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PlasticsNews

As global attention intensifies around the “Plastic-Free July” campaign and preparations continue for the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2), set to take place from 5-14 August 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Plastics SA is calling for a more balanced, informed, and practical conversation about plastics.

“We need to stop blaming the material and start fixing the system. The solution lies in fostering responsible use, encouraging recycling, improving collection and sorting systems, and supporting the thousands of South Africans who work in the recycling and waste management sectors.”


Anton Hanekom

Read the full press release on our Website Media Releases page.


www.plasticsinfo.co.za

Plastics | SA


No plastics? Are you sure about that?




Sweaters, shoes and accessories are often made from recycled plastics and plastics removed from the oceans.




Plastic packaging extends the shelf life of fresh foods, preventing food wastage and greenhouse gas emissions.



Plastics technology has enabled reductions in the size of hearing aid components, improving life for people with hearing loss.



Technological advancement, from smartphones to intricate components of high-tech devices, has fostered a digital revolution, enabling communication, no matter where you are.



Disposable syringes, IV bags, and surgical gloves, all made from plastic, have enhanced hygiene and safety, reducing the risk of infection and cross-contamination.

BY EMBRACING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, IMPLEMENTING THOUGHTFUL POLICIES, AND FOSTERING RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION, COLLECTION, SORTING AND DISPOSAL, SOCIETY CAN WORK TOWARDS MITIGATING THE SCOURGE OF POLLUTION AFFECTING ALL OF US.

Sustainability - out and about

Plastics SA Supports Clear River Campaign and Recycling Efforts in Cape Town

As the umbrella body for the plastics industry, Plastics SA continues to play an active role in promoting recycling and waste management initiatives across Cape Town, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that plastics do not end up in the environment.

Recently, Plastics SA donated more than 10 000 plastic bags to various organisations that work tirelessly to prevent solid waste from entering river systems and to divert it from landfills.

Supporting the Ministerial Clear River Campaign

One of the key initiatives supported by Plastics SA is the Clear River Campaign—a national effort launched by the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Sello Seithlolo, to keep rivers clean and protect South Africa's vital water systems.

As part of this initiative, Plastics SA donated 2 000 plastic bags to the Soul Food Harmony Group in Grabouw to encourage recycling and waste collection efforts in the area.

In his address, Deputy Minister Seithlolo emphasised the urgent need to protect river systems and highlighted the importance of educating children about environmental care so that they grow up to become responsible citizens. He urged that pollution should be classified as a national crisis.

Commitment to Cleaner Rivers and a Circular Economy

Plastics SA remains committed to supporting community-driven initiatives that not only keep plastics out of rivers and landfills but also reinforce the principles of a circular economy. Through partnerships with government and local organisations, these efforts continue to make a measurable impact on South Africa's waste management and water conservation goals.



Handing over of equipment: *Left to Right: Deputy Minister Sello Seithlolo; CEO Overberg Water Board - Dr P.Buthelezi; Provincial Head Water and Sanitation - Ntombizanele Bila-Mupariwa; Deputy Mayor Theewaterskloof Municipality; Councillor Cynthia Clayton and Lynnette De Bruyn-Davids from the Soul Food Harmony Group*



Save-a-Fishie Sponsorship

From 17 May to 5 July 2025, Zoë and her team at Save a Fishie NPC completed 57 cleanups across the country removing an incredible 7.3 tons of waste from the South African coastline.

The campaign's efforts have not only protected and preserved the remarkable beauty of South Africa's beaches but have also helped to safeguard the diverse marine ecosystems and the wildlife that depends on them.

Moreover, clean beaches serve as prime destinations for tourists, thus boosting local economies and rejuvenating coastal communities.

The bright yellow plastic bags were sponsored by Plastics SA.



ISOW (Innovative Solutions for Waste) - Stakeholder engagement

The ISOW Project recently hosted a successful stakeholder engagement workshop at the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region's offices in Hoedspruit.

The event brought together more than 35 participants, including municipal representatives, traditional leaders, waste reclaimers, Buy-Back Centre owners, NGOs, and community members from Thulamahashe and Acornhoek.

The workshop's primary objectives were to share and validate the findings of a baseline study and to collaboratively develop ideas for a proposed local Beneficiation Centre (BC). This facility is envisioned to enhance waste diversion and processing while creating income-generating opportunities within the Bushbuckridge Municipality.

ISOW is a Plastics SA initiative launched in Mpumalanga in collaboration with Petco, Polyco, eWASA, Metpac, PRO Alliance, Dow Southern Africa, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*, the Ehlanzeni District and Local Municipality of Bushbuck Ridge. Find out more on our website - Sustainability Projects page.

Circular Economy, one container at a time



It was during the COVID-19 pandemic that the Gcwalisa team began experimenting with a model that allowed customers to purchase essential items in bulk, but in small, affordable quantities - tailored to daily needs and constrained budgets. The real innovation? Encouraging customers to bring back their containers for reuse. Creating a simple but powerful model for circular living that reduced both plastic waste and household expenditure.

In order for the re-use concept to work, the containers had to be reusable, durable, recyclable, lightweight, cost effective and, for food products, food safe, and polypropylene (PP) jars and buckets and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles were the perfect match. Two reliable South African plastics manufacturers supply all of the containers. All packaging is labelled with the specific product name, reuse process and a unique QR code to track reuse. Customers may also choose to bring their own containers to refill. For more info, visit www.plasticsinfo.co.za or <https://web.facebook.com/Gcwalisa>

Gcwalisa is a beneficiary of the **Circular City Labs CCL*** Project, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), funded through the BMZ Initiative for Climate and Environmental Protection (IKU). Plastics SA is the local implementing partner for GIZ with the objective of trialling re-usable plastics packaging in terms of damage, soiling and losses.

The latest video, highlighting the success of Gcwalisa, is available to view on Youtube at https://youtu.be/FuJRR_IJE_E

Circular City Labs
Testing Reusable Packaging Systems in Cities



Implemented by





Clean-up and Recycle Week 2025

September has become synonymous with “spring cleaning” the environment, and this year promises to be no exception. Throughout the month, various clean-ups will take place across the country, uniting communities, schools, businesses, and individuals in the shared goal of protecting our environment.

Clean-Up & Recycle SA Week is more than just picking up litter; it’s about fostering a culture of accountability and respect for our environment. Plastics are valuable materials that should be recycled and kept in the circular economy. By working together to clean and recycle, we are preserving our natural resources and ensuring a healthier planet for generations to come.

Plastics SA will once again sponsor thousands of bright yellow branded bags, which will be distributed to coordinators and volunteers around the country. These bags will help collect and sort the litter gathered during the clean-ups.

While Plastics SA is spearheading the initiative, various material streams (including paper, glass and metals) will also be involved, showcasing how collaboration between industries and citizens is key to tackling pollution.

We invite everyone to join us — whether it’s at your local beach, river, park, or neighbourhood.

Highlights of the week include:

- National River Clean-Up Day – Wednesday, 17 September 2025
- National Recycling Day South Africa – Friday, 19 September 2025
- International Coastal Clean-Up Day – Saturday, 20 September 2025

SST’s Operation Clean Spot (OCS) hub is an all-in-one site where you can view, track and join environmental activities! This easy-to-use platform makes it easier to Adopt-A-Spot and engage with clean-ups by joining one or registering your own.

Sign up and start making a difference in your community -
www.sst.org.za

www.cleanupandrecycle.co.za

A Career at Plastics SA



Join Plastics SA as a learning material developer

- Are you a hands-on Technologist or Production Specialist with a passion for learning and development?
- Do you want to help shape the next generation of skilled professionals in South Africa's plastics industry?

Plastics|SA in Midrand is looking for a dynamic and forward-thinking Learning Material Developer to join our team and bring technical training to life through impactful, classroom-based content.

Download the full job description on our website's **careers page**.



Welcome to Sam Kumbula

We welcome Samuel Kumbula as a new Sustainability Project Coordinator, based at our Head Office in Midrand. Sam joins the team with more than eight years of experience in the environmental management sector. His professional journey has equipped him with robust skills in project management, stakeholder engagement, spatial mapping, and field operations.

Plastics SA looks forward to the impact Sam will have on advancing the industry's sustainability agenda and strengthening its commitment to circular economy practices.



Honouring dedication

This year we prepare to say farewell to a cornerstone of our organisation: Renee McLean, who will be retiring this September after nearly 22 years of outstanding service. Renee has been an integral part of our Academy's success. We also extend our thanks to Rimeij Davies, who served as our receptionist for many years and has now retired.



Academy News



Plastics SA championed skills development at recent PROPAK EAST AFRICA

At the recently concluded Propak Kenya 2025 conference, Kirtida Bhana delivered an inspiring presentation under the theme: **“Building Skills and Capacity for a Resilient Future in Plastics Manufacturing.”**

Speaking to a diverse audience of industry leaders, policymakers, and educators, Kirtida highlighted the urgent need to align skills development with the evolving demands of Africa’s plastics industry.

She addressed key challenges in Kenya, including:

- A skills mismatch in automation and sustainability,
- An over-reliance on imported raw materials, and
- Increasing regulatory pressures.

To illustrate the future of the industry, Kirtida presented a futuristic job profile for a Plastics Technician in 2030—one requiring expertise in biodegradable polymer processing, robotic operations, and data analytics. This forward-thinking approach underscored the shift toward innovation and sustainable manufacturing.

A major highlight of her talk was the role of the Plastics SA Academy for Learning and Development in closing skills gaps. The Academy offers accredited technical qualifications and occupational programmes, including the Occupational Certificate: Self-Employed Recycling Materials Collector. This programme equips learners with the entrepreneurial, legal, and recycling-related competencies needed to thrive in the circular economy.

Kirtida ended with a strong call to action for industry leaders:

“Embrace rapid change, digitisation, hybrid teams, and servant leadership - while investing in continuous skills development to future-proof the sector!”



SAVE THE DATE

Regional Information Sharing Breakfast

From Knowledge to Impact –
Transforming Learning into
Performance



Join us for a regional morning of insight, conversation, and industry collaboration. More details will follow, but for now, please save the date!

When and Where?

- 20 August: **GAUTENG**, Plastics SA, Corporate Park South, Midrand
- 21 August: **WESTERN CAPE**, Plastics SA, Maitland
- 27 August: **KWAZULU NATAL**, Westville Civic Hall, 1 William Lester Drive, Westville, Durban

Time: 0830 to 1100

**Let's collaborate to build a high-performing, skilled workforce –
one learning journey at a time.**



Crossing borders with skills

In a remarkable example of international collaboration and adaptability, one of our Technical Trainers from the Western Cape office, Daniel Julius, recently stepped into a new kind of challenge — delivering Butt Welding Training in Luanda, Angola.

Held from 24 to 27 June, the training was conducted with the assistance of a Portuguese-English translator, adding an exciting layer of complexity to the learning experience. From explaining technical concepts to facilitating translated Q&A sessions, every aspect of the programme — including the translation of exam questions and responses — required careful coordination.

Despite the language barriers, the training was a success and a great testament to the dedication of our trainers and the growing demand for technical skills across borders. This experience not only broadened the horizons of our team but also strengthened international ties in skills development within the plastics industry.



Graduation

In Gauteng, 15 learners from Multotec graduated. They all completed their National Certificate: Production Technology NQF 3 successfully.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Plan your training for the rest of 2025

Upskill yourself or your employees. We tailor-make programmes to suit you.

Kwazulu Natal

August

- Basic Raw Materials NQF 3 – 19-21

September

- Basic Injection Moulding NQF 2&3 01-05 & 8-12
- Advanced Injection moulding NQF 4 22-26; 29-30 Sep to 2 October

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL

Desiree.Reddy@plasticssa.co.za

Gauteng

August

- Basic Hydraulics 06-08
- Basic Pneumatics:13-15
- Robotics 20-22
- Principles of Quality 18-19
- Workplace Safety 20-21
- SHEQ Procedures and Systems 11-13
- Operations Supervision – Phase 5: Effective Industrial Relations 25-27
- Generic Management Phase 5: Setting Plastics Production Equipment 3, 25-27 August

September

- Basic Raw Materials 08-10
- Extrusion Blow Moulding Machine Setting 01-05
- Injection Moulding Machine Setting 01-04; 15-19
- Pipe and Profile Extrusion Machine Setting 08-12

October

- Plastics Materials & Processes Overview 21-22
- Basic Injection Moulding 06-10; 20-24
- Advanced Raw Materials 13-17

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL

Fridah.Matuludi@plasticssa.co.za

Western Cape

October

- Financial Principles 2 - 3
- Principles of Quality 2 - 3
- Supervisory Management Phase 2 (Effective Communication) 6 - 9
- Injection Moulding Machine Construction 6 - 10
- Pipe & Profile Machine Setting (Theory) 13 - 16
- Basic Raw Materials 13 - 15
- Thermoplastic Welding 13 - 17
- Capture Data Electronically 20
- Control Expenditure 21 - 23
- Injection Moulding Machine Operations 20 - 24
- Pipe & Profile Machine Setting (Practical) 27 - 31
-

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL

Zikhona.Nokama@plasticssa.co.za

In the Industry

Exhibitions
& Networking
Opportunities

SAPPMA
Southern African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association

Pipelines of Progress 2025

**SAPPMA INDUSTRY
CONFERENCE**

Thursday, 14 August 2025
NH Johannesburg Hotel,
Sandton

www.sappma.co.za



Jacques van Eck
SAPPMA



Mike Schutte
Rho-Tech



Mike Smart
Genesis Labour



Kirtida Bhana
Plastics SA



Renier Snyman
Sun Ace SA



Justin Marsberg
CEISLAB



SAPPMA members: R2500 + VAT
Non-members: R3500 + VAT

Register online:
www.savinyls.co.za/events

Plus access to international
keynote speakers at the
Southern African Vinyls
Association's conference,
**"The PVC Transformation:
Driving Progress in a
Changing World"**

**The PVC Transformation:
Driving Progress in a
Changing World**

PVC INDUSTRY
CONFERENCE



Best Recycled Plastic Products

COMPETITION

Enter by 31st July

SAPRO AWARDS

www.plasticrecyclingsa.co.za/2025-sapro-awards-for-the-best-recycled-plastic-products

**SAPRO
Awards**
THE BEST RECYCLED PLASTIC PRODUCTS



PVC

TRANSFORMATION

Driving Progress in a Changing World

Driving PROGRESS



In a Changing World



NH Johannesburg Hotel, Sandton
138 Rivonia Road, Sandton



Thursday, 14 August 2025
09:00 - 17:00

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr Mark Everard

Author, scientist and broadcaster (Wiltshire UK)
"Seeking Societal Symbiosis for the Sustainable Use of Materials" and
"Additive Sustainability Footprint: A Roadmap for the PVC Industry"



Jonathan Davies

Head of global PVC sales and sourcing, Vinmar International, Liverpool (UK)
Global outlook of PVC



Andres Vargas

Principal Plasticizer Technology, ExxonMobil (Belgium)
Flexible PVC – made to last



Thomas Weigang

Anton Paar Technical Sales (Germany)
Lab scale mixers and extruders for PVC applications



Theunis Post

About Air Pollution:
Environmental Stewardship the PVC sector



Tertius Ness

South Ocean Electric Wire (SOEW)
The PVC cable industry in SA



Jerrie Vermeulen

Sasol Applied Chemicals Research & Development (RSA)
Fischer-Tropsch lubricants for PVC:
Innovations toward sustainable solutions

Parallel session hosted by SAPPMA



Attendance Fee:

SAVA & SAPPMA members; R2500 + VAT

Non-members: R3500 + VAT

Cost includes lunch & cocktail function

REGISTER NOW



For more information and to register
www.savinyls.co.za/events

In the Industry



Revealed: petco's award winners

Real change does not shout. It starts quietly, rooted in daily effort, and slowly grows, grounded and determined. This year's Petco Awards are proof of that.

In townships and cities, along coastlines and in the suburbs, people and organisations are changing how many people deal with post-consumer packaging – by collecting, sorting and then recycling it.

Their work is not just changing the recycling landscape. It is changing lives. Throughout South Africa, individuals and organisations in recycling are creating meaningful, lasting impact. Where social inclusion, women's leadership, youth action and environmental care come together under skilled and motivated leadership, positive change is almost inevitable.

Find out more at www.petco.co.za

Trailblazing Plastics Companies Shine

A standing ovation for local innovation! Plastics industry frontrunners **Polyoak Packaging** and **Zerocrete** were honoured with top accolades at the Cape Chamber's recent Industry Innovation Awards. The event celebrated visionary businesses whose innovations are reshaping the economy and driving real-world impact.

The awards were designed to spotlight breakthrough ideas that fuel economic growth, generate jobs, and strengthen public services—while offering guests a dazzling night of inspiration and entertainment. From innovative technologies to bold sustainability efforts, the evening reminded everyone that business growth is not just good—it's essential for a thriving society!

