



Content

1. Used Oil Workshop 1
2. Separating at Source and Global Trends 2
3. Recognising Champions and Sharing our Knowledge 3
4. The Green Guide and Call to Action 4



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Used Oil Workshop

Proposed collection model roll out well received by role-players

Over the past year ROSE has worked closely with Government to give the used oil recycling industry more credibility. Well, it looks as if the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) has listened, but it will be sting rather than bite.

ROSE has built an excellent relationship with DEAT, primarily through the lobbying efforts of the ROSE board of directors and the CEO Raj Lochan. At the recent Used Oil Environmental Management workshop for role-players in the industry, held in Johannesburg, a full morning session was devoted to presentations by DEAT, as well as various environmental consultants, with the focus on pending legislation and its impact on the industry. The outcome was a lively debate amongst the used oil collectors and processors. Approximately 45 delegates representing 25 collectors and processors attended the two-day workshop.

The presentation that stirred the highest interest was from Peter Lukey, Chief Director, Prosecutions, who presented a paper on the future role of the "Green Scorpions", an environmental prosecuting authority, which if properly managed and run on the lines that DEAT is encouraging, should go a long way to meet ROSE's plea for compliance.

The proposed collection model encourages the participation of

all collectors and processors in South Africa to partner ROSE in guaranteeing responsible environmental management of used oil collection and disposal. Although ROSE believes in carrots rather than sticks to get compliance with basic environmental compliance, the Green Scorpions will have the authority to wield a stick.

To make participation easier, and rewarding, collectors and processors will be provided with an environmental incentive (EI) for every litre of used oil collected and processed. Independent environmental audits by ROSE on collectors and processors will ensure the ongoing responsible environmental management of used oil in South Africa.

The measures may cost in the short term but ROSE is prepared to initially provide assistance to smaller collectors, to ensure they meet the minimum environmental standards.

As a result of the deliberations at the workshop, the delegates agreed to appoint a working group to develop the way forward. One of the key deliverables will be the formation of an Association for Collectors and Recyclers.



Peter Lukey, Chief Director Prosecutions presenting at the workshop in February.

Separating at Source

Bio Bin – Streamlining recycling

While ROSE's key concern is the recycling and disposal of used oil in an environmentally friendly and safe manner it often uses its influence and the ROSE Report readership to highlight the efforts of other excellent recycling initiatives – and one of these is the Bio Bin.

The Bio Bin consists of two compartments: one section to receive recyclable material, and the other to receive non-recyclable material. It simplifies the recycling effort, separating the products that are recyclable.

The Bio Bin uses a two-bag system, optimising and streamlining the separation, recovery and collection of valuable products. An instruction on the lid of the bin educates the public about recyclable waste, such as glass, paper, plastic and cans.

"The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) fully supports the principles of the Bio Bin and welcomes such efforts from the general public and businesses alike, to ensure that waste minimization and management is done in a responsible manner," says Dr Joseph Matjila, Chief Director of Pollution and Waste Management. "It intensifies the focus on DEAT's recycling and waste strategy, and assists us to meet our 2020 target of getting every South African to buy into a 'zero waste' culture."



The Bio Bin

On a practical point the system also improves the working conditions of garbage collectors, making collection far more hygienic. There is no need to shift through mountains of black bags looking for recyclable waste.

While it is true that environmental responsibility should begin at home, products such as the Bio Bin, and ROSE's own used oil container for the Do It Yourselfer (DIY), the Sumpy, go a long way to instilling a culture of waste recycling by making the job simpler at source.

(For more information on The Bio Bin email tanith@biobin.co.za)

Global Trends

US recycling facts

Americans take recycling as seriously as does ROSE. Their appeals to recycle used oil wisely are aimed mainly at alerting people to both the potential risks and the opportunities lost if used oil is poured into the water system. Amongst the more startling facts are:

- One oil change in a standard car, if poorly disposed, can pollute 4,5 million litres of potable water – a year's supply for 50 Americans homes.
- 4,5 litres of reprocessed oil, burnt as fuel, will generate enough electricity to power everything in an average American home for a full day.

Used oil plays a big part in heating snow-bound northern

states, and is burnt in specially designed space heaters in automotive bays and municipal garages.

Nearly 30 000 collection centres across America collect over 1 billion litres of used oil a year.

Used motor oil can be re-refined to meet the same standards as new or virgin motor oil.

Ten litres of processed used motor oil can provide enough electricity to –

- Cook 48 meals in a microwave oven
- Blow-dry your hair 216 times
- Vacuum a house for 15 months
- Watch television for 180 hours.

Recognising Champions

FFS Refiners, Durban leads the way

ROSE has aimed to benchmark itself against the best in the world. No wonder then that it is adamant that its supplier chain, and customers, emulate its quest for perfection.

At the recently conducted environmental audits at the Cape Town, Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Chloorkoop FFS Refiners' branches, a marked improvement in compliance was evident.

WSP Walmsley, an independent environmental consulting company, conducted the audits at the FFS branches in 2004. To ensure commitment and active participation by the various branches

both ROSE and FFS Refiners sponsored an internal competition for the branch that showed the most progress towards environmental compliance. In a closely fought contest the Durban branch, in Teakwood Road, Jacobs, won the 2004 award. The win was celebrated at a recent lunch for staff members, where each was presented with a T-shirt to reward the hard work and enthusiasm.

ROSE conducts annual environmental audits on all the processor companies that purchase used oil. An indication of the FFS



Teakwood Road, the winning team.

branches high standards is that they all carry the prized ISO 14001 certification.

In further recognition of FFS Teakwood's excellent standards, the Institute of Waste Management, KZN branch, presented them with the Silver Award for "Best Waste Management Practices", while the National Cleaner Production Centre Of South Africa awarded them 1st prize for Cleaner Production. Well done to Mark de Souza and his team. You should indeed be proud of your achievements.

Sharing our Knowledge

Solvents + used oil = FIRE HAZARD

Did you know that used oil is extremely volatile when contaminants like solvents and degreasers are added? The decanting of solvents and degreasers into a used oil tank has some far reaching consequences, especially when used oil is transported for recycling.

The handling of low flashpoint substances is extremely dangerous as they are fire hazards. Lube oils have a typical flash point above 220 °C. Solvents like degreasers, petrol and other volatile components, have very low flash points. If the volatile component is mixed with the lube oil (even in small concentrations)



the over-all flashpoint drops and as such it becomes a fire hazard and is inevitably difficult to handle. Flashpoint is a measure of the possible flammability of a liquid.

Now who would be so irresponsible to mix them, you might ask?

"If you use a low flash solvent to clean engine/equipment parts the used cleaning agent is readily disposed of into the used oil container. A small amount of low flash liquid then contaminates a large amount of used oil that would otherwise have been reasonably safe to handle," says Raj Lochan.

"In order to improve the used oil cycle process to the benefit of our environment please keep low-flash components separate from the used oil."

- **June 5:**
World Environment Day
- **June 5-11:**
National Environment Week
- **June 17:**
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- **July 11:**
World Population Day
- **September 1-7:**
National Arbor Week
- **September 16:**
International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- **September 17:**
International Coastal Cleanup
- **September 25:**
World Maritime Day
- **September 27:**
World Tourism Day
- **October 3:**
World Habitat Day
- **October 11-17:**
International Weedbuster Week
- **October 17-23:**
National Marine Week
- **October 21:**
National Marine Day

See our water saving tips at the foot of each page.

Call to Action

Have your very own ROSE mini-tank for your used oil. To order contact Oilkol (Pty) Ltd on 0860 107 107 or the ROSE Depot closest to you. (See details below)

Tank Prices (excluding VAT) are:

R1 800 for a 1 000 litre tank

R2 200 for a 2 000 litre tank

R4 500 for a 5 000 litre tank



ROSE Depots

Cape Town	Cnr Lood & Viben Streets, Brackenfell, 7560 (021) 981 5568, oilkolcpt@compute.co.za
Durban	103 Vintner Place, Propecton, 4110 (031) 912 1529, oilkolkm@compute.co.za
Port Elizabeth	61 Paterson Road, North End, 6001 (041) 487 3271, oilkolec@compute.co.za
Johannesburg	18 Nellmapius Street, Chamdor, 1739 (011) 762 5506, oilkol@exol.co.za

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