

THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING INTEREST GROUP



WMRIG

INSPIRE, DISCOVER, TOGETHER – A WORLD WITHOUT WASTE

WMRIG WESTERN CAPE 2016-2017

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



OUR VISION

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

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:

- *New Horizons Energy site visit and seminar – domestic waste to energy; and going upstream from recycling to sustainability*
- *Food waste – the forgotten waste stream*
- *Do thermal technologies have a role to play in the South African waste economy?*

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

Anthea Fransman, Recycle First

Hugh Tyrell, communications, Green Edge Communications Consulting

Janine Basson, PETCO

Kirsten Barnes, chairperson, GreenCape

Melanie Ludwig, Zero to Landfill Organics

Noel Adams, The Humanitarians and HomeyImpact (NPO)

Reg Barichievy, SmartWaste (co-opted)

Riaan Burger, Chiron Chemistry

Sam Smout (GreenCape)

Tom McLaughlin, Woolworths South Africa

We thank Quinton Williams from GreenCape for his contributions as treasurer and enthusiastic committee member over a number of years. Quinton is moving on to contribute in other ways to the IWMSA's activities.

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](#).

2016-2017 Events and Activities

SEPTEMBER 2016

FOOD WASTE – THE FORGOTTEN WASTE STREAM

WMRIG held a mini expo-seminar on food waste with companies treating organic waste displaying their process and products to 76 enthusiastic attendees. The speakers of the day were Alison Davison (Head: Waste Minimisation, City of Cape Town) on the City's home composting project, Eddie Hanekom Director of Solid Waste at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the diversion of organic waste from landfill, as well as Melanie Ludwig of ZTL Organics on the collection and processing of organic streams.

Key points highlighted at the event were:

- Separation of organic material at source ensures a high quality organic product (be it compost or biogas etc), and preserves the quality of the dry recyclables, in particular paper and plastics.
- Post-consumer food waste constitutes the largest loss in the system, where food is allowed to spoil and is thrown away at household level, and also in the hospitality industry, with buffets being particularly 'costly' in terms of our food resources.
- The processing of organic waste is not without cost, and in taking responsibility, consumers can pay a reputable company to properly manage their waste and produce a useful product – there are many societal and environmental benefits from such practices!

FEBRUARY 2017

NEW HORIZONS ENERGY SITE VISIT AND SEMINAR – DOMESTIC WASTE TO ENERGY; AND GOING UPSTREAM FROM RECYCLING TO SUSTAINABILITY

On Thursday morning 10 March, WMRIG held a well-attended event which began at the New Horizons Energy plant in Athlone adjacent to WasteMart offices. Attendees were taken in groups of ten around the plant and then went on to nearby Edith Stephens Wetland Park where Yoav Shmulevich (at left) of New Horizons explained the plant and process in more detail. Hugh Tyrrell followed with a talk on taking a company upstream from recycling to sustainability. Snacks and networking then began in earnest and a good time was had by all. Presentations are available on the IWMSA website in the [WMRIG section](#).

APRIL 2017 – COMBINED INTEREST GROUP SEMINAR

WMRIG JOINED THE LANDFILL AND ALTERNATIVE WASTE TREATMENT INTEREST GROUP (LAWTIG) AS WELL AS THE COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT INTEREST GROUP (CTIG) FOR A FULL DAY SEMINAR:

TOWARD THE END OF WASTE: WISE RESOURCE USE IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

The three interest groups of the Western Cape Branch joined forces to deliver a full day seminar, designed around rethinking our waste economy as a circular economy.

The day kicked off with a presentation by Peter Legge of Peter Legge consulting, considering the closure and rehabilitation of landfills, from where we moved 'up' the value chain of waste, with a presentation by Peter Novella, Solid Waste Disposal, City of Cape Town, looking at the design of waste infrastructure (including transfer stations) to divert waste from landfill. As part of the 'waste ecosystem' developing towards extraction of maximum value from our wastes, Yoav Shmulevich of New Horizons Energy presented a case study of their Athlone plant, beneficiating municipal solid waste.

Taking a full value chain approach, Tawanda Sango of (GreenCape) described the income opportunities and potential to divert waste from landfill in the City of Cape Town by substituting 'recycled materials' for virgin feedstocks, limiting material imports, as well as re-cycling and re-manufacturing materials in the City, thereby limiting exports. Following which Jarrod Lyons of the Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme (WISP) spoke on the concept of industrial symbiosis, with case studies presented by Desmond Deary of Pallet Cycle, Julian de la Hunt of Claytile, and information supplied by Johann Wolmarans of STH Energy. Cathy Pineo of GreenCape rounded off the event with a glimpse into the potential of the bioeconomy in South Africa, which requires valuing and reconsidering our organic resources.

Please see some of the presentations on the Landfill and Alternative Waste Treatment Interest Groups' [website](#).

BEA JOHNSON OF ZERO WASTE HOME

WMRIG CO-SPONSORED THE ZERO WASTE HOME EVENT AT THE TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM

Bea Johnson and her family (two adults and two children) generate less than 1L of solid waste every year. Bea shared her wisdom and inspiration towards a zero waste lifestyle, and has published a book called 'Zero Waste Home'. Please see Bea's website [here](#).

2017-2018 ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

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 2017/2018. 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.

Important legislation was promulgated and drafted in 2016/2017, including:

- the draft norms and standards for the sorting, shredding, grinding, crushing, screening or baling of general waste was published for comment in 2016/2017. This is 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. Comments were submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs regarding certain overly onerous conditions that may make the norms and standards more costly than a waste licence. For details of the comments submitted, please contact Kirsten Barnes on kirsten@greencape.co.za.
- The [draft regulations](#) for the exclusion of waste streams from the definition of waste were published on the 1 June 2017. All WMRIG members who would like to submit comments on this draft, please mail Kirsten Barnes on kirsten@greencape.co.za.

It's also important to note that the [NEM:WA: Waste Classification and Management Regulations](#), as well as both associated norms and standards – for the [assessment of waste for landfill disposal](#), and for [disposal of waste to landfill](#), came into effect as of August 2016. As part of the norms and standards for disposal of waste to landfill, hazardous waste electric and electronic equipment was banned from landfill as from August 2016, while “pesticides other than the POPs pesticides listed under the Stockholm Convention”, “re-usable, recoverable or recyclable used lubricating mineral oils, as well as oil filters, but excluding other oil containing wastes”, and hazardous waste with a calorific value of more than 25MJ/kg, will all be banned from August 2017.

OUR 2016-2017 SPONSORS

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



“JG Afrika (previously Jeffares & Green) 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).”



“Sappi is a global company focused on providing dissolving wood pulp, paper pulp, paper-based and biorefinery solutions to its customers in over 150 countries.

As a company that relies on renewable natural resources, sustainability is at our core. Achieving ambitious sustainability targets helps us deliver the highest quality products and solutions.”



“Wastebusters provides responsive and reliable solid and liquid waste management, removal, disposal and advisory services to the marine engineering and ship repair industries, commercial and industrial enterprises, public sector organisations and private households in accordance with national and local legislative and regulatory requirements.”



“As **Woolworths**, we’ve made a commitment to care for the environment, our people and communities. We call it our Good Business Journey.”

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

KIRSTEN BARNES
CHAIRPERSON



Tel 021 811 0250
kirsten@green-cape.co.za

ALISON DAVISON
VICE-CHAIRPERSON



Tel 021 400 4580
alison.davison@capetown.gov.za