

## The Waste Information Today

Quarterly newsletter is aimed at communicating the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Chief Directorate: **Pollution and Waste Management projects.**



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## POLLUTION AND WASTE TEAM COMPLETES THE COUNTRY-WIDE ROADSHOWS ON THE WASTE ACT

The Pollution and Waste Management team were hard at work in the last few weeks conducting the Road shows on the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008). The road shows were undertaken in all 9 provinces as follows:

1. Free State- 28 Oct, Bloemfontein (President Hotel)
2. North West- 04 Nov, Pilanesburg (Bakgatla Lodge)
3. Limpopo- 09 Nov, Tzaneen (Fairview lodge)
4. Mpumalanga- 23 Nov, Mbombela (Ehlanzeni DMC)
5. Gauteng- 25 Nov, Johannesburg (Gallagher Estate)
6. Western Cape-30 Nov, Somerset West (Lord Charles)
7. Eastern Cape- 02 Dec, uMthatha (WSU Health Resources Centre)
8. KwaZulu-Natal- 07 Dec, eThekweni (Elangeni hotel)
9. Northern Cape- 09 Dec, Upington (Dessert Place)

The purpose of the road shows was to create awareness on the different provisions of the Waste Act which came into effect on 1 July 2009 as well as give stakeholders an opportunity to engage with the Department on various waste management issues. It was a joint venture with the 9 provincial environmental departments responsible for pollution and waste management hosted in at least one municipality. The participants came in numbers and included municipalities, other government departments, private sector, business, consultants, non government organisations, academic institutions and organised labour. This in essence confirms the fact that waste management is everyone's business. Robust discussions were held on issues relating to the waste management licensing process, contaminated land framework, waste information system, the National Waste Management Strategy, waste management regulations (plastic bags, tyres, and asbestos) and the revised waste classification and management regulations.



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Of key importance was the link with the provincial perspective or status quo in terms of compliance with the Waste Act and an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on solutions for various challenges which are facing the country on pollution and waste management.

This project was preceded by the Minister's launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> Waste Management Officers' Khoro on 15-16 September 2010 in Boksburg, Gauteng Province which was focused on government officials. The Department recognises the role played by all the stakeholders in the implementation of the Waste Act and is committed to ensuring that the doors for engagements and participation of the general public remain open.

## MINISTER PUBLISHES THE AMENDMENTS TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY LIST

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Bomo Edith Edna Molewa published the amended Waste Management Activity List in terms of section 19 (1) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No.59 of 2008) for public comment. Interested and affected parties have 60 days to send written comments to the Department on the proposed amendments. The reason for the amendments is to ensure smooth implementation of the licensing regime as well as encourage the movement of waste to other options other than disposal whilst promoting effective and efficient waste management. The Notice in this regard was published in the Government Gazette on 14 December 2010 Notice No 33880.

Written comments must be sent to Ms Khashiwe Masinga, Deputy Director: Waste Regulation and Policy, e-mail: [kmasinga@environment.gov.za](mailto:kmasinga@environment.gov.za).

## PROGRESS ON WASTE CLASSIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROJECT

The Department has been engaged in the review of the Waste Classification and Management System since March 2009 and this would culminate into regulations.

These said regulations are aimed at:

- Regulating the classification and management of waste in a manner that is efficient and consistent, and which supports and implements the provisions of the Waste Act;
- Consideration of higher order management options for waste in line with the waste management hierarchy.
- Establishment of a mechanism and procedure for the efficient approval of waste management activities, in order to facilitate waste minimisation and diversion of waste from landfill.
- Prescribing of the requirements for waste classification, waste categorisation, and assessment of the risk associated with waste disposal;
- Prescribing of the requirements for the transport, handling and storage of waste, including requirements for the tracking of waste; as well as
- Prescribing of the requirements for the treatment and disposal of waste, including landfill acceptance criteria and waste disposal restrictions.

The regulations will be supported by two standards viz:

- Standard for Assessment of Waste for Disposal; and
- Standard for Disposal of Waste to Landfill and Revised Containment Barrier Designs

These Regulations will supersede the requirements for classification and disposal of waste in the Minimum Requirements for the Handling, Classification and Disposal of Hazardous Waste (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1998; Department of Water Affairs and Forestry). They also supersede the requirements



The Department is currently finalising the draft Waste Classification and Management Regulations which will be published for comment in the next few weeks.

### NATIONAL DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTION STANDARDS

The Department has completed a process of developing the National Domestic Waste Collection Standards in accordance with section 7 (1) (b) of the Waste Act. The standards will be published in the Government Gazette on 21 January 2011.

There is a proposal to change Licensing Authorities for some of the Listed Waste Management Activities, and a Notice in this regard will be published for public comment before end of January 2011.

Ms Khashiwe Masinga can be contacted on [kmasinga@environment.gov.za](mailto:kmasinga@environment.gov.za)

### WASTE REDUCING TIPS

Unfortunately waste does not just 'disappear' after you dispose of it- Our landfills are almost full to capacity and each one of us needs to look at ways to reduce, re-use and recycle items as much as we can:

Here are some tips on how to minimize the waste in your home:

- 1. REDUCE** the waste you produce in the first place:  
**How:** Buy goods with little or no packaging or packaging that can be recycled. Also buy refills and concentrates-these usually involve less packaging.  
Repair an item instead of replacing it, or if you no longer want it, give it to the person who does.  
Avoid buying disposable items such as paper plates and foam cups  
Print or photocopy articles on both sides of the paper-it saves more on buying paper and on storage and postage
- 2. RE-USE** items before they can become waste:  
Wash and re-use glass and plastic containers.  
Re-use strong plastic carrier bags instead of buying them, or use permanent cloth bags for groceries
- 3. RECYCLE** your waste-many waste types can be reprocessed into useful items:  
Purchase recycled or environmentally-friendly products at the shop. Recycle as much of your refuse as possible. Items such as glass bottles, tin cans, paper, plastic vegetable matter and vehicle oil can be recycled. Collect these items in a separate bin or box and take to the nearest solid waste drop-off facility or recycling depot.  
Electronic waste (e-waste) such as computers, printers and cell phones can be recycled. ([Extract from the City of Cape Town, Environmental Resource Management 'Tips for smart living'](#)).

