

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 Anben Pillay
Tel: +27 12 399 9827
APillay@environment.gov.za

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

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

Ms Senisha Soobramany
Tel: +27 12 399 9373
SSoobramany@environment.gov.za



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NATIONAL WASTE AWARENESS STRATEGY TOWARDS COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) took a decision to action the waste awareness goal and emphasised the need to collaborate and coordinate efforts by industry, non-governmental organisations and government on awareness programmes. This culminated in the establishment of two communication platforms, being the National Chemicals and Waste Awareness Steering Committee and the National Chemicals and Waste Awareness Forum that are working towards developing and implementing the National Waste Awareness Strategy.

The strategy will be a 5 year-plan that aims to outline and coordinate efforts as well as resources among stakeholders through aligned waste management messaging to change people's attitudes and behaviour, thus creating a national culture that will encourage citizens to adopt good waste management practices.

The agreed theme for the National Waste Awareness Strategy is **"Keep South Africa Beautiful"**. The strategy adopts a three- pronged approach which includes combating littering and illegal dumping; decreasing waste quantities going to landfills as well as maximisation of the economic potential from the implementation of the waste management options (Reduce, reuse, recycle and recovery) in order to protect human well-being and the environment. The approach is illustrated below:



Source: DEA (2016)

TARGET AUDIENCE
Pedestrians
Motorists
High-volume public areas
Schools
Churches
Businesses
Households
Society in general
Waste pickers, etc

Department of Environmental
Affairs
Environment House
0001
Call Centre:
086 111 2468
473 Steve Biko Road
ARCADIA
0002
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
www.environment.gov.za
<http://sawic.environment.gov.za>

Thus far, a draft National Waste Awareness Strategy is being developed through the National Chemicals and Waste Awareness Steering Committee meetings and bi-annual meetings through the National Chemicals and Waste Awareness Forum. The Steering committee is working on finalising the national messaging and awareness activities through the Communications Task Team which guides the Communications plan. Different stakeholders are expected to identify their planned awareness activities to find synergies, identify gaps and support each other.

Any enquiries relating to awareness raising and capacity building on waste management can contact the Directorate: General Waste Management: Ms Boitumelo Dlamini at 012 399 8794 or bsdlamini@environment.gov.za

PROPOSED REGULATIONS REGARDING THE CONTROL OF THE IMPORT OR EXPORT OF WASTE.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has a constitutional mandate to ensure Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of waste. The National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) was then developed to ensure waste generated is managed in an environmentally sound manner including the management of waste that is either imported in or exported out of South Africa.

South Africa is a party to the Basel Convention, an international treaty for control of trans-boundary movement of wastes, South Africa through DEA is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Basel Convention in South Africa. Currently SA's International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) under the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) controls imports and exports of goods, including wastes and second hand goods through the International Trade Administration Act, 2002 (Act No. 71 of 2002). However not all the Basel Convention trans-boundary movement requirements are covered by the ITAA, in a manner that enables South Africa to meet its international obligations under the Convention.

To implement the above-mentioned legal provisions and to address the gaps identified in the ITAC processes, draft regulations to control the import or export of waste have been developed. The draft regulations were presented at various government consultation meetings. Socio-economic Impact Assessment studies (SEIAS 1 and 2) were done and have been approved by Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME).

The Department will issue a Notice in the Government Gazette notifying the general public of the commenting period. Those interested in providing comments should regularly check the South African Waste Information Centre (SAWIC) under the tab "draft documents for comments" on <http://sawic.environment.gov.za>. The SEIAS documents will also be made available on the website.

For any further enquiries on this matter, please contact Mr Mashudu Nevuvha by email: mnevuvha@environment.gov.za

Senior Managers for Branch: Chemicals & Waste Management

Mr Mark Gordon

Deputy Director General:
Chemicals and Waste
Management

Tel: 012 399 9758

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. Michelle Govender

Chief Director: Hazardous Waste
Management & Licensing

Tel: 012 399 8993

Email:

MiGovender@environment.gov.za

Ms Mamogala Musekene

Chief Director: Integrated Waste
Management & Strategic Support

Tel: 012 399 9407

Email:

MMusekene@environment.gov.za

HAND-OVER OF TOOLS OF TRADE IN KWAZULU-NATAL

Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson held two handover of tools-of-trade events on the 20th and 22nd of April 2017 in KwaZulu-Natal. Fifteen (15) trolleys were handed over to the South African Waste Pickers Association (SAWPA) in Mooi River and a Kia bakkie with a customised trailer to Songimvelo Recyclers in Msunduzi in KwaZulu-Natal.

Both events consisted of a clean-up campaign and formal handover of the tools-of-trade. Speaking at both events, the Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson highlighted the importance of supporting waste management initiatives as they contribute to job creation and improving the quality of life for all.

Songimvelo Recyclers historically were collecting recyclable materials by walking the streets of Msunduzi and reselling them as a livelihood. This entailed using public transport to trade in recyclable material. The benefits received from this initiative of Songimvelo recyclers was the cleaning of streets in Msunduzi, diversion of waste from landfill and trading in recyclable material.

Trading in recyclable material is key to the circular economy. This opportunity presented to the energetic young entrepreneurs was accepted with excitement. The two beneficiaries have demonstrated the willingness to work and make a success of this opportunity. They have transformed this opportunity into a thriving small scale recycling buy-back centre.

Waste picking is a livelihood that is accessible to marginalised individuals of society. These individuals have in the past, converted retail store trolleys into a convenient mode of transport to move the collected waste material to a buy back centre with ease. The handing over of the 15 trolleys will improve the livelihood of 15 individuals. The South African Waste Pickers Association, Groundwork, and PETCO are among the organisations that have partnered with the DEA to support emerging waste pickers.



Above: DDG: Mr Mark Gordon emphasising the importance of recycling to the circular economy



Above: Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson handing over keys to Songimvelo Recyclers in Msunduzi



Above: Deputy Director-General and Deputy Minister join the community to clean up the streets

