



## eWASA Audits of members to start this month

Following the publication of the eWASA technical Guidelines on the recycling of electronic and electrical equipment we are now preparing to audit all members who dismantle and recycle e-waste nationally. Collectors and refurbishers of e-waste will be audited in a second and third round of audits after Technical Guidelines have been developed and published for these facilities.

If the audit team agrees that a company qualifies for the status of eWASA accredited recycler companies will be informed and a certificate will be presented. The status will be valid for one year and its extension dependent on the successful audit in the following year. The status of eWASA accredited recycler will provide clients with peace of mind that these companies adhere to at least the minimum legal requirements in the country and are striving to continually improve the service to bring local recycling companies in line with European standards.

## Thermal treatment policy signed

The policy titled "National Policy on Thermal Treatment of General and Hazardous Waste" was signed by The Honourable Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica and gazetted for general information in GN No. 32429 on the 24th July 2009. The policy document presents Government's position on thermal waste treatment as an acceptable waste management option in South Africa and provides the framework within which thermal waste treatment technologies, including incineration and co-processing of selected general and hazardous wastes as alternative fuels and/or raw materials (AFR) in cement production, shall be implemented in the country. The policy can be downloaded of the SAWIC website at [www.sawic.org.za](http://www.sawic.org.za) under 'Waste Policy and Regulation'. Any queries may be directed to Dr. Shauna Costley at on 012 310 3330 [Scostley@deat.gov.za](mailto:Scostley@deat.gov.za)  
*Source Waste Information Today (July-Sept09)*



## Incredible Connection partners with Desco

Incredible Connection is offering disposal facilities for e-waste at each of its 55 stores nationwide.

The service, known as EnviroConnection and offered in partnership with eWASA accredited electronic waste disposal company, Desco Electronics Recyclers, will enable consumers to get rid of obsolete items of technology in an environmentally safe way - whether or not they were bought at Incredible Connection.

"In the past several years, we've mounted 'trade-in months' in which consumers have been able to bring in their old technology and get, in return, significant discounts on new purchases," says Incredible Connection's Chief Executive, Dave Miller.

"We've then refurbished what we could, passing it on to underprivileged organisations in need of technology, and disposed of the rest in such a way that the environment has been safeguarded. Specifically, our aim has been to keep e-waste out of landfills.

"The concept caught on very strongly with consumers, who are becoming progressively more environmentally aware, and we've recently seen an increase in the number of calls from the public asking us where they can safely dispose of their e-waste." According to Miller there are few e-waste recycling depots and they are not easily accessible to the public.

"We felt that, as a major vendor of technology, we should step up to the plate and take responsibility for helping to dispose of the waste in the value chain in which we participate in an environmentally constructive way." As a result, special disposal bins designed by Desco to be easily loaded into trucks have been distributed to each Incredible Connection store.

"The bins are quite large so, depending on the size of the store, they'll either be on display within the store or be placed in our workshops

at the back of each store," Miller says. "If consumers don't find the bins on display, they can simply leave the items they want to get rid of at our workshops and our staff will make sure they are put in the bins."

The projected volume of items will make refurbishment of individual items impossible, especially as most manufacturers are now simply swapping entire units rather than incurring the cost of repair.

We will publish the list of stores with bins on [www.ewasa.org](http://www.ewasa.org) as soon as the information is available.



### Greening developing economies

A new United Nations-backed report released recently details how to ensure that developing countries are part of the transition to a 'green' economy. With some \$500 billion a year expected to be needed to help poorer nations adapt to climate change and at the same time power low-carbon growth, the funds must come from the private sector but that requires creative public policies, according to the study issued by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and a global partnership of investors and insurance companies.

"Combating climate change represents an important opportunity to move economies onto a low carbon, resource efficient, Green Economy path," said Achim Steiner, UNEP's Executive Director. "If this is to succeed, developing countries should and must be part of that transformation." The report, he said, shows how current barriers to shifting to a low carbon economy can be "leap-frogged," paving the way for a new North-South relationship.

Issued in Cape Town, South Africa, it calls for expanding insurance against country risk and for funds to hedge currency risk, among other recommendations.

The report entitled "Catalysing Low Carbon Growth in Developing Economies: public finance mechanisms to scale up private sector investment in climate solutions" - urges an effective distribution of roles between the public and private sectors.

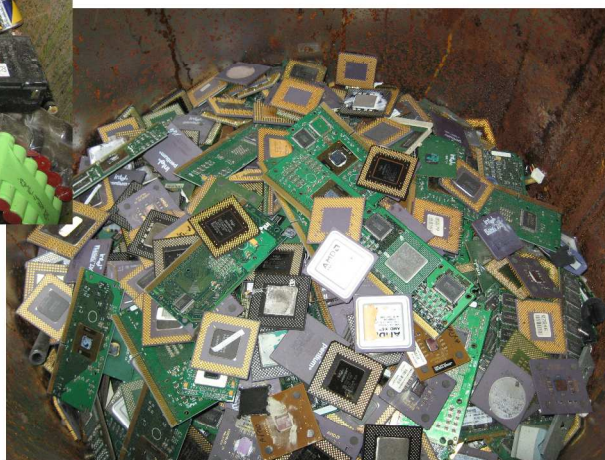
### Waste Classification Review

The Department of Environment (DEA) convened Broad Stakeholder and Technical Reference Groups (BS and TRG) and Focus Group Meetings in March 2009 and May 2009 to discuss the issues and needs for the project to review the waste classification system. An Issues and Needs Assessment report was subsequently published. At meetings in September the following documents were presented and discussed;

- Local Literature Review of the current classification system, considering SA's current legal framework for waste management. SA Standards for the classification of dangerous goods and chemicals were reviewed.
- Draft International Literature Review outlining waste management system i.e. the legal framework, implementation framework, enforcement tools and the best practice hazardous waste treatment

technologies for EU, USA, Brazil and Australia.

- Issues and Needs Assessment Report identifying challenges with use of the current classification system and issues of consideration



when reviewing and developing a waste classification system.

- Draft Waste Classification System Framework comprising of five components viz: Classification, Categorisation, Characterisation, Management and Reporting. These involve: identification of hazardous characteristics; defining types of waste for management; analysis of wastes, prescription of procedures, requirements and guidelines for evaluation and implementation of waste management technologies as well requirements for reporting to WIS;
- Proposal for Acceptable Use of Waste, discussions related to legal provision and approval process.

The next BS and TRG meetings are scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd December 2009. For more information, please contact Ms Nomphele Daniel on 012 310 3904; email: [ndaniel@deat.gov.za](mailto:ndaniel@deat.gov.za)

### Contact Details

**Keith Anderson**  
 O: 27 11 312 3605  
 M: 27 82 553 0373  
 F: 27 86 625 9913  
[keith@andersondirect.co.za](mailto:keith@andersondirect.co.za)

**Lene Ecoignard**  
 O: 27 11 312 3605  
 M: 082 478 7075  
 F: 086 605 8141  
[lene@ewasa.org](mailto:lene@ewasa.org)

