

Excitement in Recycling

The push to increase plastic recycling in South Africa to keep our country beautiful and retain a valuable resource in the economy is in full swing. Without end-markets for recycled plastic to go into, there is no point in recycling, therefore it is everyone's responsibility to buy recycled products wherever possible. SAPRO, the industry association for plastic recyclers, hosted its annual Best Recycled Plastic Product Awards at the Indaba Hotel, Joburg, on the 27th of August to highlight this important work. Various innovators from the plastics industry and broader society presented their inspirational new products which use recycled plastics as the material of choice.

The gala dinner and award ceremony was a fabulous celebration of people and their hard work to bring positive change through their recycled plastic products. 195 industry and media stakeholders attended the gala dinner. 31 entries across 7 categories brought a wide diversity of product ideas.

The SAPRO Awards would not have been possible if it were not for sponsors who helped to cover the costs of this fabulous occasion. Thanks to Platinum Partner: Polyco PRO, Silver Sponsor: Ewasa PRO, Category Sponsors, Zerma Africa, Starlinger, Petco PRO and Eco-Smart. Supreme Mouldings sponsored frames for prizes and Spier Wines sponsored wines for the tables and prizes.

Winners each received a wine cooler bag from Shwe (Eco-Smart) and a bottle of Spier Creative Block 3. The Creative category winner got a R10,000 cash prize, Innovation winner got a R15,000 cash prize, Household & leisure won 2 home hydroponics kits from SFG Technologies, Construction and Agriculture category winners each won a R40,000 marketing voucher respectively, to advertise their product in a media outlet of their choosing.

"The SAPRO Awards shine a spotlight on the incredible innovation that is transforming plastic waste into valuable new products," says Patricia Pillay, CEO of Polyco. "This year's winners have demonstrated what's possible when design for recycling, technical excellence, and market relevance come together. Their work is proof that recycled plastics can compete at the highest levels of quality and functionality, while also helping us tackle the pressing challenge of plastic pollution. Polyco is proud to support these awards, which not only recognise industry leadership but also inspire others to reimagine waste as a resource for a truly circular economy."



Winners by Category are as follows:

Creative and Artistic Items:

Bronze Re.Play Footstool – Re.Bag.Re.Use

Silver Ocean Plastic Art: Resilience Coming-Back by Janet Ormond

Gold Sculptures of Mandela and a colourful face by Marco Olivier & Atlantic Plastics

Innovation in recycled plastic products:

Silver Hexa-Flow by Rayhaan Nakwa & University of Johannesburg

Gold MoFify home water filtration solutions by Paula Maseko & Rhodes University

PCR (recycled content) Demand Champions:

Finalist Cable Trench Protective Tile by Infinite Industries

Bronze Prestige Picket Fencing by Tufflex Plastic Solutions

Silver rPET Preform by ALPLA Recycling & ALPLA Packaging SA

Gold Shoprite 60 Litre Carrier Bag by Premier Plastics, Shoprite Checkers and Polyethylene Recoveries

Agriculture and related products:

Silver GrowRaft by Smart Food Growing (SFG) Technologies

Gold Boundary Box by Plasco Consulting

Construction & Building Sector:

Finalist Pipe Fittings by MAK Plastics & Aleid Plastics

Finalist Skirting and Wall Panels by Supreme Mouldings

Bronze Igloo by Pioneer Plastics & Fenix Rising

Silver Prestige Picket Fencing by Tufflex Plastic Solutions

Gold Bio-Separator & Soak-Away Dome by Buffalo Tanks & Fenix Rising

Household & leisure products:

Silver Recycled Moonbag by Sealand Gear

Gold Eco-Furniture by Infinite Industries

Packaging Category:

Finalist Kitchen brand honey bottle by Bowler Packaging, Shoprite Checkers & Extrupet

Finalist 2L Foam bath bottle by Bowler Packaging, Shoprite Checkers & Extrupet

Finalist Comfort 800ml ribbed bottle by Alpla Packaging SA, Unilever SA, Extrupet

Finalist Urban Sleeves packaging by Leathercraft Winklmayr, Inno Textiles & Extrupet

Bronze rPET Preforms by ALPLA Recycling & ALPLA Packaging SA

Silver Plush rPP Lid by Plastic Bubbles, The Adock Ingram Consumer Division & Myplas

Gold Vaseline body lotion bottle by ALPLA PackagingSA, Unilever SA & Extrupet

Overall Winner:

Vaseline body lotion bottle by ALPLA PackagingSA, Unilever SA & Extrupet

The Vaseline bottle is a 3 layered construction with rHDPE in the middle layer, this was seen as a leader in getting recycled material into personal care products which is a key growth sector for recycled material inclusion.

SAPRO GM Oliver Bonstein would like to thank all who supported through their participation to help drive this important agenda. We are learning and growing with every year, and we are aiming higher for next year.

Anyone who wishes to view and download pictures from the SAPRO Awards 2025 event is welcome to do so by visiting <https://triggerfinger.pixieset.com/saprogala/> the password to enter is: **SAPRO2025**



The winning collaboration: Extrupet, Alpha Packaging and Unilever



Gold winners across 7 categories



SAPRO Board members