



Institute of
Waste Management
of Southern Africa
MEDIA RELEASE

IWMSA celebrates top green honours for Eastern Cape Companies

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Last night (25 February 2010), at a gala dinner in Port Alfred, the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA)'s Eastern Cape branch in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA) awarded top honours to Organisations in the Eastern Cape who entered their **Top Green Organisation's Awards 2009**.

There were three main categories and Mercedes Benz South Africa walked away with this prestigious award for the category, *Large and Mid-sized Organisations with a High Environmental impact*. Good Year South Africa proved their mettle in the *Large and Mid-sized Organisation with a Medium Environmental impact* category, and *Small Organisations with a Low Environmental Impact* category was won by Merrifield Preparatory School and College.

Deidre Nxumalo-Freeman, IWMSA Eastern Cape Chairman indicated, "we are proud to be setting the standard and example in the industry. The awards have evolved over the years since its inception in 2007, and we are very proud that these awards with the inclusion of the new categories are now aligned to similar international award schemes and renaming the awards to Top Green Organisations Awards aligns to the terminology used in the ISO-14001 Environmental Management standard. This means that the awards are all inclusive and organisations regardless of size or industry, even schools, are able to enter. We are very grateful for our partnership and the tremendous support that we receive from DEDEA."

"Judging the competition was very difficult this year, and the results were extremely close. Innovation and sustainability of environmental projects undertaken at the various organisations as well as the organisations' environmental track record particularly related to compliance with environmental legislation played key elements when it came to the judging. With DEDEA as a key partner it was critical that organisations shortlisted, complied with pertinent environmental legislation." Nxumalo-Freeman continues.

What impressed the judges about the Mercedes Benz South Africa plant in East London was that all levels of employees were involved in the environmental issues. Environmental management has become part of the daily way of doing things at the plant, which is evident from the various forums involved in managing the environmental impacts of their operations. The company applies the same

stringent environmental standards to all of its plants internationally, meaning that its European plant and South African operations are expected to achieve similar levels of environmental performance.

Goodyear South Africa's involvement of top management who showed a particular interest in waste management and supported waste minimisation initiatives particularly impressed the judges.

When it came to the *Small Organisations with a Low Environmental Impact* category judges were impressed by Merrifield Preparatory School and College's use of grey water for gardens, their recycling initiatives where source separation is practiced, eradication of alien vegetation and their composting operation.

Other award winners included: Khangela Hygiene and Industrial Services who were the first runner up and Waste Trade Company the second runners up in the category Large and Mid-sized Organisations with a High Environmental impact. In the Category Large and Mid-sized Organisations with a Medium environmental impact, Eveready was the first runner up, and Airports Company South Africa: East London the second runner up.

Apart from the prestige of winning this award each of the finalists also receive a detailed audit report. Nxumalo-Freeman indicated, "this competition originated at the IWMSA KwaZulu Natal branch. We hope to extend the competition's footprint to the rest of the country in the near future. We are excited about the growth of this competition, and look forward to the competition again next year – it is important for companies, organisations and schools to realise that it doesn't matter how large or small you are, you can make a difference, and what better way to be recognised for your efforts through a Top Green Organisation's Award for your contribution."

The Eastern Cape is well on its way of setting the example for the rest of South Africa in becoming the greenest Province. For more information on the competition and to get involved next time contact: IWMSA's Eastern Cape branch at: (043) 721 0598, e-mail: eciwmsa@vodamail.co.za or visit www.iwmsa.co.za

About the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa - The IWMSA is a professional, multi disciplinary organisation with voluntary membership established to promote the science and practice of waste management and is a non-profit organisation. For more information contact the IWMSA's Eastern Cape branch at: (043) 721 0598, e-mail: eciwmsa@vodamail.co.za or visit www.iwmsa.co.za

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Media contact:

Regine le Roux

Mobile: 083 302 1528

e-Mail: regine@reputationmatters.co.za

on behalf of the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa