



Share-Net



Did you know?

- From 1993 to 2006, approximately 750 000 tons of used beverage cans were recovered in southern Africa.
- If all household paper/cardboard was recycled, ¾ million m³ of landfill space would be saved per annum (Local Authorities would in the process save substantially in costs per annum from reduced collection and landfill costs).
- Many supermarkets provide paper and bottle banks - look out for the new Green Cages (for collection of plastic). Contact the Plastics Federation (see Useful addresses on previous page).

Further reading

- **How To Series** – guidelines which include making compost and liquid manure, turning plastic into useful items, and making recycled paper. Available from Share-Net (see Useful addresses)
- Many of the organisations listed overleaf produce useful resource materials.



The Enviro Facts Project is sponsored by Pick 'n Pay through WWF-SA. The fact sheets have been developed with the support of several NGOs, government departments, academic institutions, and individuals. A full set of 60 Enviro Fact sheets is available from Share-Net. Please write to: Share-Net, Enviro Facts Project, PO Box 394, Howick, 3290. Tel (033) 330 3931 ext 124/144; Fax (033) 330 4576; e-mail sharenet@wessa.co.za

In the quest for living and working more sustainably we have printed this enviro fact using non-toxic ink that is derived from soya, rather than petroleum. We use a wet ink process that requires no metallic toner or energy demanding heat, and solar energy, from current sunlight, rather than a fossil-fuel based, energy source. We hope you will enjoy reading this fact sheet and join us in seeking to live more sustainably.



Enviro Facts 6

February 2009

Waste Management

This is an area where everyone can make a contribution to living lightly on the planet. An integrated approach to waste management deals with waste in several different ways, with the aim of reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfills.

Integrated waste management reduces the need for new raw materials, and so helps prevent environmentally harmful processes such as mining, power generation and water exploitation. Less waste means less pollution, and reducing waste can save money. Waste can be minimized by reducing what we consume, re-using items several times, recycling those things that cannot be reused, and recovering energy from waste that is burnt, or that rots.

Reduce

- This is the most important step - if we do it well there will be less to reuse and recycle.
- Shop carefully: Buy in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging required; choose returnable, reusable or recyclable containers.
 - Avoid over-packaged products and unnecessarily packaged food, e.g. cling-wrapped vegetables on polystyrene trays.
 - Choose durable articles that will last a long time.
 - Buy products with a recycled content.
 - Use rechargeable batteries where possible, cloth dishtowels and napkins instead of paper ones, and refillable ink pens. Avoid disposable plates, cups and cutlery.
 - Store food in the fridge in re-useable, airtight containers, rather than plastic cling film, tinfoil or plastic bags.

- Take your own basket, or reuseable plastic bags, to the supermarket to avoid using new plastic shopping bags each time. Use the supermarket's trolley or basket when selecting items, and use your own bag or basket to carry them home. Ask your supermarket to take back used shopping bags.
- In the office and at school, photocopy both sides of the paper.
- Think before you buy – do you really need that item?

Reuse

Where possible, reuse a product several times. If you cannot use it again, find someone who can.

- Glass and plastic bottles with deposits can be returned to shops for reuse.
- Wash and dry plastic bags for reuse.
- Reuse paper that has only been printed on one side.
- Staple together office paper that has been written on one side only, for scrap paper.
- Nursery schools make good use of the inside core of toilet rolls and paper towels, egg boxes, cereal boxes and jam jars.
- Post back refillable printer-cartridges to the manufacturer in the envelopes supplied.
- Charities welcome unwanted clothes, furniture, toys, books and magazines.
- Repair things rather than throw them away.
- Offer electrical devices in working condition to NGOs, charities or disadvantaged schools, before disposing of them.

Recycle

- If products cannot be reused, then recycle them. The first step is to separate your waste at home into organic waste, plastic, glass, cans and paper - all of which can be recycled for reuse.
- To find out what recycling programmes operate in your area, contact your City Cleansing Branch or the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), or any of the organisations listed under *Useful addresses*.
- If your municipality does not operate a recycling scheme, encourage your Ward Councillor to start one.
- Glass and cans are 100% recyclable - make use of bottlebanks and can collection points, especially ones that raise funds for schools and charities.
- A compost heap is a must! Kitchen and garden waste can be added to the compost heap, or used to feed pets or garden birds.

- Used motor-oil is recycled by the Rose Foundation and Oilkol (see *Useful addresses* below), and can be dropped off for free at most reputable vehicle service stations.
- Many supermarkets now have convenient recycling collection points for batteries and CFL and fluorescent lightbulbs.

Recover

- As waste in landfills rots, methane gas is given off and this can be collected for use as fuel.

Useful addresses

GENERAL	CANS
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. Head Office, Private Bag X313, Pretoria 0001. Toll free no. (enquiries) 0800 200 200; Fax (012) 336 8664; Website www.dwaf.gov.za	Collect-a-Can. Head Office, PO Box 30500, Kyalami, 1684. Tel (011) 466 2939; Fax (011) 466 2941; E-mail info@collectacan.co.za Website www.collectacan.co.za
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001. Tel (012) 310 3911; Call Centre no. 086 111 2468; Website www.deat.gov.za	GLASS The Glass Recycling Company. Head Office. P O Box 623, Paulshof, 2056 Tel (011) 803 0767; Fax 086 514 6198; E-mail info@theglassrecyclingcompany.co.za Website www.theglassrecyclingcompany.co.za
National Recycling Forum. PO Box 79, Allens Nek, 1737. Tel (011) 675 3462; Fax (011) 675 3465; Website www.recycling.co.za	Plastics Federation of South Africa. Private Bag X68, Halfway House, 1685. Tel (011) 314 4021; Fax (011) 314 3764/5; E-mail enquiries@plafed.co.za ; Website www.plafed.co.za
Institute of Waste Management. Head Office. PO Box 79, Allens Nek, 1737. Tel (011) 675 3462; Fax (011) 675 3465, E-mail iwmsa@telkomsa.net ; Website www.iwmsa.co.za	PAPER Mondi Recycling. Gauteng: 0800 022 112 / (012) 3861381 KZN: 0800 022112 / (031) 274 6600 Western Cape: (021) 931 5106 E-mail GP_Ronnie_recycler@mps.co.za Website www.paperpickup.co.za
Packaging Council of South Africa. PO Box 131400, Bryanston, 2021. Tel (011) 463 9909; Fax (011) 463 9587; E-mail pacsa@mweb.co.za ; Website www.pacsa.co.za	Nampak Paper Recycling. Private Bag X85, Bryanstown, 2021. Tel (011) 799 7111; Fax (011) 719 6783; Website www.nampak.com
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA). National Office, PO Box 394, Howick, 3290. Tel (033) 330 3931; Fax (033) 330 4576; Website www.wessa.org.za	OIL Rose Foundation. Suite A9, Waverly Court, 7 Kotze Rd, Mowbray, 7700. Tel (021) 448 7492; Fax (021) 448 7563; E-mail usedoil@iafrica.com ; Website www.rosefoundation.org.za
Share-Net, WESSA, P.O. Box 394, Howick, 3290. Tel (033) 330 3931 ext 124/143/144; Fax (033) 330 4576; E-mail sharenef@wessa.co.za ; Website www.wessa.org.za	Oilkol. PO Box 1126, Krugersdorp, 1740. Tel (011) 762 5506; Fax (011) 762 4830; Website www.usedoil.co.za

