

SA's recycling numbers - 2019

- The local plastics industry creates jobs for more than 60 000 South Africans.
- During 2019, 503 600 tons of plastics waste was collected for recycling. Of this, more than half (362 800 tons) was packaging – giving South Africa an input recycling rate of 45.7%.
- The amount of plastics recycled back into raw material in 2019 was the equivalent of 24 million two-litre milk bottles every day. 244 300 tons of CO₂ were saved – the equivalent emissions of 51 000 cars in the same year.
- 62% of all polyethene terephthalate (PET) plastic beverage bottles placed on the market in 2019 were recycled.
- This amounts to 95 879 tonnes of post-consumer PET bottles collected, which would otherwise have occupied 594,448 cubic metres of landfill space and produced 144,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.
- PET recycling also generated 65,900 income-earning opportunities among informal reclaimers and SMMEs.
- R1.1-billion was injected into the downstream economy via the manufacturing, distribution and sale of products made from recycled PET (rPET).

Sources:

- Plastics SA - the umbrella body representing the entire plastics industry value chain including raw material suppliers, converters and manufacturers, recyclers and machine suppliers.
- PET Recycling Company (PETCO) - the producer responsibility organisation for the PET sector of the plastics industry.