

This issue

The Waste Information Today

Quarterly newsletter is aimed at communicating the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Branch: **Chemicals and Waste Management projects**



Regulations for import and export of waste **P1**

National Organic Waste Composting strategy **P1 - P2**

Update of the 3rd Waste Management Officer' khoro **P2-3**

International Ozone layer day **P3**

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REGULATIONS FOR EXPORT AND IMPORT OF WASTES AND NEAR END OF LIFE GOODS

The Department had a 2nd Stakeholder workshop on the 9th of November 2012 to present the draft Regulation on import and export of waste and near end of life goods. The draft regulations will provide the basis on which to develop legislation and standards to manage imports and exports of wastes and near end of life goods. The Regulation will also provide certainty to industry on current import and export matters related to waste and near end of life goods. SA through the DEA is a signatory to the Basel Convention for environmentally sound management of waste, ensuring management of waste are done as close as possible to the source of generation including control of transboundary movement of hazardous waste and other wastes.

The purpose of the draft Regulation is ensure that only wastes/near end of life goods useful to the country are imported, set the conditions under which these goods can be imported to ensure maximum usage and ESM when goods reach the end of their useful life, ensure that wastes are not exported purely for commercial benefit, especially where the country has ESM and provide direction for the development of legislation and standards for the import and export of wastes and near end of life goods.

The National Organic Waste Composting Strategy

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is currently developing a National Organic Waste Composting Strategy (NOWCS) to promote the diversion of organic waste from landfill sites for composting. To this effect Jeffares & Green (Pty) Ltd was contracted to facilitate the development of the strategy. The objectives of this project are as follows:

- To assess the current national and international trends in organic waste composting and compilation of a literature review report that will inform the strategy;



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- To identify and engage all stakeholders that play a role in the management of waste in order to identify problems, needs and key issues associated with organic waste management;
- To compile a situation analysis and needs assessment report that captures the status quo with respect to organic waste generation and management; and
- To develop a National Organic Waste Composting Strategy.

So far a Literature Review Report and a Status Quo Report have been developed. The Status Quo Report has identified the major organic waste generators and determined the quantity of organic waste generated in the country, as well as identifying the available technologies and methods for composting organic waste, amongst other findings. Included in the findings of the Status Quo Report are the challenges and opportunities for composting organic waste and the potential markets for organic composts, as well as the associated job opportunities.

The draft National Organic Waste Composting Strategy will be made available for public comment as early as the first week of January 2013. Enquiries related to this project should be forwarded to: Stuart Gower-Jackson on (011) 807 0660 or stuart@jgi.co.za

THE THIRD WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICERS' KHORO "CREATING JOBS AND INCREASING EFFICIENCIES IN THE DELIVERY OF WASTE SERVICES"

On 08-09 October 2012, the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi hosted the 3rd Waste Management Officers' Khoro at the International Convention Centre in East London, Eastern Cape. One of the highlights of the event was the launch of the National Waste Management Strategy by the Deputy Minister, who described the document as a milestone in the process of implementing the Waste Act and establishing an integrated approach to waste management across government and the broader society.

The 3rd Waste Khoro intended to build on the deliberations of the 2011 Waste Khoro, and consequently focused on the following discussion topics:

- Institutional arrangements for waste management in local government
- Full cost accounting and efficient budgeting for waste services
- Promoting recycling and separation at source
- Accelerating public awareness on waste
- Best practice in management of waste disposal sites
- Mainstreaming Youth jobs in waste management.
- Maximising the Integrated Waste Management Planning regime.



NATIONAL WASTE INFORMATION BASELINE REPORT FINALISED

In 2011 the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) commissioned a study for the development of the National Waste Information Baseline report. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was appointed to conduct the study. The project commenced in May 2011 and was completed in November 2012.

Two stakeholder consultation workshops were conducted on June 9 2011 and 20 June 2012 respectively. The aim of the initial workshop was to identify the relevant stake holders and to secure their full participation in terms of providing the required information. The second workshop was mainly to provide a platform for the identified stake holders to discuss and verify the data provided as well as the findings of the study.

The report provides a national baseline on the tonnages of waste landfilled, recycled and treated in South Africa, since the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS) is not fully operational, there is therefore the general lack of accurate waste data in South Africa. For more information, please contact Mr. Donald Sehaswana at Dsehaswana@environment.gov.za

The conference succeeded in drafting the Programme of Action which can be accessed at www.wastekhor.co.za, together with other documentation for the conference. It is anticipated that the 4th Waste Khoro will be held in the Kwazulu Natal Province. For more information kindly contact Amanda Dana at adana@environment.gov.za or Mashudu Nevuvha at mnevuvha@environment.gov.za.

South Africa celebrates the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer under the theme “Protecting our atmosphere for generations to come”

The 16th September of each year has been marked as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to commemorate the 16 September 1987, when a group of twenty-four countries came together and signed the initial Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer. The year 2012 marks the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and to date, 197 countries have signed the Protocol, thus making it the first environmental treaty to achieve universal ratification.

The Department of Environmental Affairs celebrated this day on the 18th September in Stadt Primary School in Mafikeng, North-West Province of South Africa. The theme for the 2012 celebrations was “**Protecting our atmosphere for generations to come**”. In light of this theme, the Department organised this awareness raising event to ensure that pupils are aware of the dangers associated with ozone depletion and how they can be protected against Ultra-violet (UV) radiation caused by the depletion of the ozone layer. The awareness event was graced by the Honourable Deputy-Minister of Environment and Water Affairs: Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi, the Premier of the North-West Province: Ms Thandi Modise, MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (North-West Province): Ms Rosho and other delegates.

The Ozone Layer is an invisible shield which protects us from the harmful effects of the sun's rays known as ultra-violet rays, occurring about 15-50 km above the earth's surface. Scientists have observed that this ozone layer is thinning especially in the polar region of Antarctica because of increased use of ozone depleting substances or chemicals by human beings. Such chemicals include Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), Methyl bromide, Halons, and other chemicals that are used in refrigerators, spray cans, air conditioners and foam blowing agents and solvents. Once these chemicals reach the atmosphere, they destroy the ozone layer, therefore allowing ultraviolet rays to reach the surface of the earth and causing harm to terrestrial and marine life.

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