



October / November 2024

PlasticsNews

Plastics | SA

And, it's the end of yet another year - but ends are not always bad things - they simply mean that something else is about to begin.

During 2024, despite formidable challenges in a struggling economy, our industry has remained mostly resilient and determined. Accelerating the circularity of plastics has become an urgent goal to mitigate the urgent environmental challenges as we advocate for responsible production, consumption and waste management.

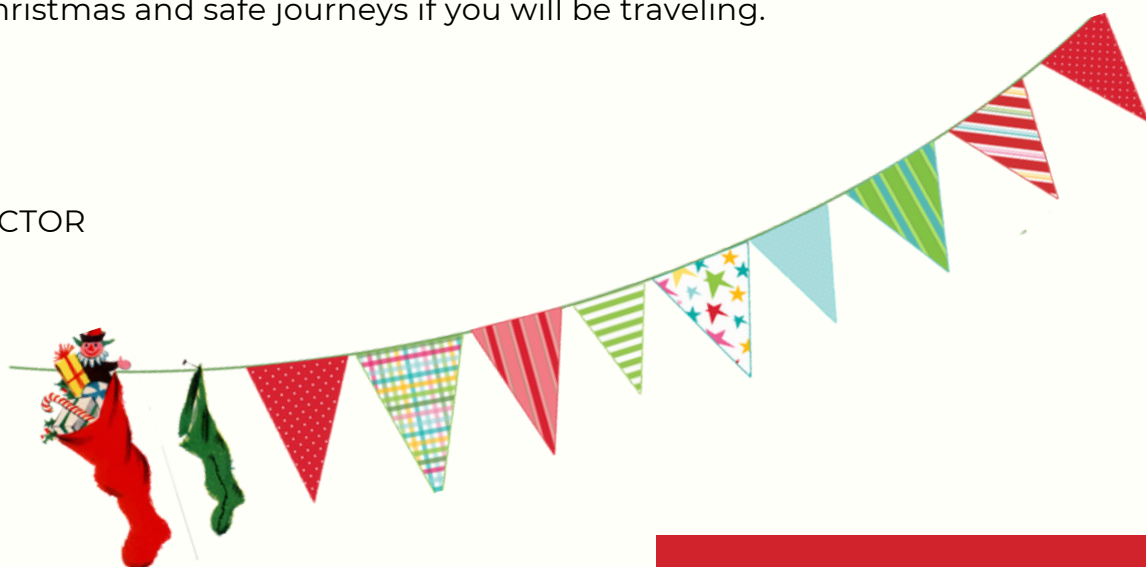
Plastics SA held its Annual General Meeting on the 30th October 2024. The latest Annual Report can be found on our [website](#). Plastics SA is grateful to the Board of Directors for their consistent input and guidance as well as to the Plastics SA team for their commitment. We could not have achieved the successes of the past financial year without them.

The latest survey results on polymer consumption and recycling for the year ending 2023 have also just been released. This year's report shows significant strides in the recycling sector, whilst highlighting the importance of continued investment in infrastructure and education. [Download the Executive Summary](#) for more information.

We look forward to the New Year, full of promise, potential and new beginnings, and wish you a peaceful Christmas and safe journeys if you will be traveling.

Best wishes

Anton Hanekom
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sustainability

Welcome to Lazola Pendu

Plastics SA welcomes Lazola Pendu to the team, in his role as Sustainability Project Coordinator for the Cape Provinces.

Lazola hails from the Eastern Cape and has a wealth of experience to share, including a broad knowledge of the circular economy and collaboration with municipalities re waste management.



Winners of the 2024 Cleanup and Recycle Competition announced

Identifying the winners of the 2024 Clean-up and Recycle Competition was no easy task this time around! Companies, NPOs, Schools and Individuals submitted reports on exceptional projects, setting a precedent for others and creating awareness of protecting our environment.

2024 Prizewinners:

1st Prizes (R5000 each)

- Tupperware, Johannesburg
- Mahlombe Primary School, Nongoma, KZN

2nd Prizes (R3000 each)

- Soulbent NPO, Saulsville, Pretoria
- Wildlife and Environmental Society of SA (KZN Coastal Clean-up)

3rd Prizes (R1000 each)

- Lara Myburgh, Pearly Beach, Cape Town
- Clean Projects NPO, Benoni



Thanks to everyone who volunteered during Clean-up and Recycle Week 2024.

THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY ENTRANT FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

The International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) World Congress

In September, Douw Steyn, Director Sustainability, attended the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) World Congress, which took place for the first time on African soil. This congress is the foremost event in the field of solid waste management offering a platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, techniques and technologies in the management of solid waste.



Douw Steyn, Dumisani Buthelezi



Yase kodlo, (Unilever), Tinashe Machiridza (APW) with Douw Steyn



Sustainability

Conventional doesn't always work, so let's be unconventional

A solutions-based, UnConventional Awareness Programme, in nature, designed to equip every citizen with crucial comprehension of the pressing issues of water, waste and energy! Plastics SA and Petco were proud to represent the plastics industry as speakers at this OUTDOOR, IN NATURE event at the Johannesburg Zoo.

Organised by Tarryn Johnston, Founder of Deep Water Movement and CEO of Hennops Revival, this event inspired active participation, driving the change essential for South Africa's future. It offered the opportunity to gain valuable insights and contribute to long-term environmental and economic health. For more information contact Tarryn at tarryn@hennopsrevival.co.za.



Tarryn Johnson, Hennops River Revival



COP 11

For the past two years, Plastics SA has represented the plastics industry as an expert in the development of the WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) and attended and presented the Plastics Industry's position at COP 11 (The Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention).

This took place in August, and is crucial in enhancing ongoing efforts to protect, manage and develop the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

Experts, partners and Heads of Delegation meetings evaluated the implementation of the Convention's Programme of Work for 2022 to 2024, guided on the work programme for 2025 – 2028 and provided strategic decisions for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.



Chris Whyte (ACEN) and Douw Steyn



Regional News

Western Cape

Injection Moulding Machine Operations

Out of a group of 9 learners doing this Programme, 2 were ladies. Here they can be seen completing the practical tasks with Technical Trainer, Daniel Julius keeping an eye on procedures.



Kaizen™

In a significant step toward enhancing the productivity and quality standards in South Africa's plastics industry, Plastics SA will play a pivotal role in managing the Quality and Productivity Improvement (Kaizen™) pProject.

This milestone project is a result of a collaboration between the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC). Plastics SA is a member of the National Quality and Productivity Network (NQPN), and has been tasked with the responsibility of leading the charge in implementing Kaizen™ principles within the South African plastics sector.

Mr Kazuhiko Amagai and Mr Masakazu Takaya from Kaizen™ recently visited our Cape Town offices. They are responsible for the Kaizen™ trainers in the Western Cape, which includes our Technical Trainer, Grant Crosby, who has been selected to train Kaizen™ principles to employees of an automotive company in the Cape. Trainers have also been selected from our Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal offices to train on these principles in those regions.

Kaizen™ is a renowned Japanese business philosophy that centres on the gradual enhancement of productivity and the optimisation of work environments.





Regional News

KwaZulu Natal

Annual Information Sharing Breakfast

On the 22nd of August, the KZN office hosted an Information Sharing Breakfast. Kirtida Bhana, Prean Reddy and guest speaker Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman from the Gift of the Givers, delivered insightful talks on "Enhancing the Strategic Role of Learning and Development." they emphasized the importance of upskilling individuals, particularly the youth, highlighting that continuous learning is essential for growth and success. Dr Sooliman's message reinforced the idea that empowering people through knowledge can lead to sustainable development for both individuals and organizations.



Recycling Training Accreditation

Our KZN Division is now accredited to offer the Occupational Certificate for Self-Employed Recycling Materials Collectors.

25 delegates from companies such as Ingcweti, Isiphapho Group, and Umvuso Care amongst many others, participated in this training. The program was a success with the recyclers fully engaging in the programme.

This initiative aligns with our goal of promoting sustainability while providing valuable skills to those in the recycling industry.





Regional News

KwaZulu Natal

Pneumatic Training a new option

Our Technical Trainer Paul Nkunzi, has attended Pneumatics Level 1 Training. This course is designed to enhance his skills and knowledge in Pneumatics, which will, in turn, contribute to the advanced training we offer our learners.



The YES Programme

We are excited to welcome Nkosingiphile Gumede, currently working in our KZN office through the YES Program. She is eager to learn and develop her skills during her year with us, and she has expressed her excitement about the opportunity to grow alongside the Plastics SA team. Her enthusiasm is inspiring.



Progression Training Opportunities for Learners

Following the recent merSETA SDF Forum, we remain fully accredited to deliver training across all our legacy qualifications. This means that learners who have previously completed programs, such as the NQF Level 2 Learnership, can now progress to the next qualification level.

This progression training provides a clear pathway for learners to build on their existing qualifications and continue their development.



Regional News

KwaZulu Natal



Plastics|SA Academy
FOR LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

WE'RE EXCITED TO BRING TO YOU AN EXCLUSIVE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Plastics SA KZN is offering a combo package on Injection Moulding courses designed to advance your skills and save you money.

Here's the Deal:

Combo Package:

- Basic Injection Moulding (NQF Level 2 and 3): R21,760
- Basic Raw Materials (NQF Level 3): R6,528
- Advanced Injection Moulding (NQF 4) : R19, 584

Special Offer:

Enrol on both Basic Injection Moulding and Basic Raw Materials by 1 December and receive Advanced Injection Moulding (NQF Level 4) at a highly discounted rate, bringing the total cost for all three programs to just R30,000!

Your Savings: That's a total discount of R18,272 (original cost R48,288), making it a fantastic opportunity for those looking to broaden their expertise at a fraction of the cost.

Limited Slots: Only 10 candidates will be accepted for this exclusive combo, ensuring a focused and high-quality training experience.

Register by December 1st 2024

to secure your place and qualify for this discount.

**Don't miss out on this opportunity to gain invaluable skills
in injection moulding at an unbeatable price.**

**Act fast to reserve your spot! Contact
Desiree.Munsami@plasticssa.co.za today!**



Regional News

Gauteng

Occupational Qualification Learnership

We launched a Self-employed Recycling Materials Collector Training Programme sponsored by Exxonmobil, PETCO and Polycyco. This was the first QCTO Occupational qualification presented by Plastics SA.



Information Sharing Breakfast

We hosted more than 50 delegates at our Information-sharing Breakfast on 21 August 2024



Advent One Updating Welding Skills

Senior personnel from Advent One attended a Thermoplastic Welding Overview presentation to better understand welding plastic materials and welding processes.





Regional News

Gauteng

Impala Refinery women take on Thermoplastic Welding Training

[Watch the action](#)

Occupational Qualification Learnerships 2025

	Legacy Qualification	Occupational Qualification
1	48915 – Operations Supervision NQF4	115723 OC: Production Supervisor NQF 5
2	49451 – FETC: Plastics Manufacturing NQF 4	117327 :OC: Manufacturing Machine Operator NQF 3
3	58785 – NC Production Technology NQF 3	120037 – OC: Production Operator NQF 3
4	None	10384 – OC: Self-Employed Recycling Material Collector NQF 1
5	None	110308 – OC: Plastics Manufacturing Machine Setting (Trade) NQF 5
6	60270 – NC: Generic Management NQF 5 (Extended)	No replacement but you can enroll learners

Plan your training for 2025

Our new training schedules have been uploaded to the [website](#).

Simply complete the online form and one of our administrators will contact you. Should you wish to discuss the details of a programme, or need guidance, please contact:

GAUTENG: FRIDAH.MATULUDI@PLASTICSSA.CO.ZA

WESTERN CAPE: ZIKHONA.NOKAMA@PLASTICSSA.CO.ZA

KWAZULU NATAL: DESIREE.MUNSAMI@PLASTICSSA.CO.ZA



PROPAK
AFRICA 2025
PACKAGING • PROCESSING • PRINTING • PLASTICS

PlasticsSA urges reevaluation of On-pack Recycling labels

The implementation of On-Pack Recycling Labels (OPRLs) in South Africa was envisioned as a pivotal move to enhance consumer comprehension of packaging recyclability. Introduced in 2019 with support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), these guidelines aimed to deliver uniform, clear instructions on managing packaging waste.

Clear Guidance for Consumers

Annabe Pretorius, Executive: Technical Operations at Plastics SA explains that OPRLs are visual cues directly printed on packaging, designed to inform consumers about the recyclability of a product.

“This streamlined communication was intended to facilitate proper disposal of packaging and boost recycling rates nationwide. Each component of the packaging is covered by the labels, aiming to eliminate confusion and simplify recycling decisions,” she states.

Collaboration and Implementation

The guidelines, developed in collaboration with the SA Plastics Pact and partners, encouraged brand owners and retailers to adopt them uniformly. The goal was that consistent application across various brands would clarify how consumers should manage packaging, thereby enhancing recycling rates.

Need for Ongoing Education

Plastics SA underscores the necessity of continuous education for collectors, recyclers, and consumers. “Newly designed recyclable products, like mono-layer pouches, might not be collected due to lack of awareness. Perfectly recyclable products won’t be recycled if not collected. If waste pickers and collectors assume certain materials are non-recyclable, they risk losing valuable resources, even when these have been redesigned for recyclability,” Pretorius notes.

Concerns About Current Guidelines

Despite initial expectations, Pretorius raises concerns over certain aspects of the guidelines, especially the 30% threshold set to classify recyclability. She highlights that many recyclable products in South Africa fall below this cut-off, cautioning that advising consumers against recycling these items undermines the recycling industry, leads to consumer confusion, and prevents valuable materials from reaching recyclers.

“Plastics SA tracks recycling rates by packaging material, while the OPRL links products to these rates. However, using the 30% threshold as a strict go/no-go criterion seems impractical given the lack of data for every individual product,” she says.

Emphasising the crucial role collectors play in the recycling value chain, Pretorius also highlights their responsibility to sort and send materials that recyclers require. “If a sufficient quantity of a specific material is collected, it will generate market demand. This is why we oppose the 30% limit. Our message to consumers should be straightforward: if it’s a clean, mono-layer, mono-material plastic product, recycle it.”

Call for Clarity

While the original intention of OPRLs was to simplify recycling for consumers and increase recycling rates, this has not always been the outcome. Pretorius questions the effectiveness of the labels in engaging consumers:

“Our message needs to be clear: if it’s plastic, rinse it and recycle it!”

In the Media - highlights

MAJOR INCREASE IN RECYCLING IN SA

21% increase in recycling rates from 2022 to 2023

Plastics SA, the umbrella body representing the local plastics industry, has released its latest survey results on polymer consumption and recycling figures for the year ending 2023. The report shows significant strides in the recycling sector, with a 21% increase in recycling rates compared to 2022.

The report highlights that the recycling rate for plastics in South Africa has risen from 12.5% in 2022 to 15.1% in 2023. This increase is attributed to a combination of factors, including improved waste management practices, increased public awareness, and the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes.

Plastics SA's Sustainability Director, Douw Steyn, commented on the findings, stating, "This is a significant milestone for our industry, demonstrating our commitment to environmental sustainability and our ongoing efforts to improve recycling infrastructure. We will continue to work closely with government and other stakeholders to further enhance our recycling capabilities and ensure a more circular economy for plastics in South Africa."

BY THE WAY

800,000 bags for clean-up – The 2024 International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC) Day on 21 September was a huge success, with hundreds of volunteers clearing litter from beaches around the country and inland waterways. This is really in response to the fact that the problem is huge, too, and has got progressively bigger. Special thanks are due to PlasticsSA for managing the day and involving so many people. Here we see PSA's sustainability manager Douw Steyn at Umbogintwini in KZN. The opportunity was also taken to encourage the volunteers to 'recycle at home, school and work' – See pages 32-34

Int'l Coastal Cleanup 2024 a huge success

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Plastics SA releases 2023 polymer consumption and recycling figures

16 October 2024

Plastics SA – the umbrella body representing the local plastics industry – has released its latest survey results on polymer consumption and recycling figures for the year ending 2023. This year's report shows significant strides in the recycling sector, whilst highlighting the importance of continued investment in infrastructure and education.

The report shows that the total polymer consumption in South Africa for 2023 was 1.2 million tonnes, with a 21% increase in recycling rates compared to 2022. The recycling rate for plastics in South Africa has risen from 12.5% in 2022 to 15.1% in 2023.

The report also highlights the importance of continued investment in infrastructure and education to further improve recycling capabilities and ensure a more circular economy for plastics in South Africa.

Communities heed call to make a difference

Annual event aims to leave the world a cleaner place, writes Lynette Dicey

The annual Clean-Up & Recycle SA Week takes place this week

Communities across South Africa have heeded the call to make a difference during the annual Clean-Up & Recycle SA Week. The event, which runs from 16 to 21 September, has seen thousands of volunteers participating in clean-up activities across the country.

Plastics SA's Sustainability Director, Douw Steyn, commented on the success of the event, stating, "The response from communities across the country has been incredible. It shows that people are taking ownership of their environment and are committed to making a difference. This is a testament to the power of community action and the importance of recycling and proper waste management."

Make recycling easy and accessible and promote it as 'the right thing to do'

SA's waste collection system is not conducive to a sustainable and circular economy. The majority of recyclables are sourced from the commercial sector, while household materials are largely gathered by the informal sector. Some 39% of the population don't have access to any form of waste management services.

This is in contrast to many developed countries which have implemented widespread collection of recyclables and separation-at-source, with citizens playing an active role in the recycling value chain.

"SA needs to adopt a similar separation-at-source culture to as 'the right thing to do' and make recycling as easy, hassle-free and as accessible as possible. Many citizens are example, are being transformed into high quality wood plastic composite decking. The Southern African Vinyls

BVinyl's recycling of post-consumer PVC bottles has prevented more than 900,000kg (36 million bottles) from going to landfill, saved greenhouse emissions and helped to create more than 30 new jobs.

Polyex, a nonprofit plastic packaging recycling organisation and independent producer responsibility organisation, supports a school programme which aims to instil environmentally conscious habits in the younger generation. It is also responsible for Packa-Ching, a mobile separation-at-source collection business which develops business enterprises who

2024 Clean-Up & Recycle SA Week a great success

The annual Clean-Up & Recycle SA Week, from 16 to 21 September, marked its 28th year of bringing together communities, businesses, and schools to raise awareness about waste management and environmental care.

Despite the challenges, such as the cost and logistical complexity of delivering bags across the country, the Sustainable Seas Trust and Plastics SA worked tirelessly to ensure that all coordinators received supplies on time.

"Our provincial and ICC coordinators are the real stars," Steyn said. "They ensure that all bags are distributed to schools, municipalities, and waterboards."

Cleaning up Hartbeespoort Dam

Residents, businesses and stakeholders took part in the dam shore clean-up. Blue Planet, Wamala, Hartbeespoort High School, Pick-a-Pop Bika Bika, Plastics SA and WESSA for being part of the clean-up. It was a daunting task but with the attitude that each person brought with them to the clean-up, we can win the war over the rubbish and the by-products at Hartbeespoort Dam," Douw said.

Another two clean-up projects are planned for 2 and 9 November before the annual big clean-up in December. Please join us, we need manpower before heavy rains set in on us."

Contact: 083 454 1544 to join the clean-up

The Power of Plastics

Plastics make our modern lives easier, safer and reliable.

PLASTIC CODE	PRODUCT	DESCRIPTION	RECYCLED INTO
PE1	Bottles for cold/soft drinks, milk, detergent, juice and mineral water and food containers		Plastic bottles and containers
PE4	Bottles for milk, juice and shampoo, bags, household containers, film and crates		Plastic bottles and containers
PE6	Clear packaging, toiletries, food, medication, bottles and cling film		Plastic bottles and containers
PE10	Bags for frozen vegetables, food, garbage and retail, milk sachets and soft bottles		Plastic bottles and containers
PE11	Bottle tops and closures, yogurt cups, margarine tubs and ice cream containers		Plastic bottles and containers
PE12	Yogurt cups, winding cups, campstoves		Plastic bottles and containers
PE13	Food trays: meat, fruit and vegetables		Plastic bottles and containers
PE14	In packaging it could be multi-layer materials such as refill pouches		Plastic bottles and containers

Reuse and Recycle your Plastics. www.plasticsinfo.co.za

Record breaking success at the 2024 clean-up and recycle SA week

The annual Clean-Up & Recycle SA Week, held from 16-21 September, marked its 28th year of bringing together communities, businesses, and

Singh emphasised the importance of building proper waste management and recycling infrastructure and urged the public to avoid littering.

Rigid plastics packaging: indispensable for our modern world

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September 16, 2024

