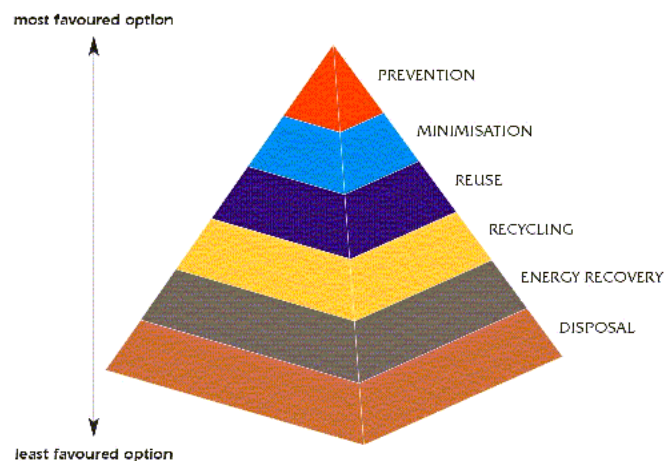


# Blue Gill Sets a **GREEN** Example



With the establishment of the Blue Gill Ecopark, the Blue Gill residential estate community in Kempton Park took the lead by setting a **GREEN** example to communities throughout South Africa.

In accordance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Management Act (Act 59 of 2008), a municipality may, by notice, require any person making use of the municipal collection service to separate specified types of waste from the general waste for the purposes of recovery, re-use or recycling. There is also currently in South Africa a strong move towards adherence with the Waste Hierarchy, according to which waste prevention, minimisation, reuse and recycling have preference over energy recovery and disposal.



Development of the Blue Gill Ecopark was in response to a need for a user-friendly facility within Kempton Park where the full spectrum of recyclable materials could be delivered. The few recyclable material drop-off facilities currently available to members of the public are not user-friendly; catering for one or maybe two of the recyclable material categories only. This results in members of the public having to travel long distances to deliver the remainder of the recyclable materials to other facilities.

Since its inception in June 2008, Blue Gill residents proved that South African citizens are willing to participate in the protection of our environment. The Blue Gill Ecopark project, which was by some sceptics considered to be a “lost case”, is at present used by various Metropolitan Municipalities as a demonstration project for replication in other parts of South Africa.

A report providing an overview of the process followed to establish the facility, statistics from the project as well as some of the lessons learnt during the project is available on the “Publications” page of the following website: [www.kobusotto.co.za](http://www.kobusotto.co.za)



**Photos above:** The Blue Gill multi material (paper, cardboard, glass, cans and plastics) container on the left and the E-waste (electric and electronic waste) container on the right.

Recycling is no longer what your bleeding heart neighbour does. Every household – offices and factories too – should be making recycling a habit. It's no longer a question of whether resources will run out, but when. And scientists concur – climate change is happening. Major lifestyle changes – building green homes or living off the grid – are not yet necessary, but if you're not already recycling, you're being irresponsible.

Recycling benefits both the environment and the economy in the following ways:

- ❖ It prevents litter and results in a cleaner, greener and healthier South Africa
- ❖ Less waste going to the landfills reduces the risk of pollution to the environment
- ❖ Less energy is used when recycled materials are included in the manufacturing process
- ❖ It reduces the need to import raw materials
- ❖ It preserves our natural resources for future generations
- ❖ Opportunities are created for income generation, resulting in poverty alleviation and ultimately a reduction in crime  
and.....
- ❖ It creates pride in our environment.

Despite being caught in the grip of the current recession which has a direct impact on the purchase of consumable items, and subsequently the generation of recyclable packaging materials, statistics recorded at the Blue Gill Ecopark are indicative of sustained support by residents from our community. Although not easy to measure, the project also brings with it a strong education and awareness element, making young and old aware of our responsibility towards the environment.

On behalf of the Blue Gill Homeowners Association, we would like to thank each and every resident participating in the Ecopark project for your continued support. We would at the same time like to urge those residents that are not yet participating to bring a visit to our Ecopark (located behind the Blue Gill administration block), obtain a laminated copy of our recycling guide and join the Blue Gill Eco-club. We are not protecting the environment for our own benefit, but for the benefit of our children and all future generations.

**Remember, we did not inherit the earth from our forefathers; we are merely borrowing it from future generations. So let's recycle for a **GREENER** future.**

*(For more information on what to recycle as well as regular updates on our recycling statistics, please visit the Ecopark page on the Blue Gill website at: [www.bluegillstate.co.za](http://www.bluegillstate.co.za))*