: www.fullcirclemag.co.za

How Long Till It's Gone

An illuminating infographic poster shows how long many common materials take to degrade. A reality check that so many items with single uses remain for so long after they have been disposed of, often causing harm to the environment and wildlife. A Styrofoam cup takes 50 years to decompose in the ocean after disposal. See the infographic at: <http://www.greenhome.co.za/assets/how-long-till-its-gone.jpg>

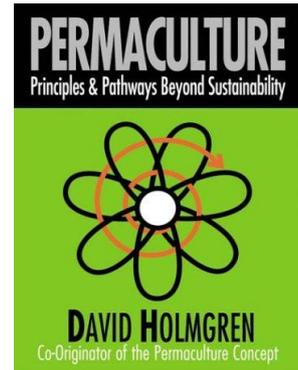


No Waste Song

After recognising a desperate need for people to stop talking about sustainability and start getting off their asses, West Australia permaculture troubadour, Charlie Mgee, grabbed his ukulele and came up with 12 songs covering each of the principles of permaculture from David Holmgren's book; *Permaculture: Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability*.

Listen at: *No Such Thing as Waste* -

https://soundcloud.com/formidablevegetable/06-no-such-thing-as-waste?utm_source=soundcloud&utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=email&utm_content=https://soundcloud.com/formidablevegetable/06-no-such-thing-as-waste



General Motors SA Sets Sights On Zero Waste



A worker at the baling machine in the GMSA Struandale Plants' recycling area which compacts and binds recyclable material before delivery to recyclers.

General Motors South Africa (GMSA) is focusing on reducing and eventually eliminating the amount of waste which gets sent to landfill sites over the next three years. In 2008 the amount of non-recyclable waste collected at GMSA's Port Elizabeth plants was measured at 34kg/unit. This has dropped to 9kg/unit.

More at:

<http://www.greenbusinessguide.co.za/general-motors-south-africa-aims-for-zero-landfill-waste-by-2015/>

Edible Fast Food Packaging



Bob's fast food chain in Brazil has made its packaging edible. In a promotion, burgers were wrapped in rice paper that can be eaten with the burger. Instead of unwrapping the food, customers can simply bite into the wrapped product.

The idea behind the campaign was to illustrate the irresistibility of the burgers, but there were no

wrappers left in the restaurant following the campaign, suggesting the concept could provide an environmentally-friendly solution to litter.



See: http://www.springwise.com/eco_sustainability/at-brazil-based-fast-food-chain-packaging-edible/

New York City May Ban Plastic-Foam Packaging

New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, is proposing a citywide ban on plastic-foam food packaging from stores and restaurants. He also plans to create a curbside food-composting pilot program. A plastic-foam ban on products including cups, trays and takeout boxes could save the city millions of dollars. Recycling plastic foam, which is not biodegradable, can cost up to \$20 per ton. New York is not the first city to try to restrict plastic-foam packaging. Similar laws have passed in [Los Angeles](#), San Francisco, Portland, Oregon and Seattle.



Full story at:

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/02/14/bloomberg-seeks-ban-on-plastic-foam-packaging/>

Inspiring Story of Worcester Recycling Entrepreneur

When presented with an opportunity, Petro van Wyk discovered her entrepreneurial ability. Within three years and without tertiary education or prior experience, she is running a growing recycling business in Worcester. See her story here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmdaxLt4ZsM>



Late Flash: For free legal updates, request the *Cameron Cross Newsletter* by e-mailing:

info@cameroncross.mcentre.co.za

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