

Showcase of 3R Good Practices

Date: 28 February 2006

Country / Organisation: South Africa

No.	Name of the practice	Summary of practice	Impact	Key for success
1	Encouraging extended producer responsibility	The government has signed voluntary agreements with the glass and tyre industries that are aimed at fostering extended producer responsibility, Through these agreements, the respective industries have made commitments to, as far as possible, recover, reuse and recycle their products.	The expected impact is an increased rate of recycling of the identified waste streams and, subsequently, a reduction in the quantities of these waste streams that are disposed to landfills. The government has set recycling targets. Compliance with these targets will be monitored over time.	Extensive consultation with stakeholders through the inception and implementation phases is important for success.
2	Enhancing integrated waste management	The government has transferred the permitting of waste disposal sites from the Ministry responsible for water resources to the Ministry responsible for the environment. This transfer further enhances the integrated management of waste. It also supports the "cradle to grave" approach to waste management adopted by the government.	The Ministry of Environment has direct oversight over waste disposal. The transfer has also facilitated more efficient linkages with the environmental impact assessment processes that are undertaken by the same Ministry.	A key success factor is a growing understanding of the importance of integrated waste management and efficient institutional arrangements.
3	Establishing a National Recycling Forum	The government established a National Recycling Forum in order to coordinate recycling activities in the country at a national level. The Forum comprises representatives from government, the recycling industry and NGOs. The Forum provides direction and guidance to national recycling initiatives.	The Forum provides a platform for information-sharing and consultation between all stakeholder groups. It also offers opportunities for collaboration among stakeholders.	All stakeholder groups are equitably represented on the Forum. This has favourable implications for the success of Forum activities.

4	Promoting cleaner production	The government has developed a national strategy for cleaner production. The strategy seeks to address the reduction of waste generation at source, as well encourage the efficient use of resources, especially natural resources, and the use of cleaner technologies.	The extensive consultations undertaken with all stakeholders during the development of the strategy served to elevate cleaner production as a waste minimisation concept and raise awareness of CP generally.	A clear understanding of cleaner production and its role in waste prevention / reduction as distinct from other waste minimisation concepts.
5	Expanding industrial waste exchange	The government has initiated a pilot programme to expand the reuse and recycling of industrial waste through the exchange of waste between industrial waste generators and waste recyclers. The programme is designed to serve as a model for reducing industrial waste that is currently disposed to the permitted waste disposal sites or dumped illegally.	The programme is still in its introductory phase, but already awareness has been created among the participating industries of the opportunities offered by the waste exchange concept for the disposal of their wastes.	The success of this initiative will largely rest on the commitment of the participating industries and the demonstration of the benefits that can be derived from waste exchange.