



MetPac-SA

Driving Sustainable Metal Packaging

APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CEO'S DESK

The past few months have been both busy and rewarding for the MetPac-SA team as we continue to drive meaningful change in metal packaging recycling across South Africa.

A key milestone has been the successful completion and submission of our 2025 (Year 4) EPR report to the DFFE. We are proud to share that we have exceeded the Government's targets for the collection and recycling of both Used Beverage Cans (UBCs) and tinplate (ferrous) packaging. This is an encouraging sign that our systems are not only working, but improving at pace. Highlights from this report can be found on pages 2-3.

While we celebrate these achievements, we remain focused on the work ahead. Strengthening recovery systems and embedding a culture of recycling remains central to our mission. In this spirit, we are delighted to welcome Kwandiwe Mayekiso to the team as our new Recycling Officer in Johannesburg, where he will support Belinda Booker in expanding our impact.

Our ongoing engagement with municipalities, waste pickers and schools across the country continues to play a vital role in shaping positive recycling behaviours. We hope this edition offers valuable insight into these efforts and the progress we are making together.

Dr. Kishan Singh

HAPPY
EARTH DAY
22 APRIL

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY:

SMALL ACTIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

LET'S KEEP IT GREEN AND CLEAN!



Caring for the environment is not limited to large-scale policy change; it is also shaped by the everyday choices we make, from the things we buy to how we manage our waste. Each year on 22 April, Earth Day brings this into focus, highlighting the role we all play – individuals, industry, organisations and government – in protecting the environment.

History of Earth Day

Earth Day began in the United States in 1970, when founder Senator Gaylord Nelson and activist Denis Hayes organised a nationwide environmental “teach-in” on college campuses to bring long-ignored environmental issues into public focus.

Later extending to events across the country, Earth Day inspired 20 million Americans to fight against the far-reaching impacts of industrial development.

Today, Earth Day is celebrated in more than 190 countries and brings together over one billion people with a shared goal of protecting the planet.

It serves as both a reminder and a call to action, encouraging people to think more critically about how their everyday choices impact the world around them.

Why Recycling Matters

Recycling is one of the easiest and most practical ways to reduce waste and conserve natural resources.

When materials are recycled, they are collected, processed and reused instead of being sent to landfill. This helps reduce the demand for new raw materials and lowers the overall environmental impact of production.

In particular, materials such as aluminium and steel can be recycled repeatedly without losing quality, making them well-suited to a circular system where resources are kept in use for as long as possible.

Small, consistent actions can significantly impact the environment. Simple ways to contribute include:

- Separating recyclables from general waste
- Recycling cans, tins and foil trays
- Choosing recyclable products and packaging
- Educating others about recycling
- Joining community clean-up efforts

These practices help recover valuable materials and support a circular economy.

METPAC-SA MARKS EARTH DAY WITH BEACHWOOD BEACH CLEAN-UP INITIATIVE

MetPac-SA, in partnership with the LitterBoom Project, commemorated World Earth Day with a successful beach clean-up campaign held at Beachwood Beach. The initiative brought together community members, youth volunteers and environmental advocates in a collective effort to combat pollution and promote sustainable waste management.

The day began early, with MetPac-SA youth interns demonstrating strong commitment by arriving ahead of schedule to assess priority cleaning areas along the beach. Their proactive approach set the tone for a highly productive clean-up operation.

This campaign forms part of MetPac-SA's broader strategy to advance waste minimisation and drive the implementation of a circular economy in South Africa. By promoting waste diversion from landfill, the organisation continues to address one of the country's most pressing environmental challenges.

Central to this mission is educating communities on reducing packaging waste and encouraging responsible consumption at both household and industry levels.

Through its collaboration with the LitterBoom Project, MetPac-SA actively engaged with the Beachwood community, raising awareness about the harmful effects of littering and illegal dumping—particularly in coastal environments. The clean-up highlighted the severe impact of marine plastic pollution and contamination of freshwater systems, both of which threaten marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

The initiative also underscored the urgent need for increased recycling and reuse practices, while calling for stronger collaboration between municipalities and communities to achieve long-term waste reduction goals.



Community participation was a standout feature of the event, with residents turning out in large numbers to support the clean-up. The enthusiasm and dedication of young participants were especially notable, as they worked tirelessly to remove deeply embedded litter from the sand. Their efforts resulted in the collection of significant volumes of waste, leaving the beach visibly cleaner and contributing to the protection of marine life.

Additional support was provided by Phoenix for the Planet, whose team joined the effort, demonstrating a shared commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible waste management.

MetPac-SA's involvement in the Beachwood Beach clean-up reaffirms its ongoing dedication to environmental stewardship and community-driven sustainability initiatives.

METPAC-SA EPR YEAR 4: FROM COMPLIANCE TO IMPACT

MetPac-SA's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme reached a defining milestone in 2025. What began as a compliance-driven framework in 2021, has evolved into a mature, data-driven and impact-led system which delivers measurable environmental, economic and social value across South Africa's metal packaging value chain.

Exceeding Targets Where It Matters Most

The performance in Year 4 tells an impressive story: metal packaging recovery systems are not only functioning but also improving rapidly.

Used beverage cans (UBCs), the flagship category of the EPR system, showcased remarkable results:

- Collection reached 81%, significantly surpassing the 68% target
- Recycling climbed to 81%, more than double the 34% target set by Government.
- Recycled content in can design increased to 56%, greatly exceeding the 36% target.

This is not merely incremental progress; it represents a significant shift. Following early challenges in 2022–2023, the system has made a strong recovery, thanks to enhanced partnerships, improved infrastructure, and robust data integrity.

Tinplate (ferrous) packaging experienced a similar upward trend:

- Collection: 64% compared to a 59% target
- Recycling: 64% versus a 56% target

These advancements reflect enhanced recovery systems and more precise measurements, bolstered by innovative waste characterisation methodologies.

NATIONAL IMPACT: INFRASTRUCTURE, JOBS, AND INCLUSION



EPR is not just about tonnes. It's about people and systems. In 2025, MetPac-SA:

- Supported 53 jobs in the recycling value chain
- Invested R9.27 million in national projects
- Expanded infrastructure across all provinces
- Strengthened partnerships with municipalities, recyclers and industry.



A More Transparent, Data-Driven System

One of the most significant behind-the-scenes achievements in 2025 was the strengthening of data systems and governance.

MetPac-SA's cloud-based dashboard now integrates:

- Member "placed on market" declarations
- National post-consumer recovery data
- Real-time performance tracking against EPR KPIs

Combined with ISO 9001:2015 certification achieved in June 2025, this ensures greater transparency, audit readiness and decision-making precision across the value chain.



Beyond Aluminium Cans: Tackling Complex Streams

While UBCs and tinsplate exceeded expectations, “Aluminium Other” remains a known challenge and a strategic focus for MetPac-SA.

This category (foil, trays, caps, aerosols) faces:

- Low collection value
- Contamination challenges
- Fragmented data and participation

Yet 2025 also marked a turning point:

- Recycling jumped to 20% (above the 13% target)
- Recycled content rose sharply to 18% (vs 3% target)
- Much of this improvement stems from better data, particularly the inclusion of aerosol streams, highlighting the importance of closing data gaps to unlock performance insights.



Driving Behaviour Change at Scale

MetPac-SA’s impact extends beyond infrastructure into awareness and behavioural change. Key initiatives in 2025 included:

- **Trash 4 Treats:** 73 tonnes of recyclables collected across 55 schools. Over 50,000 learners directly engaged;
- Rapid growth in **digital engagement**, reaching 3.2 million views/impressions.

These programmes are critical in building a culture of recycling, thereby ensuring long-term sustainability beyond regulatory compliance.



Buy-Back Centres

A major highlight is the BBC200 programme, which is digitising buy-back centres and enabling:

- Traceable data systems
- Cashless waste picker payments
- Formal integration of waste pickers into the circular economy
- By the end of 2026, the programme aims to support 100,000 waste pickers nationally — a transformative step for both compliance and inclusion.

Looking Ahead: Scaling Circularity

With four years of implementation behind it, MetPac-SA’s EPR scheme is entering a new phase, one that is defined by scale, optimisation and innovation.

Key priorities include:

- Advancing life cycle assessments (LCA) for packaging streams
- Supporting the rollout of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) pilot in the form of reverse vending machines
- Improving performance in complex packaging streams
- Strengthening collaboration across the PRO Alliance and industry
- Focusing on Alu Other through an awareness campaign and additional research into aerosols to increase participation and collection.

A System That’s Working

The Year 4 results send a clear message to members and stakeholders: EPR is delivering. Not just in compliance terms, but in real, measurable progress toward a circular metal packaging economy in South Africa.

As the system matures, the focus is shifting from meeting targets to maximising impact and MetPac-SA is well positioned to lead that transition.



EPR IN ACTION: KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SALGA WORKSHOP

On 31 March 2026, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) held an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Awareness Workshop. This event gathered government, industry, and Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) to discuss EPR progress, challenges and future implementation in South Africa. For MetPac-SA members, the workshop emphasised EPR's vital role in transforming waste management and promoting circular economy principles.

EPR as a Catalyst for Circular Economy Transformation

EPR legislation shifts responsibility onto producers for the full lifecycle of their products, including post-consumer waste. While compliance remains essential, a key message from the workshop was clear: EPR should be viewed not merely as a regulatory requirement, but as a strategic driver of systemic change.

Dr Ravi Nadar (MetPac-SA) emphasised that EPR has the potential to unlock significant environmental and economic value by:

- Increasing recycling rates
- Reducing landfill dependency
- Driving more sustainable product design
- Enabling circular material flows

The Evolving Role of PROs

A central theme of Dr Nadar's presentation was the growing importance of PROs in operationalising EPR. PROs are not only compliance enablers but also key agents of transformation within the waste ecosystem.

Key priorities highlighted include:

- Developing robust data systems to accurately track material flows and measure impact
- Strengthening cross-sector partnerships between industry, municipalities, and the informal sector
- Ensuring transparency and accountability across EPR schemes



Challenges Create Opportunities

Despite progress, several operational challenges remain. Dr Nadar highlighted:

- Limited adoption of Separation-at-Source practices
- Gaps within NEMWA Section 18, which does not fully include all stakeholders in the post-consumer metal packaging value chain

However, these challenges also present opportunities for innovation. Collaborative models and public-private partnerships are increasingly seen as essential mechanisms to overcome systemic barriers and accelerate implementation.

MetPac-SA: Driving Impact Through Action

MetPac-SA continues to play a leading role in advancing EPR within the metal packaging sector. Notable achievements include:

- ISO 9001:2015 certification
- BBEE certification
- Progress in EPR digitisation
- Active waste picker integration initiatives
- Ongoing compliance with EPR legislation

Through strategic partnerships and targeted programmes, MetPac-SA supports collection networks, facilitates recycling initiatives and promotes responsible packaging design, which all contribute to improved material recovery rates.

METPAC-SA WELCOMES KWANDIWE MAYEKISO TO ITS TEAM

STRENGTHENING RECYCLING EFFORTS IN JOHANNESBURG



MetPac-SA is proud to welcome Kwandiwe Mayekiso as the newly appointed Recycling Officer for the Johannesburg branch. With a strong academic background and hands-on experience in environmental management, Kwandiwe brings both expertise and passion to advancing metal packaging recycling initiatives.

Originally from Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, Kwandiwe completed his National Diploma and BTech in Environmental Management at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. It was during his BTech research that he developed a deep interest in waste management, an experience that reshaped his perspective on waste. Rather than seeing it as something to discard, he came to recognise waste as a valuable resource when managed effectively.

Kwandiwe has accumulated over four years of experience in the environmental sector, including two years dedicated specifically to waste management. His professional journey includes working with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in Pretoria, where he contributed to the General Waste directorate with a focus on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). In addition, he gained valuable consulting experience as a Junior Environmental Consultant with Isipho and Earth Free Environmental Consultants in the Eastern Cape.

At the heart of Kwandiwe's work is a passion for community empowerment, particularly supporting waste pickers through education about the value of metal packaging. He believes that equipping communities with knowledge is key to unlocking both environmental and economic benefits.

"One of the biggest challenges in metal packaging recycling is the lack of awareness about its value. By increasing education and awareness, we can significantly improve collection rates and create more sustainable, cleaner communities," he believes.

Kwandiwe's vision aligns closely with MetPac-SA's mission to drive positive environmental impact through responsible recycling practices. His role in Johannesburg will be instrumental in strengthening community engagement, improving recovery rates, and supporting inclusive recycling initiatives.

We are excited to have Kwandiwe on board and look forward to the meaningful contributions he will make in advancing recycling efforts and building a more sustainable future.

"RECYCLING METAL ISN'T JUST ABOUT REDUCING WASTE. IT'S ABOUT RECOGNISING VALUE WHERE OTHERS SEE NONE. METAL PACKAGING PROVES THAT SUSTAINABILITY ISN'T A ONE-TIME EFFORT— IT'S A CYCLE WE CHOOSE TO CONTINUE."



METPAC-SA EMPOWERS UMLAZI WASTE PICKERS THROUGH PPE HANDOVER AND TRAINING INITIATIVE



MetPac-SA recently reaffirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability and community upliftment through a successful Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) handover and training event held at the Save A Life Buy Back Centre in Umlazi.

The initiative saw 150 registered waste pickers receive essential PPE, equipping them with the tools needed to work safely and more effectively. All beneficiaries are part of the digital waste management ecosystem, having been registered in 2025 on the Lariat system via the Amplo platform.

Beyond the handover, the event highlighted the importance of integrating waste pickers into formal systems that promote both safety and financial inclusion. Through the Amplo card system, waste pickers are able to receive service fees via a secure, cashless platform—reducing risks associated with cash handling while ensuring transparency and accurate tracking of recycling volumes.

The Save A Life Buy Back Centre, led by Mr Sibusiso Dumisa, continues to play a vital role in driving environmental awareness and recycling efforts in the Umlazi community. His broader commitment to sustainability is further reflected in his educational initiatives, including his book *Nature Warriors*, aimed at inspiring younger generations

The day's programme featured a series of impactful engagements, beginning with a welcome address by MetPac-SA Project Manager, Ms Khosi Mbatha, followed by remarks from CEO Dr Kishan Singh. Dr Singh emphasised the critical role waste pickers play in diverting waste from landfills and underscored the importance of safe aerosol handling—an area where MetPac-SA plans to expand training efforts nationwide.

A motivational session by Dr Ravi Nadar encouraged waste pickers to view their work as a pathway to growth, highlighting opportunities such as establishing their own buy-back centres and building sustainable livelihoods.

In the afternoon, attendees participated in a practical training session led by Mr Kwazi Bhengu, covering key topics such as financial management, budgeting, business planning, and the correct use and maintenance of PPE. This holistic approach ensured that participants not only received protective gear but also gained valuable knowledge to improve both their safety and economic resilience.

The event promoted community engagement with live coverage from Intokozo FM, local performances and catering for attendees.

MetPac-SA's approach of combining PPE distribution with skills development and digital integration highlights its dedication to empowering waste pickers and enhancing South Africa's recycling ecosystem, benefiting one community at a time.



STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITY IN BETHAL WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING WORKSHOP



On 12 March 2026, MetPacSA was proud to participate in the Waste Management & Recycling Workshop held at Bethal Town Hall in the Gert Sibande District, under the Govan Mbeki Municipality. The workshop was hosted by the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) in collaboration with MetPac-SA and Petco.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including waste pickers, collectors, buy-back centres (BBCs), co-operatives, and government officials, all united by a shared goal of advancing sustainable waste management practices. As part of its commitment to supporting the sector, MetPac-SA donated 53 personal protective equipment (PPE) items, comprising gloves, branded reflective vests, and hats—to enhance the safety and dignity of waste pickers working on the frontlines of recycling.

A key highlight of the workshop was the interactive recycling session facilitated by MetPac-SA. Participants were introduced to opportunities within the metal packaging waste stream, with practical guidance on how to participate and benefit from this value chain. In addition, waste pickers were informed about the pilot rollout of service fees, an initiative aimed at recognising and supporting their critical role in the recycling ecosystem.

Following the workshop, the MetPac-SA team, alongside officials from the Govan Mbeki Municipality, conducted site visits to two buy-back centres, i.e. C&C Recycling and LSM Scrap, as well as the Bethal landfill site. These visits provided valuable on-the-ground insights into current operations and highlighted opportunities for further collaboration and support.

As the Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) of choice for metal packaging in South Africa, MetPacSA remains committed to positioning the metal packaging industry as a key contributor to environmental sustainability. Through ongoing investment in post-consumer packaging recovery and reuse, initiatives like this workshop play a vital role in building inclusive, resilient and effective recycling systems across the country.

METPAC-SA SUPPORTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN & LAUNCH OF ETHEKWINI'S WASTE MASCOT

MetPac-SA proudly partnered with eThekweni Municipality, Fibre Circle and key environmental stakeholders for the successful Back-to-School Campaign and Waste Mascot Launch. The initiative marked a significant step forward in promoting environmental awareness and responsible waste management among young learners across the region.

Empowering Young Environmental Champions

The campaign focused strongly on education and engagement, reinforcing the importance of instilling sustainable habits from an early age. Learners were not only introduced to key recycling and waste management principles, but were also encouraged to become ambassadors of change within their schools and communities.

MetPac-SA played an active role in this educational drive. Dr Ravi Nadar, Research Analyst at MetPac-SA, delivered an interactive and learner-focused session, engaging students through practical examples, real-life scenarios and hands-on participation. Learners confidently demonstrated their understanding of recycling symbols, waste separation and responsible environmental behaviour — earning prizes for their participation.



MetPac-SA sponsored reusable shopping bags and branded lanyards, promoting sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics. The organisation also supported the event through sponsorship of the sound and music system, ensuring a high-quality and engaging experience for all attendees.

MetPac-SA remains committed to supporting programmes that drive environmental education, encourage responsible packaging practices, and empower the next generation to lead the way in sustainability.



At the heart of the event was the official unveiling of “Nono,” the Municipality’s Waste Management Mascot, a vibrant new symbol designed to inspire cleaner, greener communities. Developed through a school-based mascot design competition, Nono (derived from the isiZulu word meaning “clean” or “neat”) embodies the campaign’s core message of environmental responsibility and pride.

Celebrating Creativity and Innovation

A key highlight of the event was the recognition of schools that participated in the Mascot Design Competition. This initiative not only encouraged creativity, but also deepened learners’ understanding of sustainability. Top-performing schools were awarded prizes to further support their environmental programmes, reinforcing the long-term impact of the initiative.

The campaign’s success highlights the effectiveness of collaboration. MetPac-SA partnered with public sector leaders, environmental authorities and industry partners to create a programme focused on education and community engagement. Nono was introduced as a Waste Management Ambassador, enhancing long-term communication to engage communities and promote environmental awareness. Ongoing collaboration will be essential in fostering responsible waste practices and creating sustainable communities.



METPAC-SA CHAMPIONS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION THROUGH “MUNCH ON THE MOVE”

MetPac-SA continues to demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability and community upliftment through its support of the Sustainable Seas Trust’s (SST) innovative “Munch on the Move” education programme. This impactful initiative is helping to shape environmentally-conscious behaviours among South Africa’s youth, one school at a time.

At the heart of the programme is Munch, a vibrant, fish-shaped mascot that doubles as a mobile recycling deposit. Designed to be both educational and engaging, Munch encourages learners to “feed” it with recyclable materials such as plastic, making waste separation a fun and interactive experience.

By transforming recycling into a hands-on activity, the programme fosters practical understanding of waste sorting, collection and environmental stewardship.

Since its pilot launch in early 2020 at Mfesane Secondary School in Motherwell, the programme has grown significantly. Recent expansions into schools across Nelson Mandela Bay and Cape Town highlight its increasing reach and success. The results have been immediate and encouraging: in some cases, learners were able to collect and manage enough recyclable waste to fill a Munch unit within just two weeks of its introduction.

MetPac-SA’s involvement in the programme underscores the organisation’s dedication to sustainable packaging solutions and circular economy principles. By supporting initiatives like Munch on the Move, MetPac-SA is not only contributing to environmental preservation, but also investing in education and behavioural change that will have long-term benefits for South Africa’s ecosystems.



MASCOT WITH A MISSION

The Munch on the Move initiative forms part of SST’s broader Operation Clean Spot (OCS) campaign, which focuses on reducing land-based waste before it reaches the ocean.

By targeting schools, the programme addresses the root of the problem.

It aims to instil responsible waste management habits early in life and empowers learners to become ambassadors for cleaner communities.

The programme is further supported by the African Waste Academy, SST’s e-learning platform, which provides schools with additional tools and resources to tackle marine pollution and promote sustainability.

Through collaboration, innovation and education, MetPac-SA and its partners are proving that meaningful environmental change starts at the grassroots level. With Munch leading the charge, the journey toward cleaner seas and more responsible communities is well underway.



CONTACT US

MetPac-SA is a Non-Profit Company (NPC), as defined in Section 21 of the Companies Act No. 71 of 2008, with registration number 2017/216419/08.

As the preferred Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) for metal packaging in South Africa, it is MetPac-SA's mission to position the metal packaging industry as a significant contributor to sustainable development. We aim to achieve this through effective investments in the collection, recovery, and re-utilisation of post-consumer metal packaging.

MetPac-SA strives to unify the metal packaging value chain in South Africa, representing the perspectives of both industry and academia to all stakeholders.

Currently, MetPac-SA is focused on several key performance areas:

- Implementing the MetPac-SA Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategy
- Assisting members in meeting their EPR obligations while encouraging new members to join MetPac-SA
- Monitoring overall statistics related to members against EPR targets to:
 - Promote input material through "design for recycling" principles
 - Ensure the accuracy of post-consumer metal packaging data and reporting
 - Support the circular economy of metal packaging in South Africa
- Providing assistance to municipalities, Buyback Centres (BBCs), recyclers, and waste pickers
- Promoting education and awareness initiatives.

Email Addresses

kishan@metpacsa.org.za

ravi@metpacsa.org.za

rishant@metpacsa.org.za

khosi@metpacsa.org.za

belinda@metpacsa.org.za

kwandiwe@metpacsa.org.za

annamarie@metpacsa.org.za

info@circular-vision.com

bonte@circular-vision.com

