

THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP



WMRIG

INSPIRE, DISCOVER, TOGETHER – A WORLD WITHOUT WASTE

WMRIG WESTERN CAPE 2015-2016

WMRIG is an interest group of the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA)'s Western Cape Branch.



OUR VISION

WMRIG has a big vision:

“Inspire, Discover, Together – a World Without Waste”

In order to achieve our vision, we ask some challenging questions:

- Rethink - what is waste?
- How much of our current waste is better classified as a resource?
- In a circular economy, where waste of one process is a resource for another, how will the waste management industry change?
- What do we need to do to get there?

Our objectives are to:

- Promote all aspects of waste minimisation and waste prevention.
- Share best practice with all stakeholders within government, industry and academia, as well as the general public.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and best practice, as well as promoting networks within and beyond the waste industry as we transform towards a circular economy.
- Support research and community outreach in our ‘waste’/resource economy.
- Stimulate compliance with legislation and best practice standards as well as the movement of ‘wastes’ up the waste hierarchy with the ultimate result of diversion of waste from landfill.

WMRIG organises events and discussions on a range of topics pertinent to waste minimisation and recycling. Past events include, among others:

- *Integrating the informal sector and SMEs into municipal solid waste management in South Africa (in association with the CSIR)*
- *Extended Producer Responsibility in South Africa: where to from here?*
- *From Waste Compliance to Waste Excellence*

WMRIG is run by a committee of volunteers operating in the waste management and recycling industry. The committee comprises:

Alison Davison, vice-chairperson, City of Cape Town

Hugh Tyrell, communications, Green Edge Communications Consulting

Kirsten Barnes, chairperson, GreenCape

Lloyd Wallace, Jeffares and Green (co-opted)

Melanie Ludwig, Zero to Landfill Organics (co-opted)

Noel Adams, UCT Residences, and HomeyImpact (NPO) (co-opted)

Quinton Williams, treasurer, GreenCape

Reg Barichievy, SmartWaste

Riaan Burger, Chiron Chemistry

Tom McLaughlin, Woolworths South Africa (co-opted)

WMRIG distributes a quarterly newsletter for members with interesting articles on waste minimisation, changes in waste management legislation and other industry-related news.

For copies of our newsletters and presentations from past events, please [click here](#).

2015-2016 Events and Activities

OCTOBER 2015

WORKSHOP ON INFORMAL WASTE SECTOR INTEGRATION

Integrating the informal and formal waste management sectors is a key challenge to address in the South African context. The informal waste sector provides income opportunities for between 60 000 and 90 000 people in the country, and supplies up to 80% of post-consumer recyclables to recyclers.

CSIR, GreenCape and WMRIG convened a workshop looking at the challenges facing the informal sector, as well as inclusive models to support, develop and value the sector.

Prof Catherina Schenck of UWC, Prof Derick Blaauw of NWU, Linda Godfrey of the CSIR, and Suzall Timm of UCT presented on their research related to barriers experienced by the informal sector, the usefulness of co-operatives in the space, and the role of self and external regulation of activities in the sector.

Current models of informal sector engagement were presented by Harrington Street Buy Back Centre, PETCO, Polyco and WastePlan, while the City of Cape Town provided an overview of the City's role and plans regarding the informal sector. Spirited and insightful debate was enjoyed from ~40 attendees across academia, government, NGOs, as well as the formal waste management industry and representatives of the informal industry.

Some key points emerged from the discussion:

- There is a need for clarity on what we mean by integrating the informal sector, with a general consensus that integration cannot mean formalisation.
- Models to value and support the informal sector within the formal waste economy must be co-designed with the community, with rural and urban solutions needing to differ due to the differences in social dynamics.
- The most successful models have a strong social component with support offered for engagement with the formal sector, as well as providing training.

The insights gathered from the event will be collated with the ABI-DEA-CSIR colloquium on the same topic, in a briefing document prepared by the CSIR, in association with GreenCape. Insights will be posted on the GreenCape website in due course. Please [click here](#) for the event presentations.

APRIL 2016

DO THERMAL TECHNOLOGIES HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WASTE ECONOMY?

WMRIG Western Cape followed up a technology tour of the Kraaifontein pyrolysis plant with an event considering the question “Do thermal technologies have a role to play in the South African waste economy?” Dr Brett Cohen of The Green House facilitated the expert presentations from Sonja Boshoff of the University of Stellenbosch – an overview of thermal technologies for waste to energy applications, Anton Hanekom of PlasticsSA - thermal technologies and the plastics industry, and Tawanda Sango of GreenCape – selecting appropriate technologies for the job – a decision support tool for integrated waste management planning. Dr Jefry Pilusa of JG Afrika (was Jeffares and Green) and Prof Harro von Blottitz of UCT also joined the expert panel for discussion.

The main messages of the morning were that thermal technologies are not the silver bullet for our waste and energy problems. Maintaining the highest material value of our resources within the economy by reusing and recycling materials such as plastics allows repeated economic gain from the material and provides many jobs – eg the plastics recycling industry provides 53 000 jobs in the formal and informal sectors, with about 220 recycling companies.

Once a material can no longer be recycled, or is by nature non-recyclable, energy recovery by means of thermal technologies may be a viable option. It must be recognised that these technologies do not provide an energy solution; using all South Africa’s waste as a feedstock could only supply between 1 and 10% of our electricity demand. Certain industrial and health care risk wastes are generated in the large volumes these technologies require, and may (or can) not re-enter the economy through recycling, making these streams a good feedstock to explore for waste to energy technologies.

As we move towards a circular economy, where materials are minimised and retained within the economy as far as possible, thermal technologies may play a role in extracting value from residual wastes. However, we should keep in mind that the volume and composition of these residual wastes will in all likelihood change as the waste economy in South Africa transforms towards a ‘resource’ economy.

Please click [here](#) for the event presentations.

2016-2017 ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

The newly elected committee is:

Alison Davison, vice-chairperson, City of Cape Town

Anthea Fransman, Recycle 1st

Hugh Tyrell, communications, Green Edge Communications Consulting

Kirsten Barnes, chairperson, GreenCape

Melanie Ludwig, Zero to Landfill Organics

Noel Adams, UCT Residences, and HomeyImpact (NPO)

Quinton Williams, treasurer, GreenCape

Riaan Burger, Chiron Chemistry

Tom McLaughlin, Woolworths South Africa

Capitalising on the strengths of the WMRIG committee, events are being planned on organic waste strategies, the complexities of hazardous waste management as well as the challenges and opportunities within the informal waste sector.

Within our networks, WMRIG is able to draw on expertise in local and provincial government in waste management and economic development, as well as a range of industry sectors. As such, we look forward to a productive year of stimulating and supporting our waste (resource) industry towards minimization and efficient extraction of value from our waste streams. We see these events as significant in changing our trajectory as South Africa from a traditional consumption and disposal approach to our resources, towards a circular economy.

Developments within the policy and legislation space are once again expected in 2016/2017. WMRIG will be partnering with IWMSA Western Cape Branch to inform, and engage our members, as well as to collate industry comments on legislation and policy from a local to a national level: We expect the National Pricing Strategy for Waste Management Charges to be published in 2016, as well as the Waste Tyre Amendment Regulations, amendments to section 1 and schedule 3 of NEM:WA as drafted in the NEMLA Amendment Bill 2015 and a second draft of the Waste Exclusion Regulations.

Norms and Standards for the sorting, shredding, grinding, crushing, screening or baling of general waste should be published for comment in 2016/2017. This will be an important development for those industry members involved in collection, sorting and pre-treatment of general wastes, as these activities will no longer require a waste licence and associated environmental impact assessment process.

OUR 2015-2016 SPONSORS

We are grateful to our valued sponsors and are pleased to be associated with organisations making a positive impact in our waste industry.



“Jeffares & Green (J&G) is a South African consulting engineering and environmental consulting firm with a complement of some 300 staff comprising engineers, environmental scientists, specialist professionals and administrative staff working together with a common goal: to provide the highest quality of consulting engineering services for the benefit of the community and the

environment.”



“Neopak – packaging your progress from the inside out.”

“Neopak is the big, new name in the South African corrugated packaging industry, offering high

quality and cost effective corrugated packaging solutions. With modern ways of thinking, working and collaborating, Neopak creates innovative solutions for our clients’ businesses for the future and beyond.”



“PETCO (PET Recycling Company) was established in December 2004 with the specific objective of promoting and improving the waste management and recycling of postconsumer Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) products on behalf of all stakeholders in the PET industry in South Africa.

What began with one small project and a vision of voluntary financial support and commitment from the industry has resulted in the development of national networks for PET collection, sorting and recycling that places South Africa on a par, and indeed ahead of, many other countries.”



“POLYCO – The Polyolefin Recycling Company is a non-profit company (NPC) that was established in 2011 by the South African Polyolefin Plastic Packaging Converters. POLYCO’s mission is to reduce the amount of polyolefin packaging going to landfill by increasing the sustainable collection, recycling, recovery and beneficiation of polyolefin plastics (polymer identification codes 2, 4 and 5).”

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsor logos are displayed on all our communications, including quarterly newsletters and on invitations to at least two events per year, as well as included in an introductory presentation at all events.

Sponsors are welcome to display promotional materials and man a table at all WMRIG events.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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