



TOGETHER  
TOWARDS  
A CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY

SAPRO 

South African Plastics Recycling Organisation

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



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# FOREWORD

Phil Sereme  
SAPRO General Manager

We are well over a year since the first lockdown was announced by the President due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, it appears as if the Gauteng province is already on the third wave of the pandemic, with the rest of the country hot on its heels.

Despite calls not to let our guards down and to keep ourselves safe, we continue to see people who are ignoring the basic practices of wearing their mask (properly) and keeping appropriate physical distance in public space.

The poor vaccination planning and roll-out will undoubtedly exacerbate the situation and put even more pressure on both our public health and social welfare systems. We can only hope that we will turn the tide quickly and avoid a Level 5 lockdown, as this will be catastrophic for the economy!

On a more positive note, we are happy to announce that the survey undertaken by WWF/SAPRO in partnership with GreenCape, researching "The Barriers of Plastic Recycling and inclusion of Post-Consumer Recyclate" has been completed. The final report has been distributed to all SAPRO members and its partners. We trust you will find time to read through the content and that the results will indeed contribute towards building the framework for a robust Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme by our Producer Responsibility Organisation's (PRO's).

The findings of the research highlight brand owners and retailers as being the most influential stakeholders in determining the success of a plastic circular economy in South Africa.

The vast majority of the interviewees (representing a wide range of different sectors along the entire plastics value chain - ranging from plastic manufacturers upstream, to municipalities downstream), agreed that they felt both national and local Government have the responsibility of creating a sustainable platform for the collection of plastic waste and ensuring the successful diversion of this away from our landfills and oceans.

They also indicated that they were expecting Government to put necessary monitoring measures in place to deal with "free riders" and imports in order to level the playing field for all the role-players. I will report more on the latest developments concerning the EPR scheme of Section 18 elsewhere in this newsletter.

We trust you will enjoy reading about the latest news and developments. Happy reading!

# SAPRO ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES TO BOOST PLASTIC RECYCLING IN SA

SAPRO Chairman Johann Conradie tabled plans of various projects at the Association's recent AGM which have been established to boost the stature of the organization and, most importantly, to support SAPRO's members in their endeavour to operate successful recycling operations.



- **Certifying local plastic recyclers through Eucertplast and SATAS**

SAPRO has partnered with Eucertplast (a European certification body) and SATAS (a local certification body) to start certifying local plastic recyclers. Recyclers, requiring accreditation, will be independently audited and will have to meet strict standards criteria. The ultimate aim is to raise the bar of plastic recycle in South Africa and to ensure that we supply a consistently high quality material to the industry.

"The certification will distinguish authentic operators from the unscrupulous fly-by-night guys who don't hesitate to take chances and short-cuts. Ultimately, these are the companies that end up giving our industry a bad name," Conradie said. MyPlas Recycling will be the pilot site to kickstart the project. Details of the outcome will be shared in due course as the process unfolds.

- **Influencing decisions about plastic carrier bags and design for recycling**

SAPRO recently made submissions to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in relation to the new plastic carrier bags legislation. We are happy to report that most of the submissions made were accepted.

In the same vein, it is encouraging to notice that more and more retailers and brand owners are beginning to understand the importance of making correct choices when it comes to developing and designing new packaging. We believe that this once again demonstrates that SAPRO truly represents the recycling community and we will continue to be the voice of the recycling fraternity in South Africa.



# SAPRO WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

## DANIE VAN JAARSVELD



It is with great pleasure that we announce the official appointment of Danie van Jaarsveld to SAPRO's Board of Directors. You will recall that in our first edition of our newsletter, we announced that Danie was already incorporated onto the Board during the 03 December 2020 AGM (which was subsequently converted to a General Meeting due to a lack of a quorum). Danie's appointment to the Board was officially endorsed at the Annual General Meeting which was held virtually on the 16 March 2021.

Danie has always had his fingers in various green projects - from running a recycling project in Grades 11 and 12 at school for paper collection, to managing the Bio-diesel project for Petromoc SARL in Mozambique and later being involved in alternative building technologies in South Africa, Danie finally ended up in plastic recycling five years ago. A field, which he says, he finds particularly interesting and feels blessed to be a part of.

He took a brief sabbatical from his ventures to complete his studies as CA(SA). He completed his articles at KPMG before entering the oil and gas industry in Canada for a couple of years. He gained as much life experience as possible before settling down with his wife to start a family.

Today, he is the proud father of three beautiful children and Danie says he continues to enjoy applying himself to helping find solutions to what he calls, the "Great Plastic conundrum". He is a Director at Malta Recycling (Pty) Ltd in Cape Town, plastic recyclers specialising in recycling LDPE, HDPE and PP.

## EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY AMENDMENTS

On 5 May 2021 the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) published the amended EPR regulations. These amendments mainly addressed the concerns made by industry on some section of the regulations. One of the key issues was the clarifying the definition of the "Producer". This has been a contentious topic for a while already.

Following the release of the regulations there has been numerous sessions hosted by the various Producer Responsibility Organisations (PRO's) in conjunction with Government representatives in an effort to gain more clarity around the content of the regulations and the amendments.

SAPRO has also played its part in the distributing the new regulations and keeping its members informed of the latest developments. It is imperative that you familiarise yourself with the changes, so that you can position yourself in anticipation of the implementation of the Section 18 EPR Scheme on 5 November 2021. We expect that this new legislation will bring about far-reaching changes to the South African plastic manufacturing landscape as well as the management of post-consumer plastic waste in our country. Should you have any queries in this regard, please make contact with the SAPRO Executive or one of our Board members.



## TWO PLASTIC RECYCLING HEAVYWEIGHTS SIGN OPERATION CLEAN-SWEEP (OCS) PLEDGE

SAPRO and MyPlas both commit to sustainable, safe manufacturing processes



Douw Steyn (Plastics SA), Charles Muller and Phil Sereme (SAPRO)

SAPRO and MyPlas have become the latest signatories of Operation Clean Sweep® (OCS) – an international stewardship programme designed to keep plastic pellets, flakes and powders out of the marine environment.

SAPRO currently represents 42 of South Africa's leading plastic recyclers, including MyPlas, one of the largest post-consumer recyclers of polypropylene in South Africa and the only HDPE, LDPE and PP recycler in South Africa to achieve ISO 9001:2015 certification. Signing the OCS pledge were Phil Sereme, General Manager of SAPRO and Johann Conradie, Chairman of SAPRO and joint Managing Director of MyPlas.

**"Recyclers form a vital part of the plastics circular economy and ensuring their buy-in is crucial to the success of this global initiative. We therefore applaud SAPRO and MyPlas for taking this bold step..."**

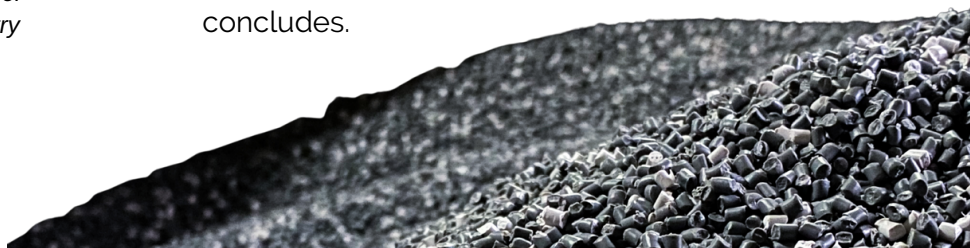
*Douw Steyn  
Sustainability Director of Plastics SA  
and licensee and project coordinator for  
OCS in South Africa's plastics industry*

"It is hugely encouraging that South Africa has such a strong representation of companies and associations who have made a public commitment to support OCS and its various projects that aim to ensure that no plastics pellets, flakes or powder are spilled during transportation or at the manufacturing plants. Spilled pellets, flakes and powders enter the environment from the manufacturing facility and eventually make their way into local waterways and ultimately estuaries and the ocean where they can be mistaken for food by birds or marine animals," Steyn explains.

SAPRO General Manager Phil Sereme stresses that SAPRO is keen to align itself with any organization that initiates and promotes the cleaning up of the environment and that they will be encouraging the rest of their members to also sign the OCS pledge in their personal capacity.

"Building a responsible, sustainable plastics recycling industry that is respected and acknowledged by government, industry and the general public is one of our key focus areas. To this end, we encourage all our members to ensure that none of their process materials leach into the environment from upstream to downstream of the value chain. Signing the pledge is a commitment from SAPRO's perspective that we are doing everything in our power to achieve that objective and to set an example for the rest of the industry to follow.

We will continue our efforts to keep the environmental footprint of plastics as small as possible by encouraging recycling, reducing the amount of plastics that end up in landfill and avoiding accidental spillage in the environment by implementing the detailed OCS toolkit for improved worksite set-ups and practices," Phil concludes.



## SAPRO & PLASTICS SA HELP LITTLE REPUBLIC PRE-SCHOOL CLEAN UP LEN RUTTER PARK



On a chilly Saturday morning early in May 2021, parents and children of the Little Republic pre-school in Roodepoort, supported by volunteers in the community, rolled up their sleeves and took up the challenge to clean the Len Rutter Park in a clean-up supported by SAPRO.

Armed with latex gloves and bright yellow refuse bags made from 100 % recycled plastic and sponsored by Plastics SA, they quickly filled several garbage bags with trash. SAPRO is proud to have been part of this initiative and wishes to thank everybody who helped to make the day a big success!

*Save the  
Date*



**General Meeting**  
26 August 2021  
**Best Recycled Plastic  
Product of the Year Awards**  
14 October 2021  
**General Meeting**  
07 October 2021



# SAPRO OPENS ENTRIES FOR SA'S BEST RECYCLED PRODUCT OF THE YEAR AWARD

14 OCTOBER 2021



SAPRO is proud to announce that entries are now open for the 2021 Best Recycled Plastic Product of the Year Awards. According to Phil Sereme, General Manager of SAPRO, this biennial competition aims to raise awareness and showcase the wide variety of ingenious products that are locally designed and manufactured using recycled plastics.

"The event is a cornerstone of our strategy to grow the demand for plastic recyclate and helps to improve market acceptance of locally manufactured recycled plastic products. By acknowledging and showcasing the remarkable and inspiring range of manufactured goods that can be made from recycled materials, SAPRO encourages brand owners, retailers, converters and industrial designers to consider recycled plastics as a material of choice," Sereme explains.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's awards ceremony will be a virtual event that takes place on Thursday, 14 October 2021. During the event, the recycler of the material, the manufacturer of the product as well as the brand owner will be acknowledged. Each category will have a winner and the overall winner will be awarded.

## Judging Criteria

According to Sereme, entries will be judged on a number of criteria, such as the life expectancy and sustainability of product, measures that were taken to ensure product consistency and customer satisfaction despite recycled material content, tonnages (or potential tonnages) of plastic waste that were converted and diverted from landfill, as well as the technical achievements in manufacturing to overcome recycled material challenges.

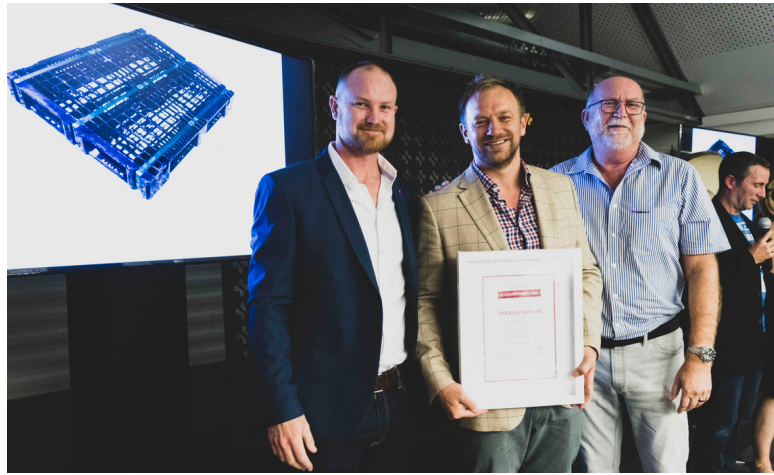


"It is important for us to recognise and reward recyclers for creating new end-markets for recyclate that not only will continue to be in demand five years from now, but that also exhibit a "wow factor" resulting in people to start thinking differently about recycled materials," he explains.

## GOLD SPONSORS



## SA'S BEST RECYCLED PRODUCT OF THE YEAR AWARD (cont)



Above: A simple shipping pallet made from recycled plastic, manufactured by Palletplast, trumped twenty seven other semi-finalists to win the SAPRO Award for Best Recycled Plastic Product of the Year in the 2019 competition.



### Award Categories

SAPRO has also revealed that various new categories have been introduced for this year's competition, namely:

- **Packaging for non-food products:** Packaging made from recycled plastic and used for non-food packaging products, e.g. home-care, personal-care, chemicals, lubricants etc.
- **Packaging for food & beverages:** Plastic packaging used for food applications, e.g. crates.
- **Agriculture and related products:** Product packaging and items used in the agricultural sector, e.g. irrigation pipes, crop protection, animal feed troughs etc.
- **Household & leisure products:** Products such as plastic knives, forks and plastic bowls, domestic-ware, broom handles, garden chairs etc.
- **Automotive, electronic, technical and engineering:** Products such as electric plugs and automobile bumpers, dash boards and mirror housings, machine switches etc.
- **Construction & building sector:** Products ranging from roof sheeting, building bricks and paving to plumbing applications.
- **Textile and clothing:** Products manufactured from recycled material in the clothing or allied textile sector.
- **Volume Award:** Products made of 100 % Post-Consumer Recyclate (PCR), This will be for applications that, in the opinion of the judges, utilises "substantial volumes" of post-consumer recyclate.
- **Overall Winner:** The overall "best-in-class" application from all of the above categories.

"We are grateful to Erema and Polyco who have again come onboard as our two main sponsors for this year's event, as well as to PETCO, the South African Plastics Pact, (facilitated by GreenCape), Packaging SA and Plastics SA who are our silver sponsors.

SAPRO encourages all plastic recyclers, innovators, converters, product designers and developers to demonstrate their commitment to the environment and saving resources by entering SAPRO's Best Recycled Plastic Product of the Year Award. This is an opportunity like none other to highlight the phenomenal work being done by recyclers in South Africa and to bring the innovative, exciting new products being developed to the attention of market leaders, brand owners and the media as we strive to improve market acceptance for products made from recycled plastics by bringing them into the mainstream," Sereme concluded.



SILVER SPONSORS



# SOUTH AFRICA'S BEST RECYCLED PRODUCT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

## THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2021



South African Plastics Recycling Organisation

Supported by Gold Sponsors:



PLASTIC RECYCLING SYSTEMS



Making waste work



Entries are now open for the 2021 SAPRO Best Recycled Plastic Products Award. This competition aims to acknowledge products that are made from recycled materials, thereby encouraging brand owners, retailers, converters and industrial designers to consider recycled plastics as a material of choice.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries are judged on a number of criteria, for example:

- Life expectancy of product
- Sustainability of product, i.e. long-term demand and market acceptance of product (will it still sell in 5 years' time?)
- Measures taken to ensure product consistency and , customer satisfaction despite recycled material content
- Tonnage (potential tonnages) converted
- Technical achievements in manufacturing to overcome recycled material challenges
- Replacement of alternative materials
- Wow Factor!

(Various weightings could be used to judge products objectively)

### HOW TO ENTER:

1. An entry fee of R2 000.00 (VAT included) must be paid online via Quicket for entries to be considered. Please note that failure to pay will automatically disqualify the entry.
2. Email the completed entry form to Phil Sereme on email address: GM@plasticrecyclingsa.co.za and nadia@plasticrecyclingsa.co.za.
3. Each entry must be accompanied by two professional quality digital images of high resolution (1+ MB) on a clearly marked CD or memory stick; one image of the product and one image illustrating the product application. Provide us with a motivation as why this product should win – max 300 words, on a separate page/document.
4. The actual, physical product must be delivered to the Plastics|SA Offices, 18 Gazelle Ave, Corporate Park, Midrand, marked for the attention of Phil Sereme (SAPRO), along with a hard copy of the entry form, photographs, and motivation on the closing date. Late entries will not be accepted.
5. It is the responsibility of the sender to confirm that the entry was delivered in person on telephone (067) 310-6999.
6. Should entrants require the return of their entries after the competition, arrangements must be made to collect the entry from the Plastics SA offices in Midrand, by no later than 21 October 2021.
7. This year's awards ceremony will be a virtual event on Thursday, 14 October 2021. During the event, the recycler of the material, the manufacturer of the product as well as the brand owner will be acknowledged. Each category will have a category winner and the overall winner will be awarded.
8. Any company in Africa may enter, provided that the recycled material originated in South Africa.
9. Products submitted in prior years, that have not previously won an award, may be entered again.
10. No entries will be accepted after 14H00 on Wednesday, 15 September 2021.

## ENTRY FORM 2021

### AWARD CATEGORIES

#### 1. Packaging for non-food products

Plastic packaging that is used for non-food packaging products, e.g. home-care, personal-care, chemicals, lubricants etc.

#### 2. Packaging for food & beverages

All plastic packaging used for food-contact applications.

#### 3. Agriculture and related products

Product packaging and items used in the agricultural sector, e.g. irrigation pipes, crop protection, animal feed troughs etc.

#### 4. Household & leisure products

Products such as plastic knives, forks and plastic bowls, domestic-ware, broom handles, garden chairs etc.

#### 5. Automotive, electronic, technical and engineering

Products such as electric plugs and automobile bumpers, dash boards and mirror housings, machines switches etc.

#### 6. Construction & building sector

Products ranging from roof sheeting, building bricks & paving to plumbing applications.

#### 7. Textile and clothing products

Products manufactured from recycled material in the clothing or allied textile sector.

**8. Volume Award** (Products made of 100% PCR and that utilise substantial volumes of raw material.) This will be for applications that, in the opinion of the judges, utilises "substantial volumes" of post-consumer recycle.

#### 9. Overall Winner

The overall "best-in-class" application from all of the above categories.



# SOUTH AFRICA'S BEST RECYCLED PRODUCT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

## THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2021

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PRODUCT: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT TEL NO: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PERCENTAGE RECYCLATE USED IN PRODUCT: \_\_\_\_\_

VOLUME OF POST-CONSUMER PLASTIC DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL: \_\_\_\_\_

PRODUCT IS MANUFACTURED/ CONVERTED IN SOUTH AFRICA: ☐ YES ☐ NO

BRIEF PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hand deliver the entered product, a hard copy of the completed entry form, two high resolution digital images (one of the product and one of the product application), and product motivation to the Plastics|SA offices, situated at 18 Gazelle Avenue, Midrand by latest 14H00 ON WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2021. Please ensure everything is clearly marked for attention: Phil Sereme. For enquiries, call him on (067) 310-6999 or via email GM@plasticrecyclingsa.co.za.

### DECLARATIONS

Please note: The declarations below are essential to ensure that the intellectual rights of both the recycler, the product manufacturer and the owner / brand owner are not infringed.

#### RECYCLER

We certify that the plastics recycler has consented to its entry. We further certify that all information and claims made in this entry are true and verifiable.

#### MANUFACTURER

We certify that the product- or brand owner of the entry has consented to its entry. We further certify that all information and claims made in this entry are true and verifiable.

#### OWNER / BRAND OWNER

We certify that the manufacturer of the product has consented to its entry. We further certify that all information and claims made in this entry are true and verifiable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised signature

### ACCEPTANCE OF RULES

We hereby agree to abide by the SAPRO Best Recycled Product Competition rules, as laid out in the Entry Form and certify that this entry does not infringe on any trademarks, copyrights, patents or licenses.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

[www.plasticrecyclingsa.co.za](http://www.plasticrecyclingsa.co.za)



SAPRO

South African Plastics Recycling Organisation

CONTACT US

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