

Recycling Pallets Pays



The Organisations

Enviroserv

Enviroserv is one of the largest waste management companies in South Africa. Enviroserv's services range from waste minimisation and beneficiation to collection, treatment and disposal, on-site waste management and recycling, industrial cleaning, as well as the development and management of state of the art landfill operations.

ComboTimber Structures

ComboTimber Structures is a small family owned business based in Parow, Cape Town. The company remanufactures timber packaging material into wood pallets for re-sale. Nearly all of the wood pallets manufactured by the company are created from scratch using second hand material.

The Challenge

Discarded packaging constitutes a significant portion of waste generated by the manufacturing industry. Raw materials are often delivered on wood pallets, wrapped in plastic. Many companies are aware that the plastic component can be recycled, but are unaware that wood pallets can be remanufactured and re-used, and as a result end up in landfills.

The Solution

Enviroserv and ComboTimber Structures were connected at a WISP Business Opportunity Workshop in August 2014. Before the workshop, Enviroserv was unaware that pallet refurbishers operate in the Cape Town Functional Region. After the workshop, Enviroserv modified its clients' on-site waste management practises so that all reusable and broken wood pallets could be collected by ComboTimber Structures, thus diverting them from landfill.

ComboTimber Structures has formed several significant relationships with companies like Enviroserv through WISP and as a result has changed its business model. Where ComboTimber Structures previously manufactured virgin wood pallets to ensure that it could meet the demand from its clients, now they only use broken wood pallets and other timber packaging material to produce pallets for re-use. Offcuts that cannot be used are supplied to the informal market for the production of kennels and fire starters.

The Benefits

ECONOMIC BENEFITS



R29 000 achieved in cost savings by diverting wood from landfill.

R174 000 generated in additional revenue via the sale of remanufactured wood pallets.

R100,000 invested by ComboTimber Structures for new equipment to deal with increased wood volumes.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



79 tonnes of wood diverted from landfill.

200 tonnes CO₂e of fossil GHG savings due to avoiding decomposition in landfill.

SOCIAL BENEFITS



3 permanent jobs created by ComboTimber Structures in order to manage increased wood volumes.



WISP

Western Cape Industrial
Symbiosis Programme

Delivered by GreenCape

Connecting Industry Creating Opportunity

About WISP

The Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme (WISP) develops mutually profitable links between companies from all industrial sectors, so that under-utilised resources such as energy and water, and/or materials from one company can be recovered, reprocessed and re-used by others.

Driven by Business

The programme uses actual business opportunities as the mechanism for encouraging resource efficiency. Its holistic approach sees it actively dealing with ALL resources including water, energy, materials, logistics, assets and expertise. The programme is based on the highly successful national programme in the UK (NISP), which demonstrated that industrial symbiosis has the potential to significantly reduce industrial and commercial waste and comprehensively lessen the adverse environmental impacts of business.

Free Membership

WISP is a free facilitation service initiated by the Western Cape Government and delivered by the sector development agency GreenCape. WISP enables synergies to happen by filling the gaps that its members, especially SMEs, could experience due to the lack of time or dedicated expertise needed to identify and implement resource, waste and energy efficient practices. The diversity of the industries in which WISP operates, and the variety and size of its business members, means that WISP has the potential to generate significant economic, environmental and social benefits from the synergies and projects that it brings about.

Partnership with Purpose

WISP works hand in hand with leading trade associations, manufacturers and other organisations to add real value to business. We are working in collaboration with the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCOC), National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC), Economic Development Partnership (EDP) and the City of Cape Town.

Contact us to become a member and get involved!

wisp@green-cape.co.za
www.greencape.co.za/wisp



WISP is delivered by

GreenCape

GreenCape was established to promote the development of the green economy in the Western Cape Province. We assist viable green businesses and potential investors in the green economy to remove barriers to their establishment and growth. Our aim is to help unlock the investment and employment

potential of green business, technologies and manufacturing and put the province on course to become the green economy hub for Sub-Saharan Africa. This work, in turn, contributes to improving the resource efficiency, carbon intensity and resilience of the regional economy.

WISP is funded by:



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EDP



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SOUTH AFRICA

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Industrial ecology solutions