



MetPac-SA

Driving Sustainable Metal Packaging

NEWSLETTER

September 2025



From the CEO's Desk

Dear MetPac-SA Community,

Spring has finally sprung, and it's difficult to believe we are already at the beginning of the last quarter of 2025! The past few months have again been busy and filled with activities that continue to drive our mission forward. We are proud to report that our interim report for 2025 (Year 4) has successfully been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), showing that in many cases we are exceeding the targets set for the collection and recycling of metal packaging. This achievement reflects not just our organisational commitment, but the collective dedication of everyone involved in this vital work.

Our thanks and congratulations go out to the whole team and our partners for keeping up their efforts to drive successful metal recycling in South Africa. Your unwavering commitment continues to make a tangible difference in our environmental impact and sustainability goals.

We continue with our efforts to raise awareness about the importance of metal packaging and its infinite recyclability and value. Metal packaging represents one of the most sustainable packaging solutions available and is capable of being recycled endlessly without losing its inherent properties or quality. This message of infinite recyclability and environmental stewardship remains at the heart of everything we do.

You can read more about how these efforts are executed and continue to bear fruit in this month's newsletter. From community engagement initiatives to technological innovations in recycling processes, our work spans multiple fronts in the ongoing mission to build a more sustainable future.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together toward a more sustainable South Africa. Happy reading!

Warm regards,

Kishan Singh
Chief Executive Officer
MetPac-SA



MetPac-SA Successfully Submits Interim EPR Report to DFFE



The Metal Packaging Association of South Africa (MetPac-SA) has successfully submitted its Year 4 Interim Performance Report (January – June 2025) to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), in compliance with the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations. The report highlights continued progress in meeting and, in many cases, exceeding the EPR targets set for metal packaging in South Africa.

MetPac-SA's interim results show significant gains across the collection and recycling of both aluminium and tinplate packaging, supported by strong industry collaboration and robust data systems.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Used Beverage Cans (UBCs):

- Collection reached an impressive 85%, well above the target of 68%.
- Recycling hit 77%, more than double the target of 34%.
- Energy recovery / exports / other stood at 60% against a target of 34%.

Tinplate (Ferrous):

- Collection achieved 70% versus a 59% target.
- Recycling also reached 70%, comfortably surpassing the 56% target.

Aluminium Other:

- Despite ongoing challenges in recycling items such as foil, trays, and closures, MetPac-SA has launched a dedicated research project to develop more accurate reporting on this stream, with results expected in the 2025 annual report.

As an association, we remain committed to ongoing collaboration with all stakeholders to strengthen South Africa's metal packaging recovery ecosystem. Through sustained effort, quality-driven management, and innovation, the organisation continues to drive meaningful progress toward a circular, inclusive, and sustainable packaging economy.

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.”

— Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

Driving Sustainability Through Partnerships

MetPac-SA attributes its success to strong partnerships with buy-back centres, re-melters, and other stakeholders in the value chain. These collaborations have not only boosted collection and recycling rates but also enhanced data accuracy and supported better resource management.

The report also highlights the organisation's ongoing investment in projects that promote a circular economy, including:

- **National Waste Picker Integration**, which is digitally onboarding 200 buy-back centres and formalising participation for approximately 97,000 waste pickers.
- **Municipal engagement initiatives**, supporting local infrastructure, education, and awareness.
- **Research and Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)** projects to strengthen long-term sustainable strategies.



COMMITMENT TO GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE



MetPac-SA achieved ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification, reaffirming its commitment to operational excellence, governance, and stakeholder trust (read more on page 7).

An internal financial audit for the period confirmed strong compliance and effective management of EPR fees, with surplus funds allocated to waste picker support, infrastructure development, and awareness campaigns.



Looking ahead

CEO Kishan Singh expressed confidence that MetPac-SA is on track to continue exceeding expectations. "Our interim results demonstrate the strength of our partnerships and the resilience of the recycling value chain. We remain committed to advancing South Africa's circular economy for metal packaging while ensuring inclusive growth through waste picker integration and community development."

The final Year 4 Annual Performance Report, due in March 2026, will consolidate full-year data and provide an updated view of MetPac-SA's performance against EPR obligations.



METAL PACKAGING: THE ULTIMATE CIRCULAR SOLUTION DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Metal packaging is leading the way as one of the most sustainable and recyclable forms of packaging on the planet. In South Africa, MetPac-SA, continues to spearhead initiatives that maximise collection, recycling, and circularity of metal packaging while supporting innovation and sustainable design.

Designing for Recyclability: Reducing Material Use & Carbon Footprint

At the heart of sustainability is designing for recyclability. By optimising can body or closure wall thickness through advanced forming techniques, manufacturers reduce material use without compromising strength or barrier performance. This directly lowers raw material consumption, reduces energy used in production, and cuts carbon emissions. Lightweighting and design optimisation make it easier to recycle and conserve resources while maintaining product integrity.

Increasing Recycled Content: Enhancing Circularity

Another key goal is increasing the proportion of post-consumer recycled material in metal packaging, as defined by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's EPR regulations. This excludes pre-consumer waste, ensuring that true consumer waste is brought back into the loop. MetPac-SA actively encourages producers to source and certify recycled aluminium and steel feedstock, working closely with suppliers to ensure traceability and quality.

Aluminium, in particular, stands out as a star of circularity. Almost 75% of the 1.5 billion tonnes of aluminium ever produced is still in use today. Globally, more than 30 million tonnes of aluminium scrap are recycled annually, saving up to 95% of the energy compared to producing new aluminium from bauxite.

Metal packaging, whether it is used beverage cans (UBCs) or ferrous metal containers is infinitely recyclable without any loss of quality. Every can recycled saves energy, conserves natural resources, and contributes to a greener economy. Our mission is to drive innovation in design and recycling while growing collection rates across South Africa



Every recycled beverage can is a testament to the power of circularity.

It returns to the shelf in as little as 60 days without losing quality or strength.

METAL PACKAGING: THE ULTIMATE CIRCULAR SOLUTION (CONT)

Smart Material Choices: Enabling Efficient Recycling

MetPac-SA promotes the use of mono-material designs, using single-metal systems or compatible alloys to eliminate contamination. Avoiding multi-material attachments, or making them easy to detach, ensures efficient recycling. Standardising and modularising components, such as harmonising diameters and closures, supports closed-loop systems and makes sorting easier.

Water-based or UV-curable inks and coatings replace solvent-based systems, reducing emissions and supporting eco-labelling requirements. Minimalist decoration using laser etching or embossing reduces unnecessary layers, lowering complexity while preserving brand aesthetics.

Reuse, Energy Efficiency and Pollution Minimisation

While metals are largely recycled, certain metal containers such as tins, pails, and specialty cans are also designed for re-use and re-fill, with durable, resealable, and attractive designs that prolong their life. Packaging logistics are optimised by designing stackable, space-efficient containers that save material and reduce transport costs and carbon emissions. Manufacturers also adopt lightweight alloys, energy-efficient equipment, and clean production technologies to cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduce air and water pollution.

We encourage industry to not only think about the end-of-life of their products, but also the energy, logistics, and environmental impact throughout the lifecycle of the packaging. From reducing emissions in coatings to designing for reuse and optimising transport, it's all part of the bigger sustainability picture.

Driving Collection & Recycling in SA

MetPac-SA is at the forefront of promoting responsible production and consumption of metal packaging through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. These schemes incentivise producers to innovate, reduce waste, and ensure that the materials they put on the market are collected, sorted, and recycled efficiently.

Through partnerships with collectors, informal waste pickers, and recyclers, MetPac-SA is helping to strengthen the collection infrastructure, create jobs, and ensure a steady supply of high-quality recycled metal back into the system.

South Africa has made great strides in metal packaging recycling, thanks to the commitment of the industry and the tireless efforts of thousands of informal collectors who recover cans every day. MetPac-SA's role is to keep improving these systems, raising awareness, and ensuring that more metal stays in circulation — not in landfills.

The Future is Circular

With its infinite recyclability, durability, and energy-saving potential, metal packaging remains a cornerstone of a circular economy. MetPac-SA's efforts to advance sustainable design, improve collection and recycling rates, and educate consumers highlight the vital role of metal in reducing environmental impact.

The circular economy is not just a vision—it's a reality we're building every day through innovation, collaboration, and action. Metal packaging is proof that sustainability and performance can go hand in hand.



METPAC-SA BECOMES FIRST PRO IN SOUTH AFRICA TO ACHIEVE ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION



“Being awarded ISO 9001:2015 certification is a proud and defining moment for MetPac-SA. It bears testament our strong commitment to governance, accountability, and operational excellence, while assuring our members and stakeholders that we are delivering on our mandate with world-class systems in place. As the first PRO in South Africa to achieve this distinction, we have set a new benchmark for the industry, and we believe this will inspire greater trust, credibility, and collaboration across the value chain”

*Dr Kishan Singh,
CEO of MetPac-SA.*

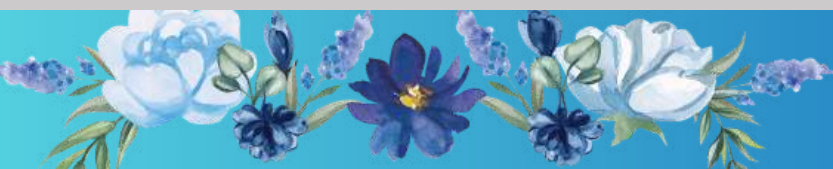
MetPac-SA, the Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) for South Africa’s metal packaging industry, is proud to announce that it has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 certification by the European certification body DNV. This certification applies to the design, implementation, and management of extended producer responsibility (EPR) strategies for the circularity of post-consumer metal packaging in South Africa, excluding 210-litre drums and pesticide aerosols.

ISO 9001:2015 is regarded as the world’s most recognised standard for quality management systems, and achieving this certification represents a major milestone for MetPac-SA. “It demonstrates MetPac-SA’s ability to consistently deliver services that meet both member and the South African EPR regulatory requirements, while applying effective systems of governance, risk management, and continual improvement towards a true metal packaging circular economy,” explains Mr Frank Roon, Lead Auditor for DNV Business Assurance South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

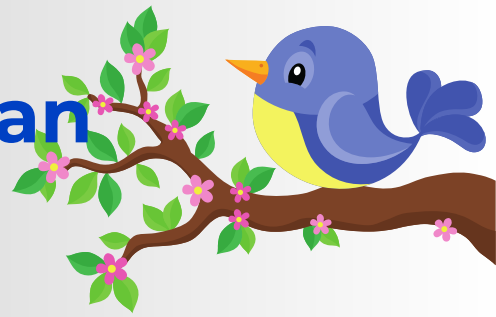
By securing this certification, MetPac-SA has become the first PRO in South Africa to reach this internationally benchmarked standard.

MetPac-SA's achievement demonstrates its commitment to excellence, transparency, and accountability in managing EPR obligations, reinforcing its leadership in the circular economy for metal packaging.

Their ISO 9001:2015 certification reflects professionalism and a focus on continual improvement. Special thanks were given to Mr. Sumiran Singh for pioneering the EPR ISO 9001:2015 system design, as well as Dr. Ravi Nadar and Mr. Rishant Harichunder for their vital support in this process.



MetPac-SA joins the Durban Chamber of Commerce



MetPac-SA is proud to announce that we are now officially a member of the Durban Chamber of Commerce – a milestone that opens the door to exciting new opportunities for engagement with businesses across a wide spectrum of industries.

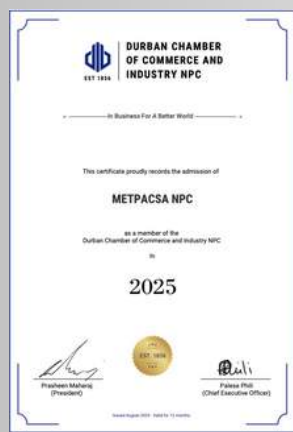
Through this membership, we gain access to:

- **Extensive Networking & Matchmaking** – Connecting with key stakeholders, businesses, and potential partners.
- **Advocacy & Influence** – Ensuring the voice of the metals packaging industry is heard in critical discussions.
- **Leveraging Business Support** – Access to resources, services, and expertise offered by the Chamber.
- **Contributing to the Chamber's Environmental Sustainability Portfolio** – Actively participating in initiatives that align with our vision for responsible packaging and recycling.
- **Sharing MetPac-SA's Objectives & Presence** – Raising the profile of our organisation and our members within the broader business community.

Importantly, by virtue of MetPac-SA's membership, all our members are now members of the Chamber, thereby extending the benefits of this partnership to the entire MetPac-SA family.

To ensure effective engagement, Khosi Mbatha, Project Consultant for MetPac-SA, has been appointed as the liaison officer between the Chamber and MetPac-SA. She will serve as the key point of contact, fostering collaboration and ensuring our industry's interests are well represented.

This is an exciting step forward for MetPac-SA and our members, as we continue to strengthen partnerships, influence policy, and promote sustainability in the metals packaging industry.



**“That is one good thing about this world...
there are always sure to be more springs.”**
— L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Avonlea*





BRICS Research Spotlight:

Dr. Ravi Nadar Advances Environmental Sustainability

As BRICS Plus has expanded to ten nations following the 2023 Johannesburg Summit, the alliance now represents a formidable global force with a combined GDP exceeding \$28.5 trillion and population of over 3.5 billion people. The BRICS Research Institute continues to produce crucial scholarship addressing critical global challenges.



Groundbreaking Environmental Research

Dr. Ravi Nadar, MetPac-SA's research analyst, collaborated with Manduth Ramchander from Durban University of Technology, to publish an article in the latest edition of Journal of BRICS studies, entitled "Environmental Sustainability: The Case of a Multi-Business Packaging Organisation in South Africa". This timely research addresses the pressing challenge of balancing industrial growth with environmental responsibility in South Africa, a nation both contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerable to climate change impacts.



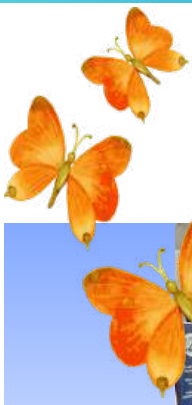
The study coincides with South Africa's Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE) promoting an equitable transition toward a low-carbon economy. With growing environmental consciousness among consumers, businesses face increasing pressure to adopt the "triple bottom line" approach—balancing people, planet, and profit.

Using mixed quantitative and qualitative methodology, the researchers examined three business units within a South African packaging organisation. Their findings reveal that while the organisation has established environmental management systems supporting sustainability goals, significant opportunities exist to enhance environmental performance across all operational areas.

Their research emphasises aligning environmental objectives with strategic organisational goals, reflecting mature understanding of sustainable business practices. Dr. Nadar's work demonstrates that successful environmental sustainability requires fundamental integration of environmental considerations into core business strategy, resource utilisation, and organisational culture.

Dr. Nadar's work contributes to scholarship recognising environmental sustainability not as a constraint on economic development, but as a strategic imperative for long-term prosperity. As BRICS Plus establishes itself as a multilateral powerhouse representing nearly half the world's population, research like this provides essential guidance for policy makers, business leaders, and environmental advocates working toward a sustainable future.





REACHING THE COMMUNITIES

METPAC-SA SUPPORTS WASTE AWARENESS AND RECYCLING EFFORTS IN SMUTSVILLE



Smutsville, an informal settlement in Sedgefield, Western Cape, lies within an environmentally sensitive area where waste management services are scarce, and illegal dumping has become a persistent problem.

Recognising the urgent need for intervention, the Department of Environmental Affairs stepped in to support the community with a series of awareness-raising and capacity-building workshops—bringing together residents, local government, and Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) such as MetPac-SA.

The first Waste Minimisation and Co-Design Workshop, held on 26 February 2025, introduced community members to waste management concepts, legislation, and the importance of education and awareness.

Using a collaborative co-design approach, participants identified local waste challenges, such as poor infrastructure, lack of awareness, and limited collection services. They worked together to brainstorm solutions ranging from youth involvement and communal events to recognising community role models and resource mapping. Smutsville residents embraced the opportunity to become part of the solution.

Building on this momentum, a second workshop was hosted on 23 July 2025, focusing on the value-adding potential of waste. This session encouraged participants, including waste reclaimers, to see waste not as a problem but as a resource with social, environmental, and economic value.

Here, the involvement of MetPac-SA and Petco played a pivotal role. Both PROs presented their ongoing initiatives to strengthen local recycling efforts, shared success stories from other communities, and emphasised how collaboration between businesses, municipalities, and waste pickers can unlock real opportunities. Importantly, MetPac-SA worked directly with reclaimers—listening to their challenges, registering them with the PRO, and handing over much-needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure safer working conditions.

The workshops also sparked exciting ideas for long-term improvements. The community proposed establishing a Waste Management Forum to drive local action and ensure accountability, as well as reviving the much-loved “swap shop” - a recycling-for-rewards initiative that had been forced to close during the Covid-19 pandemic. These solutions, alongside improved street cleaning and better waste collection support, hold promise for a cleaner, healthier Smutsville.

Through its involvement, MetPac-SA once again demonstrated its commitment to empowering communities, strengthening recycling systems, and ensuring that every piece of packaging waste has value. Together with partners and local stakeholders, MetPac-SA is helping to turn waste challenges into opportunities for growth and sustainability.



**Western Cape
Government**



Recycling Programmes **SPRING** to Life at Five Primary Schools

The newly appointed Gauteng MEC for Environment, Ewan Botha, joined Purpose Recycling (PR) and its partners to commemorate Mandela Day with the official launch of the Purposeful School Recycling Programme (PSRP) at Don Mateman Primary in Eldorado Park.

The programme, supported by sponsors including Fibre Circle, Polyco, the Electrical Waste Association of South Africa, and MetPac-SA, is designed to instill the values of recycling, waste separation, and environmental care in young learners.

Recognising the logistical challenges of rolling out the programme to all schools simultaneously, PSRP has introduced the initiative at five pilot schools, namely Heerengracht, Eldridge, Kliptown, McBain Charles, and Boekenhout primary schools. Each of these schools received recycling bins and educational materials to support classroom learning and practical participation.

“Children are key to driving long-term behavioural change. By teaching them from an early age about recycling organic waste, metals, glass, plastic, paper, and e-waste, we can create a culture that values waste as a resource and moves us closer to zero waste to landfill.”

*Shannon Boer
PSRP project manager*



Boer highlighted the PSRP's broader mission to reduce landfill usage, encourage recycling, and stimulate an economy around waste. For communities like Eldorado Park, where residents live with the daily impact of nearby landfill sites such as Goudkoppies, the programme has both immediate and long-term significance.

MEC Botha acknowledged these challenges, noting that many of Gauteng's landfill sites are nearing capacity. "Recycling is critical not just to ease pressure on landfills, but also to improve air quality, create jobs, and unlock a multi-billion-rand green economy," he said.

For MetPac-SA, whose mandate includes driving recycling and extended producer responsibility for metal packaging, supporting school-based education programmes like PSRP is vital.

By investing in youth education, MetPac-SA helps lay the foundation for a new generation of environmentally conscious citizens who understand the value of recycling and are motivated to take action in their homes and communities.

As the PSRP grows, MetPac-SA will continue to play a central role in supporting initiatives that not only protect the environment but also uplift communities and strengthen South Africa's circular economy.



Purpose Recycling Team

MetPac-SA Inspires Young Minds at Science Unlimited Expo 2025

MetPac-SA proudly participated in the 13th Annual Science Unlimited Expo, held recently at Kwalata Game Lodge in Dinokeng.

Alongside Plastics SA and Petco, MetPac-SA engaged with hundreds of enthusiastic Grade 6 to 8 learners, sparking curiosity about science, sustainability, and the important role of recycling in shaping a greener future.

The Expo, a nationally recognised science education initiative, offered a dynamic programme of curriculum-aligned shows, workshops, exhibitions, and live demonstrations. Learners were introduced to the life cycle of metals, from production and use to re-use and recycling, with MetPac-SA emphasising how sustainable metal packaging contributes to a circular economy.

By highlighting real-world applications and exciting career pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. (STEM), MetPac-SA helped learners see how their everyday actions—such as recycling a can—play a role in protecting the environment. The hands-on demonstrations and interactive sessions not only captured their imagination but also underscored the importance of responsible resource management.

MetPac-SA remains committed to driving awareness and education among the next generation, ensuring that recycling and sustainability are seen not just as environmental necessities, but as opportunities to build a brighter, more innovative future.



MetPac-SA Empowers SAWPA Waste Pickers Through Training and Skills Development



MetPac-SA has demonstrated its commitment to skills development by hosting a workshop for SAWPA waste pickers, celebrating their vital role in environmental sustainability.

The event featured a red-carpet entrance for the waste pickers and included speeches from Khosi Mbatha and Dr. Ravi Nadar, who recognized their contributions to recycling. The workshop provided expert-led training on financial skills, covering budgeting, saving, business planning, and funding applications, enhancing the waste pickers' capabilities.

A key highlight of the event was the aspiration of waste pickers to own buy-back centers and create jobs in the waste sector, with all content translated into isiZulu for inclusivity. eThekweni Municipality provided insights on waste diversion and sustainable job creation.

The event wrapped up with warm meals from Mumbai Caterers and PPE packs distributed to 144 waste pickers.

Additionally, all participants were registered on SAPRAS 2.0, reinforcing MetPac-SA's commitment to formalising the sector and also integrating waste pickers into the circular economy.

From the Streets...



...to the studio

Waste Picker's Art Transforms Lives

MetPac-SA has empowered Mbongeni Msani, a skilled waste picker from Emadlangeni, KwaZulu-Natal, who transforms metal scraps into art. Starting as a means of survival, Msani initially collected metal scraps for income, later focusing on aluminum cans. His artistic journey revealed the potential in waste, leading him to create stunning pieces from flattened beverage cans.

Msani's metal art reflects the resilience of South African waste pickers and emphasizes creativity in unexpected places. His work symbolizes new beginnings and fosters unity, embodying the philosophy of Ubuntu. MetPac-SA supports Msani by purchasing his art collection and helping him find markets, with the aim of showcasing his work on international platforms.





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.

kishan@metpacsa.org.za

ravi@metpacsa.org.za

rishant@metpacsa.org.za

khosi@metpacsa.org.za

belinda@metpacsa.org.za

annamarie@metpacsa.org.za

info@circular-vision.com

bonte@circular-vision.com