



# CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN AND RECYCLING GUIDE

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**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Inspiring New Hope**

# CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN AND RECYCLING GUIDELINES

**An essential guide on information needed to organise a safe and sustainable clean-up and recycling.**

To move towards a litter-free environment and a healthy environment that is not harmful to our wellbeing we need everyone to play a role. The necessary shift towards sustainability can only be achieved by acting together through positive collaboration. Clean-up campaign and recycling to minimize mismanagement of waste and saving the lifespan of the landfill is one of the perfect strategies.

## **EDTEA programmes combating illegal dumping:**

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (KZN EDTEA), has programmes that ensure sustainable management of Waste in KZN. This includes Clean-Up and Awareness Campaigns led by the Environmental Empowerment Management Services Directorate (EEMS) and EPWP Programmes with beneficiaries who are responsible for clearing illegal dumping sites. These campaigns form part of Good Green Deeds (GGD) which seeks to change attitudes and behaviour towards waste, and they allow the citizens to take responsibility for keeping their environments clean. Furthermore, they assist in accelerating efforts to combat litter locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.



# PROCEDURE FOR UNDERTAKING SAFE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

## 1. KNOWING TYPES OF WASTE

**General Waste:** This refers to waste that has a low threat to human health and the environment such as waste that is generated at households. Majority of this waste can be reduced, re-used and recycled before it is disposed of at landfill sites.

**Hazardous Waste:** This type of waste is a significant negative impact on human health and the environment, such as dangerous chemicals. This type of waste is often handled by professional and registered companies and is less likely to be re-used or recycled.

### Who Dumps Waste?

Individuals, households, waste transporters, businesses and industries.

### What should we do with illegally dumped waste?

- Report to local municipality or authority.
- Organise a clean-up campaign.



## 2. CHOOSING A CLEAN-UP SPOT

First Identify a site that will be reachable to people to easily pick up waste and also consider the logistic of waste collection. It's important to ensure that those who contribute to illegal dumping are made aware of how waste affects human health and the environment, as well as waste economy opportunities, safety of the volunteer or participants is crucial. Do a risk assessment to establish whether there are any threats to participants which need attention. Estimate how many volunteers and resources you will need to collect and dispose waste identified. List all logistics and resources that you might need.

## 3. Find partners

Conduct a planning session with interested and affected parties. To check all logistics; sponsors or if you need to get permission of collection and disposal of waste in a permitted site.

## 4. Recruitment

For a clean-up to be a success and impactful you need to promote it. Use of social media and word of mouth is recommended. Communicate the meeting point and what will be provided on the and what should be done by volunteers e.g. proper protective clothing. It important to have contact of group leaders where you have big groups participating. Invite recyclers to collect recyclables on the day.

## 5. DAY OF CLEAN-UP TO DO LIST

Prepare a registration station where a briefing section on activities and processes of the day will be done. Nominate a leader of the briefing section preferable should be the organiser of the clean-up campaigns. Welcome volunteers and stakeholders, provide resources, safety procedure, segregation of waste at source and storage points for collected waste. Provide protective clothing where possible and organise transport for waste disposal. Volunteers should be discouraged to pick up hazardous and sharp materials.

### 5.1 On the day of the Clean-up, adopt the following criteria to demonstrate that the environment was left better than it was:

- Take a picture before - which shows the state of an area to be cleaned up, the picture should be positioned at the same spot across all steps;
- Take a picture during the clean-up campaign - Where possible, it's important to separate waste that is recyclable and send it to nearby buy back centres. This will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites ;
- Then take a picture after the area has been cleaned up. This picture will depict how clean you left the site compared to its original state.

To discourage continuous littering, a cleared illegal dumpsite can be turned into a community park and garden which will be of benefit to promote healthy living. Recyclable material collected should be weighed if there is a weighing scale its good to know the impact made on the day. Through assistance of local businesses or local municipality you can put up a "NO DUMPING" sign.

## 6. DISPOSAL OF WASTE AFTER

It is important to recycle waste as much as possible, any waste that can not recycled must be collected and disposed at a permitted landfill site. No waste should be left behind. Thank all the volunteers for participating and celebrate your milestone.



# PROCEDURE FOR RECYCLING

We cannot only rely on clean-ups as a solution to waste management and a litter free country. We need a consensus systematic approach to reduce the amount of waste to prolong the life span of our landfill sites. Recycling has taught us that we need to shift our perspectives and treat all waste as a valuable resource just like nature does. It also teaches us the importance of assessing the life cycle of the product for us to be able to run into a circular economy. Let's promote the use of the "5 Rs" to reduce the demand for production of raw materials; consumption patterns and promote a sustainable lifestyle.

## RETHINK

The first step towards change is to start asking questions. Let's think about the environmental economic and social impact of everything we do. Are you for the cheapest and easiest option or do you aim for the most sustainable option?

### Some things to consider:

- What are your purchases made of?
- Do you know their source?
- What are the 'side-effects' of their manufacture and their journey into your hands?
- Do you need to buy new clothes, gadgets and gear or can you do without it, borrow it or buy it second-hand?
- Refuse to buy cosmetics with plastic ingredients.
- Think about what the meaning of 'eco', 'sustainable', 'organic' or 'green', is on the packaging. How eco and sustainable really are these products?
- How much waste do you generate each week? What type of waste is it? Food, packaging, or paper? How can you generate less of each type? Where does that waste end and how? Do you know collection and disposal process?
- Refuse to eat fish that are over-exploited or endangered, and explain why to the vendor or restaurant owner. Shark, whale, and bluefin tuna are still commonly found on menus.
- Refuse to accept daily menus made from meat, as meat production has a huge environmental footprint compared to vegetable agriculture. Ask for the vegetarian or vegan menu! These are usually much less resource-intensive food sources. Support your local producers too, to help reduce the transportation footprint. You might find that in many cases there is only one option available, and this option comes as single-use plastic. It's easy to just go with the flow, but every time you refuse and ask for sustainable solutions, you nudge society and entrepreneurs into finding them.



# REFUSE

Refusing to consume goods that don't have the planet's wellbeing in mind sends a very powerful message to society. This simply means saying NO. Refusing materials is the primary way to lower our impact on landfill. Refuse everything that you do not need. An easy action we can take is to refuse single - use plastic. This is plastic that is used one time only - and very often for just 15 minutes. 12 million tons of plastic leaks into the oceans annually. By 2050, there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish. This is a relatively easy problem to tackle, as very often we don't actually need single-use plastics, so we can easily refuse.

- Refuse to accept a plastic or paper cup at the coffee machine or water cooler. Paper cups have a plastic lining that is difficult to remove and they are therefore often not recycled. Bring your own cup instead
- When shopping, say no to plastic bags. Bring your own reusable one.
- Eat at the outlet, or order takeaway food from places where they use biodegradable containers.
- Refuse to buy cosmetics with plastic ingredients.
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# REDUCE

The waste crisis is a direct result of over-consumption. We advocate re-assessing one's needs by asking the simple questions: do I want it, or do I need it? An evaluation of one's own consumption patterns helps you to act. Only buy things if strictly needed. Avoid packaging when possible. Avoid products wrapped in plastic or excessively packaged in boxes and bags. This is a great way to generate less waste, plus you'll save energy and natural resources. Rent items instead of buying them. If you need something less than 5 times per year, you don't need to own it. Choose products built to last, opt for high quality items. You may have to pay more, but high-quality items may last longer, perform better, and give fewer problems than lower-quality items. Instead of disposable items, opt for durable ones such as crockery, reusable cups, and reusable water bottles. Buy large economy - sized products instead of individually wrapped items. Buy items in bulk, in concentrate, or in refillable packages. Buy new electronics only when they are needed, not just because there is a newer model available. Use your electronics as long as possible. Buy local products; besides stimulating the local economy, buying local products means we reduce the negative environmental impacts from transportation. We must think creatively in order to do it successfully. There are better ways to reduce reuse, and recycle than simply throwing our recyclables in the suitable bins. One way to be creative and innovative in your recycling efforts is through "upcycling": it entails turning waste into something innovative and beneficial. For instance, electronics can be upcycled to make new products such as furniture, art decorations or jewellery.



# REUSE

The reusability of an item determines its value throughout its whole life cycle. This is something that should be thought about throughout the whole production and consumption processes. Whereas for business, the changes require careful consideration and overhaul of certain processes, for individuals the decision to reuse is more straight-forward:

- Buy second-hand items. Prolong the life of products by repairing, redesigning, upcycling them. If we really look at the things we are throwing away, we can learn to see them as materials that can be reused to solve everyday problems and satisfy everyday needs. Most of us, however, haven't even begun to exploit the resources in our trash. Once you have made up your mind to use trash



for positive uses, you can begin to brainstorm and generate ideas. Reusing saves money, conserves resources, and satisfies the human urge to be creative.

- The majority of waste is made of plastic. Before you toss something away, perhaps the item can serve another purpose? Reuse packaging when you can. Reuse the chips or peanut box, jar, spice pots, or zip-lock cereal bags to store other items. Old pill jars are especially useful when travelling. Reuse plastic bags as garbage bags.
- Start to replace all single use items with reusable ones. For example, replace plastic bags with reusable textile bags. Bring a bag or two whenever you go shopping. If you do end up with a plastic bag in your hands, re-use it for as long as you can.
- Replace plastic bottles with reusable drinking bottles and use tap water wherever possible. Avoiding buying bottled water by carrying a reusable drinking bottle with you at all times already makes a big difference. Opt for tap water at home, at your office, and especially while out and about. If you don't like the taste of tap water, use a filter. better at our choices. Just keep your eyes open and be creative. There is no "away", so use the items as long as possible.

## RECYCLE

Recycle what you can, and choose products made from recycled materials. Products made from recycled materials are a better choice than those made of virgin materials. However, recycling is the final option on the waste hierarchy before landfill. Many materials can only be recycled a certain number of times. The majority of plastic is non-recyclable. Either because it's dirty, it's moulded together with other materials, or it is made out of types of plastic that are not possible to recycle. Recycling helps to create awareness, and it's very important to do it right, but it's not the final solution! Even if you dispose of your waste correctly, you never know where it will end up. So it is important to prioritise other options (refuse, reduce, reuse) over recycling wherever you can.

### **Here are a few important things to consider when it comes to recycling:**

- Compared to making a new plastic product, recycling uses less water, fossil fuel and resource extraction. But don't forget, plastic can only be down-cycled—losing quality each time. Therefore, considering whether to use plastic at all is the most important decision for businesses.
- Find a way to compost your organic waste. There are solutions for apartments, private homes, offices, schools and the like. Ask your local government to start creating composting stations all around the town. These questions are not only for individuals, but organisations, producers and service providers must also ask the same or similar questions about their business models, production, transportation, and all related activities.



# IT IS TIME TO RECYCLE: KNOW YOUR RECYCLING CODES

						
<b>PETE</b>	<b>HDPE</b>	<b>PVC</b>	<b>LDPE</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>PS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Polyethylene Terephthalate	High Density Polyethylene	Polyvinyl Chloride	Low Density Polyethylene	Polypropylene	Polystyrene	Other
clear tough plastic	common white and coloured plastic	hard rigid clear plastic	soft flexible plastic	hard but flexible plastic	rigid, brittle plastic	all other plastic, including acrylic and nylon
						
soft drink and water bottles, food packaging, fruit, juice containers and cooking oil, peanut butter jars, mouthwash bottles, shampoo bottles	milk, water juice jugs, 5 gal buckets, yoghurt pots, soap dispenser, cleaning products, detergent bottles, bleaching agents, grocery bags	pipe and window fittings, thermal insulation, car parts shampoo and window cleaner bottles, trays for sweets and fruit, bubble foil, food foil	frozen food bags, bread bags, food bags, shopping bags, magazine wrapping, squeeze bottles	yogurt and margarine tubs, ketchup bottles, microwave meal trays, fibres and filaments for carpet, wall covering, vehicle upholstery, luggage, toys, bumpers	some yogurt pots, takeaway boxes, plastic cutlery, protective packaging, insulation, oys, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, CD cases, egg cartons, cups and plates	ketchup, 3 and 5 gallon water bottles, other plastics including acrylic, polycarbonate, polylactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass

# Clean-up & Recycle

S O U T H A F R I C A

<b>PET (1)</b>	<b>Easy to recycle</b>
<b>HDPE (2)</b>	<b>Easy to recycle</b>
<b>PVC (3)</b>	<b>Hard to recycle</b>
<b>LDPE (4)</b>	<b>Can be recycled</b>
<b>PP (5)</b>	<b>Can be recycled</b>
<b>PS (6)</b>	<b>Hard to recycle</b>
<b>Miscellaneous (7)</b>	<b>Not often recycled</b>

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