

**CONCEPT NOTE FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE AND EXCLUSION WORKSHOP**

**Theme:** **Beneficial use of waste is the wealth of the future**

1. **Background** 
   1. Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter referred as ′ the Constitution′) guarantees everyone to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing; and to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures among other things. The Department has promulgated the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008) (hereinafter ′ Waste Act′) as one of the legislations that give true meaning to rights that are protected by the Constitution.
   2. Waste Act provide for development of National Waste Management Strategy; Licensing of Waste Management Activities, Development of regulations and National Norms and Standards that help South Africans to realise and experience an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing while affording present and future generation to secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.
   3. Waste became a game changer as it provides measures to protect environment while promoting sustainable use of natural resources. This is so because Minister requires every person who is operating waste management activities such as recycling and reuse facilities; recovery facilities (waste to energy facilities), treatment facilities (e.g rendering facilities, medical waste treatment facilities; some wastewater treatment plants), waste storage facilities and disposal facilities to have waste licences and relevant registration certificate to ensure that their facilities operate in environmental sound manner.
   4. Waste to energy is one of the measures followed by the world at large to divert waste from landfill site, more especially organic waste. Waste to energy projects present opportunities to contribute to energy security. Methane generated from waste may be harvested to produce either biogas or electricity. There are also technologies that allow steam from waste to be used to produce electricity. Electricity and biogas are the commodities that have a huge market in the country and the globe. This present opportunities for the creation of decent jobs on a bigger scale while creating opportunities to contribute to energy security in the country. Both Methane and Carbon dioxide are greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and their use may go long way to mitigate climate change.
   5. Minister has also promulgated National Standards for the Extraction, flaring or Landfill Gas,2013. The standard among other things aim to promote recovery of methane from landfill to produce electricity at the landfill site while no environmental impact assessment is undertaken which may be long due to unforeseen reasons. This present opportunity for landfill sites to produce electricity within landfill site within shortest space possible. The Department is embarking on a drive to ensure that landfill site owners whose their waste are capable to produce methane to invest in waste to energy projects.
   6. Minister made regulation regarding the exclusion of a waste stream or a portion of a waste stream from the definition of waste. The purpose of regulations is to prescribe the manner in which a person or category of persons may apply to Minister for the exclusion of waste stream or a portion of waste stream for the beneficial use from definition of waste; exclude permitted uses of a waste stream or a portion of waste stream from the definition of waste; and promote diversion of waste from landfill disposal to its beneficial use. These regulations promote innovation that led to development of new products using different wastes and new ways of using waste for beneficial use. This includes use of ash in brick making and road construction, roadbeds; development of landfill cover; use of excluded material for backfilling, in production of geopolymers and production of cement. This present opportunity to create new jobs from different waste streams while contributing to diversion of waste from landfill site.
   7. Minister introduced Extended Producer responsibility programs for specific waste streams in the country which make obligations to producers to contribute fees to be used in waste minimisation program for the minimisation of waste contributed by their products. This provides funding opportunities in a waste sector for skill development, separation at source and waste infrastructure development projects.
2. **Purpose of this workshop**

The purpose of this workshop is to bring experts, policy makers, industrialists, researchers, business, road agencies, municipalities, non-governmental organisations, civil organisations, representative of waste pickers, engineers, scientist, product developers and technology inventors to exchange information with the sole purpose of promoting beneficial use of waste and circular economy while Waste Licences, waste policies, waste regulation and Norms and Standards are complied with, to prevent pollution and overall to give true meaning to environment that is not detrimental to human being in terms of section 24 of the Constitution.

**3 Objectives**

* To promote compliance with waste licence conditions, policies, regulations and applicable National Norms and Standards in terms of Waste Act.
* To promote investment in waste infrastructure
* To promote beneficial use of waste and circular economy
* To promote public- private partnership
* To promote investment in research and innovation
* To promote technologies, safe practice and waste products that bring about the best environmental outcomes.
* Promote advocacy in environment, chemical and waste to enhance compliance and circular economy.

Host: DFFE: Chemical and Waste Branch,

Chief Directorate: Hazardous Waste and Licensing

Directorate: Licensing.

**Date**: 26-27 of February 2025

**Venue: Environmental House (Arcadia, Steve Biko)**