



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Eastern Cape organisations receive top green accolades

Immediate Release

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*Caption: Volkswagen South Africa (VWSA), Coega Development Corporation (CDC), Transnet National Port Authority (TNPA) Port of Ngqura, The Waste Trade Company and Uitenhage Despatch Development Initiative (UDDI) walked away with the highest accolades at the Eastern Cape Top Green Organisation Awards. The awards, coordinated and sponsored by the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) and the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA), took place in November at The Venue in Hemingways, East London. Above: Simon Zakhele from VWSA.*

Every two years, organisations in the province are encouraged to participate in the Top Green Organisation Awards. The prestigious gala banquet was a resounding success with truly green companies receiving platinum, gold, silver and bronze awards.

Member of the Executive Council at the DEDEAT, Honourable Sakhumzi Somyo, explains, “The aim of these awards is to promote and recognise the achievements of organisations that comply with legislation and govern responsible environmental management practices in the Eastern Cape. It also provides a hub for fostering better relationships between government, industry, business and other organisations.”

The President of the IWMSA, Dr Suzan Oelofse adds, "By competing, industries are enabled to tackle environmental management issues. This year's entrants showcased excellent and innovative practices, resulting in maximising environmental resources while improving air quality, energy efficiency, water usage, and reducing, reusing or transforming waste into a resource."

VWSA, winner of the large organisation with high environmental impact category, was applauded for their approach to cleaner production and the degree to which their environmental targets are directed to all areas in the business.

CDC and TNPA Port of Ngqura shared first place in the medium-size organisation with high environmental impact category. CDC was recognised for their processes to ensure tenants comply with permit requirements. Port of Ngqura was commended for their commitment to fauna and flora management as well as being a poison-free port.

The Waste Trade Company, winner of the medium-size organisation with medium environmental impact category, was acknowledged for their extensive school and community programmes, and dedication to environmental education.

UDDI walked away with first prize in the small organisation with low environmental impact category as a result of their impressive Eco Hub model. The Eco Hub model includes nursery incubation, vegetable and medicinal plant production, recycling of waste, compost making, arts and crafts.

Somyo says that the Top Green Organisation awards were essential in fostering and nurturing a progressive society that protects the unique Eastern Cape environment. "These awards are not centred on enforcement but rather to develop capabilities and demonstrate leadership as the hub of a green economy."

"Through the partnership of the DEDEAT and the IWMSA's Eastern Cape Branch, we are moving towards embracing the importance of environmental sustainability," concludes Oelofse.

The judging process included a site visit and audit, which was conducted by DEDEAT and included an independent auditor.

There were four categories; the official list of winners included:

**Large Organisation High Environmental Impact:**

- Winner and Platinum award - Volkswagen Group South Africa (VWSA)
- Runner up (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Platinum award - Mercedes Benz South Africa (MBSA)
- Runner up (3<sup>rd</sup> place) and Platinum award - General Motor of South Africa (GMSA)
- Certificate of participation and Gold award - Goodyear South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

**Medium Organisation High Environmental Impact:**

- Winner and Gold award - Coega Development Corporation
- Winner and Gold award - Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) Port of Ngqura

- Runner up (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Silver award - Langkloof Bricks
- Runner up (3<sup>rd</sup> place) and Silver award - East London IDZ SOC Ltd
- Certificate of participation and Bronze award - Sunningdale Dairies

**Medium Organisation Medium Environmental Impact:**

- Winner and Gold award - The Waste Trade Company
- Runner up (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Silver award - FloorworX Africa (Pty) Ltd
- Runner up (3<sup>rd</sup> place) and Silver award - CHEP South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Port Elizabeth)
- Certificate of participation and Silver award - Ronnies Motors

**Small Organisation Low Environmental Impact:**

- Winner and Bronze award - Uitenhage Despatch Development Initiative (UDDI)
- Runner up (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Bronze award – Kabega Primary School
- Runner up (3<sup>rd</sup> place) and Bronze award – Stirling Primary School
- Certificate of participation and Bronze award – Urban Gardens

For more information on the IWMSA, visit [www.iwmsa.co.za](http://www.iwmsa.co.za). The IWMSA is also on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/iwmsa](http://www.facebook.com/iwmsa)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/IWMSA](http://www.twitter.com/IWMSA)). For more information on the DEDEAT, visit [www.dedea.gov.za](http://www.dedea.gov.za).

*More images available*

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