

# SCRAP METAL FACT SHEET.

Scrap metal is defined as a small piece or amount of metal, especially one that is left over after the greater part has been used or can be seen as a discarded metal for reprocessing.

Steel is the world's most recycled material, and can be recycled again and again without reducing the quality of the end product. Making steel from recycled material uses only 25% of the energy needed to make steel from raw materials.

None of us like stumbling upon dumped scrap metal when we go for a bushwalk or stroll around our neighbourhoods. All South Africans can play a significant role in reporting illegal dumping and recycling scrap metal.

Recycled scrap metals can be ferrous or non-ferrous. Ferrous metals and alloys contain iron; non-ferrous materials do not



- Reducing the need to dig for virgin materials conserves soil integrity and wildlife habitats.
- Save energy: recycled products require less energy to manufacture thus conserving oil and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduces costs of sourcing raw materials: these savings should be passed on to the consumer in reduced prices.

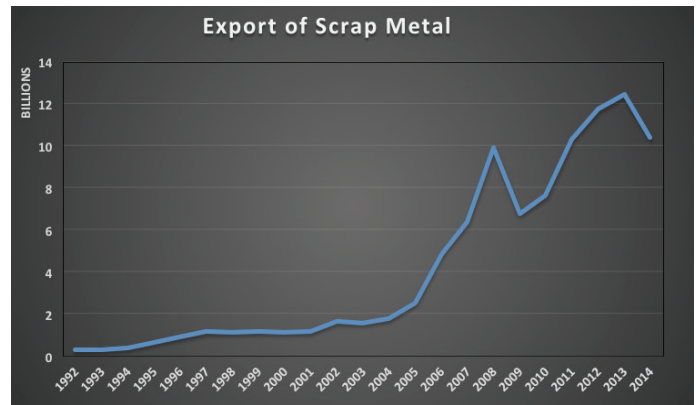


Figure 2: Export trends of scrap metal from South Africa

Figure shows that South Africa exported more 12 Billion Rand worth of scrap metal to foreign markets which indicates that South Africa recycles a small portion of the scrap metal for local use.

## ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH HAZARD

When scrap metal is dumped in the environment, car bodies can leach toxic chemicals from oil, petrol, diesel, battery acid, coolants and transmission and brake fluids. Cars dumped in rivers can become lethal traps for swimmers and for wildlife and scrap metal dumped in the bush can spontaneously combust causing wildfires.

Illegal dumping sites tend to attract additional litter compounding the original problem.

Most people dump rubbish to avoid waste disposal charges or to avoid the inconvenience of organising waste removal or taking rubbish to the waste management facility.

## POTENTIAL FOR RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

Recycling scrap metal means that we avoid the environmental costs of dumped rubbish and the risk of it leaching toxic chemicals into groundwater at landfill sites. In addition, we avoid the cost of taking rubbish to the waste management facility. Scrap metal can be recycled at local council refuse stations, through on site pickups or at scrap metal merchants or sellers.

## Benefits of Recycling Scrap Metal

- Conserve valuable natural resources and raw materials.
- Avoid air and water pollution: using recycled materials generally creates less pollution.
- Save landfill space by closing the loop. Recycling also ensures materials don't become litter!

## DETAILS OF INDUSTRIES THAT RECYCLE SCRAP METALS

These are just few industries that can be contacted in regards to scrap metal recycling and there are many more in the internet.

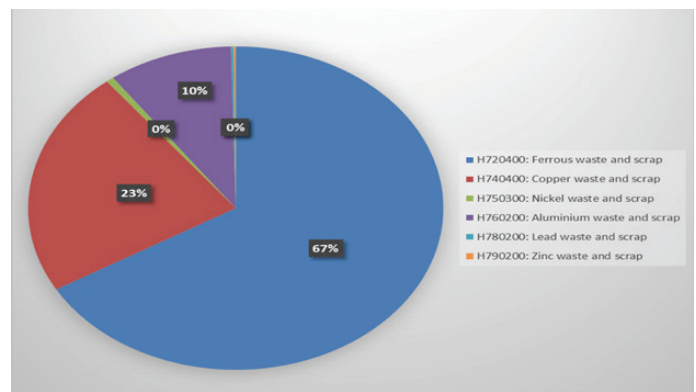


Figure 3: Percentage breakdown of scrap metal exported for 2014

Ferrous scrap metal made 67% of scrap metal exported from South Africa followed by copper at 23%.

## METAL RECYCLING ASSOCIATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Please contact the following associations for more information on scrap metal recycling in South Africa

1. Metal Recyclers Association of South Africa

Email: [info@mra.co.za](mailto:info@mra.co.za)

Postal Address: PO Box 1502, Pinegowrie, 2123

2. Recycling Association of South Africa

Tel: +27 31 205 5774

Email: [info@rasa.org.za](mailto:info@rasa.org.za)

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS CONTACT DETAILS

Benny Sekgobela

Branch: Chemicals and Waste Management

Directorate: Hazardous Waste Management

Telephone No: +27 12 399 9816

Cell Phone No: +27 73 013 2943

Email Address: [BMSEkgobela@environment.gov.za](mailto:BMSEkgobela@environment.gov.za)

[www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)

Call Centre 086 111 2468

