



# WMRIG



Western Cape

## THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP

Newsletter - July 2015

### City offers free recycling bins to event organisers



A one-stop-shop is now available where free recycling bins and refuse bins are available to event organisers within Cape Town, provided they are collected at depots in Woodstock, Schaapkraal, Bellville or Kuils River. Event organisers must contract an accredited recycling service provider to manage the recycling operation, sort the recyclables and transport them for on-sale, or to one of the City's drop-off sites. Statistics of recyclables recovered also have to be submitted. To apply for recycling bins for events, contact [Chantel.erlank@capetown.gov.za](mailto:Chantel.erlank@capetown.gov.za) well ahead of time.

### Pontiff punts circular economy

Pope Francis asserted recently: "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth." The head of the largest Christian church has a handle on the issues, saying that, "Our industrial system, at the end of its cycle of production and consumption, has not developed the capacity to absorb and reuse waste and by-products.

" We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them. "

A timely message going out to the more than 1.2 billion Roman Catholic Church members worldwide.



### SA Plastics 2014 statistics

In 2014, 22.5% of plastic waste produced in South Africa was recycled, compared to 20% the previous year (the same total as 2013). 32.9% of all plastics packaging material was recovered. Post-consumer materials still provide the most recyclables with 62.7 % of all materials recycled coming from this source. A further 17.2% originated from post-industrial sources.

## US recycling rate plateau



The latest U.S. EPA report ([here](#)) shows their 2013 national recycling rate at 34.3 percent, barely below the 2012 rate of 34.5 percent. This doesn't indicate consumer apathy or declining rates but a changing packaging scene according to The Recycling Partnership which assists US municipal recycling programs. Lightweight, plastics-based packaging is replacing heavier, more easily recyclable paper and glass packaging. Plastics generation increased from 13 per cent to 27 percent since 2000, while paper generation fell by 22 percent. In the same time, glass volumes decreased by about 10 percent.

## Marine Plastic Debris

The second African Marine Debris Summit at Kirstenbosch was recently convened by John Keiser and PlasticsSA as part of their ongoing support to help take responsibility and find solutions for plastic litter ending up on our coasts and oceans. Presentations on the sources, quantities, and effects of plastic pollution on sealife were delivered including one on biopolymers by a German expert. These can be accessed via: <http://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2015/06/18/2nd-african-marine-debris-summit/>. A new non-profit, the SA Marine Debris Network was formed to take the initiative forward, headed by the able Hayley McLennan.



Differently, 'The Plastic Age' a 17 min documentary featuring 'Happy' song musician Pharrell Williams, explores how the fashion industry is re-using some of the plastic spreading in the oceans. A worthy but glossy approach to the problem? The 60 second trailer has a link to the documentary, and is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wYANjrfaQ8>

## Increasing number of waste and recycling conferences

A higher level of interest in current and future trends on sustainable waste management and recycling is evident from the many conferences this year. So far there have been a DEA summit, Jozi/Pikitup Summit, a hi-tech trade expo earlier in Gauteng, with these yet to come: the '5th Annual Waste and Recycling Conference' (<http://recycling.co.za/> see Events) on 30-31 July in Joburg, African Waste Week, 1-4 Sept at the CTICC (<http://africawaste.co.za>), and the 1st IFAT Environmental Technology Forum 15 - 18 September in Joburg (<http://www.ifatforum-africa.com/>). Not forgetting the IWM's Landfill & Alternative Treatment Technologies conference in Tulbagh: <http://www.iwmsa.co.za/site-content/landfill-2011-8.html> in mid- September.

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