

This issue

The Waste Information Today

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

ENQUIRIES

Mr Donald Sehaswana
Tel: +27 12 399 9831
DSehaswana@environment.gov.za

Mr. Jeremia Sibande
Tel: +2712 399 9832
JSibande@environment.gov.za

Department of Environmental
Affairs
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
ARCADIA
0083
South Africa

Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Call Centre:
086 111 2468

www.environment.gov.za
<http://sawic.environment.gov.za>



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The 5th Waste Khoro 2016

On 31st of May to the 1st of June 2016, The Minister of Environmental Affairs Ms Edna Molewa hosted the 5th Waste Khoro at the Coastlands Convention Centre, Umhlanga Rocks in Durban, KwaZulu Natal under the theme "Promoting Innovation and Upscaling Enterprise Development". The meeting was attended by delegates from government, industry, civil society and academia. Among the participants were the exhibitors that showcased their diverse waste management products and services.

The Waste Khoro is also a platform for all waste management practitioners, waste management officers and other related officials from the three spheres of government to share experiences and discuss challenges, possible solutions and opportunities with a goal of improving waste management in the country. This was done through panel discussions, parallel commissions and plenary sessions under these topics: Addressing the Waste management challenges, Research, development and innovation, Best practice technologies, Enterprise development.

Resolutions were approved and adopted at the closing session of the summit. Conference resolutions and Presentations can be obtained by visiting the SAWIC website on <http://sawic.environment.gov.za> under "Chemicals and Waste Conferences".

Waste Awareness Activities along the N1 route

In celebrating Environment Month, the DEA/SALGA conducted a pilot project on anti-littering and separation at source campaign for the motorists at the six (6) filling stations along the N1 route between Johannesburg and Pretoria which are Shell in Samrand, Caltex on New Road as well as BP Oasis on Beyers Naude.

The objective of the pilot is to curb the current waste challenge of littering, which is usually contributed by motorists along these routes. In addition to this, there is a lot of travelling taking place along these routes as people travel on a daily basis and the cars they travel in are bound at one point to stop at the filling stations to utilise the services there.

Senior Managers for Branch: Chemicals & Waste Management

Mr Mark Gordon

Deputy Director General: Chemicals
and Waste Management
Tel: 012 399 9758
Fax: 086 546 3477
Email:
MGordon@environment.gov.za

Mr Obed Baloyi

Chief Director: Chemicals
Management
Tel: 012 399 9843
Fax: 086 546 3477
Email: OBaloyi@environment.gov.za

Mr Kgauta Mokoena

Chief Director: Chemicals and Waste
Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation
Tel: 012 399 9825
Email:
KMokoena@environment.gov.za

Ms. Mishelle Govender

Chief Director: Hazardous Waste
Management & Licensing
Tel: 012 399 8993
Email:
MiGovender@environment.gov.za

Ms Mamogala Musekene

Chief Director: Integrated Work
Management and Strategic Support
Tel: 012 399 9407
Email:
MJMusekene@environment.gov.za

The main aim of the campaign is to facilitate and encourage good waste management practices by all citizens to eradicate littering.

At all participating filling stations, petrol pump attendants were noticed wearing bibs with anti-littering messages and also handing out promotional materials (pens and pencils) with anti-littering messaging to the motorists. Suggestion boxes are also placed next to the convenience stores at the filling stations for the community to write their concerns or to comment on waste management issues. The intention is to also have separation at source bins which have been strategically placed by the DEA at the filling stations that will be utilised by the public to start separating their waste on site. To date, there are some bins delivered at the participating filling stations and more are still to be delivered as part of this initiative.

The War on Waste can be won if all will take responsibility and participate in taking care of our environment.

For further information on this initiative contact Boitumelo Dlamini on 0123998794 or by via email on BSDlamini@environment.gov.za

Waste Characterisation Training underway

Waste characterisation is undertaken in order for a municipality to gain a better understanding of the types and quantities of waste that it generates. Waste characterisation is a snapshot view of what has been generated in that particular municipality in the last 24 hours. Furthermore, it provides some understanding of samples within a specific period and it is based on mass and not volume.

Numerous factors have to be borne in mind when undertaking waste characterisation such as seasonality i.e. summer vs. winter climate, and the sample conditions as these will influence the end results. Once this information is understood it is then easier for a municipality to develop waste diversion strategies that would allow it to divert problematic waste streams i.e. diverting organics from landfill as they are known to be a Green House Gas contributor and this could be done through composting and other alternative handling methods.

It is often said that “one cannot manage that which they do not know”, the same is true for waste management. Therefore waste characterisation presents an opportunity for municipalities to know the amounts and types of waste they generate and thus come up with waste minimisation, diversion, and Cleaner Production Strategies. Importantly, by having undertaken waste characterisation, municipalities would be armed with information at hand that can be used in the development of their IWMPs and thus ensure that these will be more practical as they will be talking to the challenges in practice.

To learn more about waste characterisation and the training schedule please contact Mr Malcolm Mogotsi, Director Municipal Waste Support on 012 399 9805, email: mmogotsi@environment.gov.za or Ms Thandeka Mandigora on 012 399 9811, email: tmandigora@environment.gov.za.



How are spent lead acid batteries (SLABs) regulated?

Spent lead acid batteries (SLABs) are regulated as waste in terms of the **National Environmental Management: Waste Act** (Act 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA) as amended. NEM: WA is the central piece of legislation that is core to the management of waste in South Africa. It regulates the management of waste in order to protect human health and the environment by providing reasonable waste management measures. Some measures which are identified in the Act and which may be relevant to the management of SLABs are detailed below:

The **National Waste Classification and Management Regulations** (GN R634 of 23 August 2013) prescribe the general duties for waste generators, transporters and managers in relation to the management of waste. These Regulations require generators of waste to classify the waste they generate and to prepare safety data sheets for the hazardous waste generated in accordance with SANS 10234. This implies that waste residues that are generated during the SLABs recycling process shall be classified and should the classification be hazardous, then safety data sheets shall be prepared.

The above Regulations were promulgated with two sets of **Norms and Standards for the Assessment of Waste for Landfill Disposal** and the **National Norms and Standards for the Disposal of Waste to Landfill** (GN No R635 and R636 of 23 August 2013). The former gives a procedure for the assessment of waste for landfill disposal, meaning that should the possible management option for the waste residue generated during SLABs recycling process be disposal, that waste shall be assessed in accordance with this procedure in order to determine the type of landfill in which the waste shall be disposed of. The latter imposes an immediate restriction to the disposal of lead-acid batteries (LABs) to landfills.

NEM: WA further empowers the Minister to publish a list of waste management activities which have or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the environment and specify the requirements for conducting such activities. Category's A & B list waste management activities which require a waste management licence whilst Category C lists activities which are regulated in terms of Norms and Standards. Currently there are three sets of Norms and Standards which may be relevant to the management of SLABs:

- **Standards for Scrapping or Recovery of Motor vehicles** (GN No 925 of 29 Nov 2013)
- **Norms and Standards for the Storage of Waste** (GN No 926 of 29 Nov 2013)
- **Norms and Standards for the Remediation of Contaminated Land and Soil Quality** (GN No 331 of 02 May 2014)

The above-mentioned Norms and Standards may, depending on the thresholds specified in these notices, apply to the recyclers of SLABs (secondary lead smelters), those that are temporarily storing SLABs and those that are allegedly draining the acid on the ground.

The **National Waste Information Regulations** (GN No R.625 OF 2012) regulate the collection of data and information to fulfil the objectives of the National Waste Information System (SAWIS) as set out in section 61 of NEM: WA. In relation to the management of SLABs, the Regulations require a person who generates, recycles, recovers, treats, disposes and exports hazardous waste to register such an activity to the SAWIS and report on a quarterly basis.

Internationally, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements and Disposal of hazardous waste and other wastes controls SLABs as hazardous waste and requires them to be handled accordingly in order to prevent harm to human health and damage to the environment. The import or export of SLABs is subject to the requirements of the Convention.