



Turning trash into treasure
PAGE 2



Keeping South Africa clean
PAGE 4



Informal waste sector active
PAGE 6



Coastal awareness programme launch
PAGE 8

CHANGING TO A BETTER, GREENER FUTURE



BY SALOMETSOKA

“We have become the throwaway generation”, these were the words of President Cyril Ramaphosa as he addressed the thousands gathered at the Sisa Dukashe Stadium in Mdantsane on March 8 for the much anticipated launch of the Good Green Deeds Campaign.

The campaign is an initiative that seeks to change people’s attitudes and behaviour towards responsible management of waste and in keeping their neighbourhoods clean, green and safe.

President Ramaphosa highlighted how South Africa was a beautiful country but the littering, illegal dumping and pollution were hampering its appearance.

“Littering, illegal dumping and

the pollution of our air, our streams, our rivers and our oceans have had negative effects on our health, our quality of life and on the very appearance of our country.

“We have become the throwaway generation. Instead of putting litter into waste bins, we toss it out onto the streets. Instead of managing our waste, we dump it in places it is not supposed to be. Instead of flushing dirty water into a sewerage system where it can be treated, we throw it into our rivers and streams, and even into the sea.

“All this makes our planet sick, and it makes us sick. It makes our children sick. It is time for change,” President Ramaphosa said.

The Good Green Deeds Campaign seeks to mobilise all sectors of South Africa to become



WE HAVE BECOME A
THROWAWAY GENERATION...
WE TOSS OUT LITTER ONTO
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more environmentally conscious. Speaking in an SABC interview, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Minister Nomvula Mokonyane said this campaign was a call to action for all South Africans to keep their neighbourhoods clean as everybody has a role and a responsibility to play.

“This is a partnership with everybody which says that let it (this campaign) start in my home, in my community, let it start in the streets of my neighbourhood so that when municipalities come and collect they also do not have a burden of having to separate the waste. Therefore changing the mind-set becomes one of the most critical issues of this campaign,” Minister Mokonyane said.

Clean-up campaigns took place in various parts of the country supported by provincial government as well as local municipalities which worked together with a number of volunteers who came out in numbers to take part in the nationwide initiative.

President Ramaphosa took part in a clean-up campaign in Buffalo City while a number of other clean-

ups took place at taxi ranks in East London and King William’s Town as well as in KwaDikela and at eBuhlanti beach and estuary.

While Minister Mokonyane led the clean-up campaign on the morning of the Good Green Deeds campaign launch by cleaning the area near eBuhlanti beach, working together with the Working on Fire team, SANBI team, EPWP workers as well as Miss Earth, she braved the rain and wind to clear litter which poses a major threat on South African beaches and marine life.

Communities are also encouraged to make use of available infrastructure such as buy-back or drop-offs centres as well as separation of waste receptacles and recycling bins provided by municipalities.



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Turning trash into treasure

BY ERICA MATHYE

THEY say one man's trash is another man's treasure and Ms Phumeza Ceshemba from Mdantsane in East London has found just the model she needs to create wealth from waste.

In 2017, this mother of two teenagers opened a recycling plant in Mdantsane where she recycles and pelletise plastic material for business.

Her message to ordinary South Africans is to "wake up and think of waste management as a lucrative vehicle for creating work opportunities, keeping the environment clean and enriching future generations".

Ms Ceshemba is the owner of Afriwaste. Her recycling plant employs 17 men and women from impoverished communities whom she says she is training for business in waste.

"My goal is to see these very same men and women progress into good citizens who practice good green deeds in their daily lives, but more than that I want to see them running their own businesses in recycling."

Afriwaste collects and recycles an average of 120 tons of plastic waste every month from landfill sites, homes and grocery supermarkets. Of the recycled waste, 100 tons of pellets are sold back to business for the manufacturing of furniture such as tables and plastic chairs.

Afriwaste uses innovative technology and machinery for recycling and pelleting the plastic.

Ms Ceshemba received a visit from South Africa's first citizen when he was in the province headed to Sisa Dukashe Stadium in East London where he launched the Good Green programme which is about encouraging behavioural change for every South African to Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

"Meeting President Ramaphosa is both exciting and nerve wrecking. When I opened the business two



PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS MINISTER NOMVULA MOKONYANE WITH THE OWNER OF AFRIWASTE RECYCLING PLANT PHUMEZA CESHEMBA IN MDANTSANE, EAST LONDON.

years ago, I wanted to contribute in waste management and keep my community cleaner. I'm excited to be recognised as an agent of change that the president has taken notice of," Ms Ceshemba said.

President Ramaphosa and his delegation spent some time talking to the workers at the factory and looking at its functions and operations.

FIVE STAGES IN PLASTIC RECYCLING

After the truck delivers plastic at a recycling plant, it needs to go through five different stages so that it can be

further used for making various types of products.

- **Sorting:** Every plastic item is separated according to its make and type so that it can be processed accordingly in the shredding machine.

- **Washing:** Once the sorting has been done, the plastic waste needs to be washed properly to remove impurities such as labels and adhesives. This enhances the quality of the finished product.

- **Shredding:** After washing, the plastic waste is loaded into different conveyer belts that run the waste

through the different shredders. These shredders tear up the plastic into small pellets, preparing them for recycling into other products.

- **Identification and Classification of Plastic:** After shredding, a proper testing of the plastic pellets is conducted in order to ascertain their quality and class.

- **Extruding:** This involves melting the shredded plastic so that it can be extruded into pellets, which are then used for making different types of plastic products.

THE ECONOMIC VALUE IN

WASTE

- South Africa's waste economy is estimated to be worth a minimum of **R15 billion** contribution to the GDP.

- The Waste Sector Survey showed that the formal South African waste sector employs nearly **30 000** people in 2012 of which **20 092** are employed in the public sector – mostly in local and metropolitan municipalities – and **9 741** worked in the private sector.

- In the informal economy, there are plus / minus **62 147** waste pickers in the country (**36 680** operating from landfills and **25 467** operating as trolley pushers).

- Diverting waste away from landfills also provides considerable social, economic and environmental opportunities for the country, including job creation and enterprise development.

- In South Africa the opportunities for diversion of waste will provide access to valuable resources through the development of recycling industries.

- By promoting the adoption of closing-the-loop production patterns within an economic system, the Circular Economy aims to increase the efficiency of resource use, with special focus on urban and industrial waste, to achieve a better balance and harmony between economy, environment and society.

- The Circular Economy provides a closed loop for better management of materials in the context of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover of waste.

BILLY BIN UNVEILED

BY SALOMETSOKA

President Cyril Ramaphosa unveiled Billy Bin, the cheery green mascot who is passionate about keeping the environment clean during the national launch of the Good Green Deeds programme at a packed Sisa Dukashe Stadium in Mdantsane, East London, on March 8.

President Ramaphosa said Billy Bin would be a constant reminder to all South Africans that the responsibility to keep the country clean lies with them.

The President also took a moment to pay tribute to late Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Edna Molewa, who passed away last year and also credited her for being behind the Good Green Deeds concept.

"We are here today to launch a national campaign to mobilise citizens, business, industry, labour and civil society at large towards a common goal – cleaning up South Africa. By performing just one Good Green Deed a day, you can make all the difference.

"Whether it is in recycling your waste, or conducting clean-up activities in your street, your neighbourhood, school, or municipality, you must be the agent of change we want and need," he said.

President Ramaphosa took part in a clean-up campaign in Buffalo City while a number of other clean-ups took place at taxi ranks in East London and King William's Town as well as KwaDikela and at eBuhlanti beach and estuary.

A series of other clean-up campaigns also

“
LET US COMMIT TODAY, RIGHT
HERE AND RIGHT NOW, THAT
WE WILL EACH DAY DO GOOD
GREEN DEED A DAY

took place across the country in places such as Galeshewe, Mahikeng, Umsunduzi, Ladybrand, Polokwane, Sharpeville, Manenberg and Mamelodi.

President Ramaphosa further stated he hoped that the Good Green Deeds campaign will be embraced with vigour and enthusiasm in all municipalities around South Africa.

"So, let us commit today, right here and right now, that we will each do one Good Green Deed a day, for the sake of ourselves, for the sake of others, and for the sake of our country," he said.

The President called on young people to be at the forefront of the campaign.

"We want you, the young people of this country, to take the lead in being part of ward-based environmental education and awareness raising. We want you to be at the forefront of clean-up campaigns; and to gain exposure to municipal environmental management functions as a source of attaining work experience," he said.



PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA UNVEILS THE GOOD GREEN DEEDS MASCOT, BILLY BIN, AT SISA DUKASHE STADIUM IN EAST LONDON.

It's time to GO GREEN in school

Our recycling pledge:

AS PUPILS:

- WE WILL TEACH OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ABOUT RECYCLING WASTE.
- WE WILL BRING OUR RECYCLABLES TO SCHOOL.
- WE WILL SEPARATE OUR RECYCLING INTO BINS.

AS A SCHOOL:

- WE PLEDGE TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE.
- TOGETHER, WE WILL REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE AND RECOVER.



RECYCLE

The 4 Rs can help us to find better ways to manage our litter:

- 1 REDUCE** – CUT DOWN THE AMOUNT OF LITTER WE PRODUCE (E.G. BUY PRODUCTS IN BULK THAT ARE MADE FROM RECYCLED MATERIAL AND USE CANVAS BAGS INSTEAD OF PLASTIC PACKETS FOR SHOPPING).
- 2 REUSE** – FIND WAYS TO USE THINGS AGAIN THAT WE WOULD NORMALLY THROW AWAY, RATHER THAN BUYING NEW THINGS (E.G. OLD TYRES CAN BE USED TO GROW FLOWERS AND WE CAN REUSE PLASTIC OR GLASS BOTTLES INSTEAD OF NEW ONES, WHICH USE UP MORE RAW MATERIALS).
- 3 RECYCLE** – RECYCLE THE RUBBISH THAT CANNOT BE REUSED. COLLECT ALL YOUR RUBBISH, SORT IT INTO ITS DIFFERENT CATEGORIES (PAPER, GLASS, METAL, PLASTIC, OTHER), AND THEN PUT IT IN THE CORRECT RECYCLE BINS OR TAKE IT TO A BUY-BACK CENTRE. IT IS THEN USED TO MAKE NEW PRODUCTS (E.G. ALUMINIUM FROM USED COLDRINK CANS CAN BE RECYCLED TO MAKE OTHER ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS).
- 4 RECOVER** – CONVERT WASTE INTO RESOURCES (SUCH AS ELECTRICITY, HEAT, COMPOST AND FUEL) THROUGH THERMAL AND BIOLOGICAL MEANS.

What is recycling?



Recycling means taking the materials from products you have used and using them to make new products.



Are you making a difference?

Section 24 of the South African Constitution states: "Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being."

Why should I recycle?



Because it takes:

- Fewer resources
- Less money
- Less energy

And it causes less pollution.

Recycling at School

	PAPER (CARDBOARD, NEWSPAPERS, AND MAGAZINES)		GLASS (CONTAINERS, JARS AND BOTTLES)
	METAL (FOOD AND DRINK CANS)		POLYSTYRENE (WHITE TAKEAWAY CUPS AND FOOD CONTAINERS)
	PLASTICS (BAGS, CONTAINERS AND BOTTLES)		TETRA PAK (FOIL-LINED CONTAINERS/ CARTONS, E.G. MILK AND JUICE BOXES)

WAXED CARDBOARD

CHIP BAGS

FOOD SCRAPS

LOLLY WRAPPERS

Pack a waste-free lunch



WE PLEDGE TO SAVE OUR PLANET'S RESOURCES BY PROMOTING A CULTURE OF RECYCLING.

REDUCE:

- BE WASTE-FREE

REUSE:

- REFILLABLE DRINK BOTTLES
- REUSABLE LUNCH BOXES, FORKS, PLASTIC BAGS, SPOONS AND KNIVES
- CLOTH NAPKINS

RECYCLE:

- FOOD SCRAPS
- PAPER BAGS
- GLASS BOTTLES
- ALUMINIUM CANS




Remember to separate your waste at source!

BY ZIBUSE NDLOVU

“Every Thursday there will be a Good Green Deeds Campaign in Gauteng, working towards keeping Gauteng and South Africa clean.”
These were sentiments shared by Gauteng Premier, Mr David

Premier commits to keeping Gauteng clean

Makhura during the mini launch of Good Green Deeds in Sharpeville, at Emfuleni Local Municipality on March 8 2019.
“The areas cleaned today

must remain clean, and illegal dumping spots should be turned into community parks,” said Mr Makhura.
He assured his community that the province would distribute 20 000

dustbins in Emfuleni.
The Good Green Deeds programme will bring economic value to the country by diverting waste away from landfills.

The programme will also provide considerable social, economic and environmental opportunities for the country, including job creation and enterprise development.

KZN HEEDS PRESIDENTIAL CALL TO KEEP SOUTH AFRICA CLEAN



BY GAOPALELWE MOROANE

Over 2 000 volunteers from seven wards in Msunduzi Municipality in Pietermaritzburg heeded President Cyril Ramaphosa’s call to keep South Africa clean and pick up litter in areas across the country as part of the Good Green Deeds campaign which was launched across the country on March 8.

Leading the KwaZulu-Natal leg of the launch was Msunduzi Municipality Mayor, Councillor Themba Njilo, who launched the campaign in Ward 14, in Willowfontein.

One of the biggest issues that the municipality faces is illegal dumping and as part of the day’s proceedings, the mayor cleaned up a site that had been riddled with illegal dumping for what communities claim to be a very long time. As well as picking up litter and sorting it for recycling, lorries and tractors were utilised to clean up the site, which is located just metres from Willowfontein River. The official Good Green Deeds mascot, Billy Bin, was handed over to the municipality.



Make a difference!

DO NOT LITTER!

Make a difference. DON'T litter! Littering takes place when waste is not properly disposed of.

#GOODGREENDEEDS



Call centre: +27 86 111 2468
www.environment.gov.za



North West Province launches Good Green Deeds

The North West province earmarked the town of Mahikeng to be used for their Good Green Deeds launch on March 8, on the same day as the main launch in the Eastern Cape and other provinces. A marquee was erected at the Bradford taxi rank, where a brief formal programme unfolded and MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Ms Mottalepula Roshu informed the people about the day and the launch.

Opening and welcome, the Executive Mayor of Mahikeng CLL Betty Diakanyo thanked and congratulated the Premier, who saw it fit that the day Good Green Deeds should be launched in Mahikeng. "What makes it special for us is that it is on the International Women's Day," said Mayor Diakanyo. She promised that as women, they will ensure that after this day, the town stays clean.

Premier Prof Tebogo Job Mokgoro told the people of Mahikeng that they all were equal; equal in sharing responsibilities. He said it has to show that they once had an enthusiastic leader like the late former President Mandela. "It is this level of enthusiasm which should determine our quality of life" said Mokgoro. He further mentioned the Rwandan example and compared South Africa to this east Africa country. He said while we celebrated our democracy in 1994, Rwanda was in the middle of a genocide, but today SA can only dream of the level of cleanliness that is in that country.



THE NORTHERN CAPE KICKS OFF CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

The Northern Cape leg of the Good Green Deeds campaign kicked off with clean-up activity in Kimberly. It was led by the Minister of Tourism Mr Derek Hanekom, Premier of the Northern Cape Ms Sylvia Lucas, the MEC of Environment & Nature Conservation Ms Pauline Williams and Executive Mayor of Sol Plaatjie District Municipality Mr Patrick Mabilo. Three areas were covered, including Coleville and Galeshewe, where hundreds of community members joined dignitaries in cleaning up the community. Minister Hanekom said it all starts with loving our country. "Everyone wants to live in a clean country, and it takes all of us to make an effort, people shouldn't litter period and it comes down to awareness and education. This is why the Good Green Deeds Campaign is so important because it educates people about maintaining a clean environment."



Make a difference!

DO NOT LITTER!

Avoid littering.
Aim to Reduce,
Reuse, Recycle and Recover.

#GOODGREENDEEDS



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ZIBUSE NDLOVU AND ABRAHAM SHOBA

Deputy Minister supports waste initiatives in Kwa-Zulu Natal

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson handed over 15 trolleys to the South African Waste Pickers Association in Mooiriver and a Kia bakkie to Songimvelo Recyclers in Msunduzi, KwaZulu-Natal.

Speaking at both the events, Deputy Minister Thomson highlighted the importance of supporting waste management initiatives as they contribute to job creation and improving the quality of life for all.

"Recycling has enormous economic potential. Conservative estimates put the financial value of the formal South African waste sector at R15 billion. It is time that we

wake up to this economic potential of recycling," she said.

Referring to the job creation opportunities in the sector, the deputy minister called on local businesses and entrepreneurs to explore the economic opportunities provided through waste recycling. "Let us involve our youth and women in such interventions as they are most affected by unemployment and poverty."

Songimvelo Recyclers employ vagrants and unemployed youth to collect recyclable material for recycling within the city.

"They have played a role in cleaning the streets of Msunduzi by collecting recyclable material and disposing of it at landfill sites," said Msunduzi Mayor Themba Njilo.

Councillor Njilo said the clean-up initiative by Songimvelo Recyclers and tools donated by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) would help transform the city. "This is a dream come true for the city to take on a clean-up initiative. We've already started the cleaning process beginning at the Ematsheni area and clearing up the streets."

The DEA, in partnership with

the Department of Public Service and Administration through its Tirelo Boshia Programme, provided the means to purchase a vehicle for Songimvelo Recyclers.

The vehicle is fitted with a customised trailer to increase the capacity to transport recyclable materials, and Songimvelo Recyclers founder Mr Hugo Ngcobo said the donation came in handy as it will assist them with their recycling business.

His co-founder, Mr Ivan Khumalo, said lack of employment influenced their decision to start the company to

ensure they turn waste into money. The South African Waste Pickers Association, Groundwork, and Petco are among the organisations that have partnered with the DEA to support emerging waste pickers.

Mr Sibusiso Dladla, a founder of Mooiriver recycling corporative said the trolleys handed over to waste pickers will make their work easy.

"We are very thrilled by receiving these trolleys, and we hope that others who are doing the same work will be encouraged from what we have achieved and strive to do more."

The waste pickers in Mooiriver have in the past converted retail store trolleys into convenient modes of transport to move the collected waste material to buy-back centres with ease.

CSIR support for jobs in waste

THE Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has undertaken research for the Green Fund to evaluate waste and recycling cooperatives to understand the opportunities and constraints facing waste co-operative implementation in South Africa.

The Fund is managed by the Development Bank of South Africa on behalf of Department of Environmental Affairs. The waste sector can contribute towards addressing South Africa's unemployment challenges.

The informal waste sector in South Africa has been active for more than two decades and plays an important role in diverting recyclables away from landfills. However, CSIR research shows that the sector is marginalised and operates at the fringe of municipal solid waste management systems. In efforts to create sustainable, thriving cooperatives, the public and private sectors need to collaborate to boost cooperative development in the waste sector.

"We have all seen the trolley pushers on our roads," says CSIR principal researcher, Dr Linda Godfrey, referring to the informal waste pickers collecting waste from kerbsides. "There are an estimated 60 000 – 90 000 informal waste pickers earning a livelihood from the collection and sorting of recyclables in South Africa. Working on landfill sites and at kerbsides, these informal waste pickers collect approximately 80 – 90% of all post-consumer paper and packaging recyclables in the country, saving municipalities R750 million in landfill airspace per annum, at little to no cost."

One of the ways to integrate the informal waste sector into the formal waste economy, is formalisation through the establishment of co-operatives, explains Godfrey.

Co-operatives are jointly owned enterprises operated by its members for their mutual benefit. "But we found that co-operatives, not only waste and recycling co-operatives, have a very high failure rate in South Africa."

Waste co-operatives in South Africa face numerous challenges in their day-to-day duties, including lack of infrastructure such as transport, equipment and premises to sort and safely store their collected waste, as well as lack of capacity for training and acquiring knowledge and skills.

She explains: "What we found is that while training is necessary, it is often insufficient. What co-operatives need to become sustainable is incubation and mentoring, but this comes at a significant cost."

Godfrey believes that co-operatives require long-term support and investment from all relevant role-players in the sector, as they have the potential to create a significant number of direct and indirect

income opportunities. Amalgamated Beverage Industries (ABI) employed this model with recycling SMMEs, with good result in terms of profitability and productivity. Consequently, the CSIR partnered with ABI to discuss integrating the informal sector and SMMEs into municipal solid waste management in South Africa.

The CSIR provided insight on potential solutions to waste management challenges in South Africa.

"The waste sector can definitely support low-skilled workers and also provide wonderful opportunities to deal with waste as a secondary resource," says Godfrey.

The waste sector can contribute towards addressing South Africa's unemployment challenges through creating large numbers of low-skill jobs to address current challenges, while at the same time developing new enterprises that will require new types of skills.

The CSIR's support for SMME development in the waste sector is linked to the Department of

Science and Technology's Waste, Research, Development and Innovation Roadmap. "The CSIR, through the Waste RDI Roadmap Implementation Unit, manages a portfolio on waste research development and innovation on behalf of the DST.

Essentially it focuses on growing the investment and capability in waste research and development in South Africa."

The Department's "Ten-Year innovation Plan: Towards a knowledge-based economy" recognises the importance of science and technology in improving the country's competitive-ness and economic growth. The waste sector is recognised by government as one that provides opportunities for value recovery, job creation and economic development.

The Roadmap has been developed to provide strategic direction and to co-ordinate and manage South Africa's portfolio of investment for the next 10 years in six identified clusters of waste research, development and innovation activities, including strategic planning, modelling and analytics, technology solutions, waste logistics performance, waste and environment, and waste and society.



Understanding Waste Characterisation

BYTHANDEKA MANDIGORA

Waste characterisation is done in municipalities to gain a better understanding of the types and quantities of waste a municipality generates. It forms part of a key component that is associated with information management, which can then equip municipalities to devise strategies for waste diversion including contributing to Climate Change mitigation, Integrated Waste Management Planning and the National Waste Management Strategy implementation.

Waste characterisation follows

a process that includes these four steps:

- Waste is randomly selected as it comes into the landfill site from the various settlement types (municipalities are encouraged to ensure that waste from the different settlement types should be sampled). Key to note is that a sample is made up of 100 kg and that a municipality's sample is made up of 32 samples in total.

- Once the 100 kg has been set aside, waste should be mixed and re-separated into various waste streams, for example, paper, glass, cardboard, etc.

- A hand-held scale is used to weigh the various waste streams.

- These are recorded and graphs including tables are generated to determine the quantities and types of waste that are generated in that municipality.

It is important to note that certain factors must be borne in mind, for example, seasonality, geographical areas and waste quantities from a weigh bridge, as these can influence the results of waste characterisation.

The Municipal Waste Support Directorate in the Integrated Waste Management & Strategic Support Chief Directorate is tasked with providing capacity building and training in order for municipalities

to meet their waste service delivery mandate. It was established in order to act as an interface between the National Department of Environmental Affairs, provinces and most importantly municipalities. The promulgation of the Waste Act in 2009 and the development of the National Waste Management Strategy revolutionised the waste sector. For the first time a waste sector specific legislation was developed. This meant that various provisions which were not previously a requirement were to be put in place and thus space and a constant flow of information and capacity building was recognised as being a key ingredient if the waste sector

was to achieve success.

The Directorate: Municipal Waste Support has in the past three years been running training modules targeting municipal officials and councillors on an array of waste or chemicals management topics in order to capacitate them, clarify and simplify requirements and thus meet them half-way in ensuring that they will go on to ensure that communities are provided with effective and efficient waste management services.

■ Ms Thandeka Mandigora is a Control Environmental Officer within Municipal Waste Support. She has an Honours degree in Environmental Science and w12 years' experience in the industry.

TSAKANE WASTE-PRENEUR PROJECT

Residents of Tsakane, near Springs in Ekurhuleni, collect glass bottles and other recyclables including newspapers, magazines, cardboard, paper, mixed plastics, cans, PET, polystyrene, Tetrapak, and aluminium, to earn a living or supplement their income. These community members are Waste-preneurs.

The Waste-preneur project is a WILDLANDS pro-poor development and sustainability intervention. The project is supported by the Department of Environmental Affairs' Green Fund which is implemented by the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The project has been expanded to Gauteng, where it is

being piloted in, amongst others, in Ekurhuleni.

The Tsakane Waste-preneur projects employs 390 members of the local community, who have also started collecting foil paper, such as chip packets and sweet wrappers, as they contribute to keeping their town clean.

The Green Fund has invested more than R62.5 million in the Wildlands Conservation Trust to expand the Waste-preneur project to enable the economic transformation of 21 communities, through the establishment of over 4 400 Waste-preneurs that have collected and bartered over 13 200 tons of recycling in the past 4 years.

Besides showing that it is possible to collect and process recyclable waste as a means of supporting their families, the project has contributed significantly to the clean-up of the participating communities, many of them among the poorest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

The Waste-preneur network has been expanded from 529 in January 2013 to 6 656 in December 2014. In addition, 92 schools and 15 charities have been recruited and 60 Waste-preneur "sorters" have been contracted.

What is the environmental and Socio-economic impact?

A total of 16 518 779kg of

recycling was collected during 2014. This avoided carbon emissions of 13 089 tCO₂e. More than 60 percent of the waste collected was glass.

An amount of R8 223 557 has been paid in wages to the recycling team, providing livelihood support for an extended network of over 350 community members between January 2013 and 31 December 2014.

A total amount of R7 786 160 was paid or bartered for the recycling collected by the Waste-preneurs, schools and charities, providing livelihood support for an extended network of over 20 000 community members between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2014.

In addition, 5 679 person days of training for the recycling team and Waste-preneurs took place between 1 April 2013 and 31 December 2014, significantly improving the skills, knowledge and ability of community members and leaders to be productive.

The training has included Adult Basic Education and Training literacy and numeracy, training in sustainable agriculture and business, recycling skills, health and safety, personal health and well-being and leadership and citizenship.

■ Sponsors: Coca-Cola, ENGEN, Grindrod Limited, BHP Billiton and Unilever.

Sharpeville winning the war against waste



BY SALOMETSOKA

Illegal dumping sites have become common sightings in various communities around the country. These sites often stretch for miles, are hazardous to human health and are displeasing to the eye.

Over the years, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has worked with numerous local municipalities, communities and other key stakeholders to help communities clean up such sites through effective clean-up campaigns. However, despite these efforts, illegal dumping sites are an ever-growing problem.

According to Deputy Director of Waste Management, Ms Boitumelo Dlamini, the effectiveness of community clean-up campaigns lies in the community's awareness about waste and in municipalities that ensure that communities are kept clean.

"The effectiveness of clean-up campaigns depends on the consistency of the municipality's waste management efforts and in the awareness against littering. In areas where the municipality is active, the area remains clean and people become custodians of their environment.

"One of the most important aspects of clean-up campaigns lies in the education and awareness built around them. The set-up, design and frequency of the clean-up campaigns then determine the level of awareness that is built into people's minds," she said.

According to the 2016 Stats SA Household Survey, an estimated 59% of households had their waste collected by the local municipality while 2% had their waste collected from a central collection point or communal container. However, 34% of households disposed their waste at a communal dump or their own dump site while 5% dealt with their waste through other means.

Rustenburg Local Municipality spokesperson Mr David Magae says that the negative mind-sets of community members is also one of the causes of illegal dumping sites.

"Many factors contribute to illegal dumping sites but a negative mind-



set is one of the main causes of illegal dumping. When community members have a don't-care or negative attitude towards the environment, illegal dumping sites will occur," Mr Magae said.

Illegal dumping sites are not just bad for the environment and the health of communities, they can sometimes become illegal graveyards.

How Sharpeville won the war against waste

Mr Lebeso Mothijoa, from the community of Sharpeville in Gauteng says community members decided to clean up an illegal dumping site after they discovered a

dead baby buried in the trash.

"The site has now been rehabilitated into a park which is both clean and beautiful. Members of the community volunteered to rehabilitate the site and erected a white stone to represent the soul of the baby that was found in the area," he said.

Ms Dlamini says illegal dumping

sites can create health hazards for community members and can also be bad for business and tourism in the area.

According to the Stats SA report, solid waste is an urban problem as waste generation in urban areas tends to be much higher than in rural areas. It was also found that developing countries, like South Africa would experience continuous urbanisation with the population of people living in urban areas rising by 71.3% in 2030 and 80% in 2050.

Ms Dlamini says DEA and municipalities continuously run sustainability efforts which includes clean ups and rehabilitation of illegal

dumping sites. However, those cleaned areas can also be affected if the community is not cooperative and does not maintain it.

Director for Sustainability at Plastics SA, Mr Douw Steyn, says as the founders of Clean-up and Recycle SA Week and the International Coastal Clean-up Day which began in 1997, they often see a change through the various clean up campaigns they help sponsor.

Here are some tips from Plastics SA on how communities can start their own clean up campaigns to help keep their environments clean:

- Pick the right project and location for your community, conduct either a roadside, river or beach clean-up.
- Make a detailed event plan.
- Choose an enthusiastic leader or co-ordinator.
- Recruit volunteers early by contacting local newspapers, community members and schools.
- Get supplies donated.
- Assign specific tasks during the clean-up.
- Make a plan for debris removal.
- If possible, try to reward your volunteers.

BY VERONICA MAHLABA

Durban gets a clean-up ahead of the GMC Awards

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson led a clean-up campaign around the streets and beaches of eThekweni ahead of the 8th Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC) Awards in Durban.

While doing the clean-up, the Deputy Minister expressed that the ocean plays a vital role in the country's economy.

"South Africa is surrounded by a vast ocean which has not been fully taken advantage of. There is immense potential of this untapped resource. The oceans have the potential to contribute up to 177 billion rand to the gross domestic product and create just over one million jobs by 2033.

"A clean coastal environment is at the heart of the Operation Phakisa Oceans Economy. We cannot build an oceans economy

in a dirty environment. We should continuously engage in activities that will not only keep our environment clean, but also attract investors into the oceans economy space," said Deputy Minister Thomson.

Following the clean-up, the Deputy Minister visited the Clermont and Westmead buy-back centres, where individual waste collectors and street waste pickers sell their recyclable waste. The buy-back centres in turn sell these waste products to other recycling companies.

Ms Sthembile Ngcobo an employee at Silver Jupiter Investments, a buy-back centre in

Clermont, said that she has learned a lot about the environment and how people can do better to live in harmony with it.

"I have been taught about recycling and how you can make money from waste. Now I am able to teach my family and friends about the benefits of recycling and that they shouldn't throw away all types of waste but to separate it and send it to buy-back centres," she explained.

Greenest Municipality Competition Awards

To wrap up the day, the GMC Awards were held to celebrate the contribution that local government

is making to climate change and ensuring cities are cleaner and greener.

The GMC Awards are an annual event that facilitates the participation of municipalities, provincial counterparts and relevant stakeholders in waste and greening and open-space management.

The Department works together with the municipalities to promote reduction, recycling and re-use of waste. This is in line with the promotion of the waste hierarchy that has been introduced through the promulgation of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 Of 2008.

Speaking at the awards, Deputy

Minister Thomson expressed that municipalities play a crucial role in building climate resilient communities through the planning of new residential areas and urban development.

After winning the overall prize under the metropolitan category, the Executive Mayor of eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, Cllr Zandile Gumede couldn't contain her excitement.

"Winning the overall prize is encouraging. It will encourage the councillors to work even harder. Most of the time us Black people don't understand climate change matters, however today I hope people will see the results of keeping our wards clean and how jobs can be created.

My wish is to see people of Durban separate waste in their households to ensure that we minimise waste in landfills."



DEA launches coastal awareness programme

BY TSHEGO LETSHWITI

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) launched its coastal awareness programme, in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. The programme was aimed at raising awareness, and educating South Africans about their right to coastal access, a clean environment in coastal public properties, and their responsibility to keep such properties in a usable condition.

South Africa enjoys a coastline of just under 3 000km, with numerous beaches designated for the public's enjoyment and recreation. Everyone has a right to access these beaches and public amenities, as contained in the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) (ICM Act).

The ICM Act seeks to achieve the realisation of the right of access to our natural heritage and recreational benefits to all and in so doing, support growing tourism, recreational fishing and fair access to amenities. In addition, under the Act, no one may charge a fee (directly or indirectly) in order to access coastal public property, without the permission of the Minister responsible for environmental affairs.

The Minister of DEA, Mrs Nomvula Mokonyane, urged all South Africans to "enjoy our coastline responsibly", while taking into account the duty of care for our coastal environment as prescribed in the environmental legislation.

"It is our duty to ensure that we do not litter, do not drive on the beach and accord everyone their right to access public coastal property," said Minister Mokonyane.

Several coastal awareness programmes across the country were conducted to remind communities that everyone is a custodian of our valuable coastal resources.

These awareness campaigns focused on among others, coastal and marine pollution, public access to the beach and illegal driving on the beach.

The Department also deals with pollution along the coast from marine litter, including plastic litter, which has become a matter of increasing global and national concern as a source of marine pollution.

Plastics are the cause of increasing ocean pollution, which in turn affects marine life, and consequently human beings.

Given the difficulties experienced with marine litter, the Department has embarked on a Source-to-Sea initiative that addresses waste management and marine litter from land-based sources. Various stakeholders are involved, with the interventions to address marine litter in catchment areas before becoming problematic for our coastline and the marine environment.



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