



November 2025

**MetPac-SA**

Driving Sustainable Metal Packaging

# NEWSLETTER

## From the CEO's Desk

With less than four weeks left in 2025, and most companies preparing to close on 14 December for a well-earned break, it feels like the perfect time to pause, reflect, and celebrate what we've achieved this year.

Looking back, MetPac-SA has a lot to be proud of. While our team is still relatively small, each member consistently punches above their weight, leaving a real mark on every project and initiative we take on. Their commitment, creativity, and drive continue to make a difference in the industry and our communities.

In this month's newsletter, we're excited to share updates on some of these projects and initiatives, highlighting the ways MetPac-SA has spread the message about the importance of metal packaging collection and recycling throughout 2025.

We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our board members and members for their ongoing support, involvement, and participation this year. Your dedication is what allows us to push forward, make an impact, and keep innovating.

Looking ahead, we are already planning for 2026 and can't wait to hit the ground running with new projects and initiatives. But first, we hope you enjoy the last few weeks of the year, and that your holiday season is filled with rest, joy, and time well spent with loved ones.

Please note that MetPac-SA offices will close on Friday, 12 December 2025, and reopen on Monday, 5 January 2026. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Warm regards,

Dr Kishan Singh  
CEO: MetPac-SA

# METPAC-SA AND FERROUS METALS PROCESSORS SHOWCASE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ACTION

## Appreciation Day highlights innovation, collaboration, and sustainability in the metal packaging value chain

MetPac-SA recently organised a “Metal Packaging Recovery and Recycling Process Appreciation Day” at the Ferrous Metals Processors (FMP) facility in Gauteng. This event highlighted South Africa’s flourishing circular economy within the metals sector and gathered MetPac-SA members, strategic partners and representatives from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) as part of the Department’s annual audit and engagement programme.

The objective was clear: to offer delegates an exclusive glimpse into FMP’s cutting-edge recycling operations and its vital contribution to environmental sustainability and local economic development.

### A Leader in Sustainable Metal Recovery

Ferrous Metals Processors is at the forefront of industrial-scale ferrous recycling, focusing on the collection, handling, and processing of used steel cans. As the largest buyer, processor, and distributor in the local market, FMP boasts state-of-the-art facilities designed for mass processing, decontamination and recovery, establishing the company as a vital contributor to the circular economy.

The tour offered an intriguing insight into the ferrous shredding process, allowing visitors to see firsthand how metal packaging is recycled efficiently on a grand scale. Attendees were also given an exclusive look at FMP’s aluminum re-smelting plant, which is currently under construction and will enhance the company’s capacity for sustainable metal recovery and circular production.

### Collaboration for a sustainable future

The Appreciation Day fostered knowledge exchange and collaboration, reinforcing South Africa’s commitment to a metal packaging circular economy.

MetPac-SA thanks Howard Fine, the FMP team and all partners for their support. Following the event’s success, MetPac-SA plans to hold more site visits in 2026 to promote innovation and transparency in the packaging industry.



### Insights from industry leaders

- **Dr. Ravi Nadar**, MetPac-SA’s Research Analyst, opened the session with an engaging presentation on the circular economy and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). He shared updates on MetPac-SA’s progress, highlighting achievements, ongoing challenges, and the organisation’s strong positioning to meet legislative EPR goals. Dr. Nadar also underscored the essential role of waste pickers in closing the circular loop and driving inclusive growth within the metals recycling value chain.
- Project Leader **Khosi Mbatha** followed with an overview of MetPac-SA’s community-based field projects, which are helping to advance resource efficiency, environmental education, and socio-economic upliftment. Her presentation illustrated how recycling can be both a planet-friendly and people-centered solution.
- Rounding off the presentations, **Jolize Labuschagne**, General Manager at Lariat Technologies, demonstrated the Lariat system — an innovative digital tool that streamlines waste management processes and enables efficient, traceable payments to waste pickers. The system’s ability to enhance transparency, traceability and financial inclusion drew significant interest from attendees eager to see how technology can support a more equitable recycling ecosystem.





# METPAC-SA ENHANCES PARTNERSHIP WITH SALGA (EC) FOR SUSTAINABLE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

**MetPac-SA continues to expand its footprint in supporting South Africa's municipalities through meaningful partnerships and environmental leadership.**

**The PRO for post-consumer metal packaging joined the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Eastern Cape in October for a series of strategic engagements focused on strengthening sustainable and inclusive local governance.**

## Building Connections at the Wild Coast Sun

The first engagement took place on 6 October 2025 during an exclusive MTN Eastern Cape Cocktail Evening at the Wild Coast Sun. The event brought together municipal leaders, provincial representatives, and private-sector partners to discuss ways of driving collaboration and innovation in the Eastern Cape.

During the evening, Dr. Kishan Singh, CEO of MetPac-SA, met with Dr. Nondlazi from SALGA Eastern Cape to explore joint initiatives aimed at strengthening circularity and sustainable waste management in local municipalities. Discussions included the potential for Lean Six Sigma training to help municipalities streamline operations, improve efficiency, and reduce costs. These are all key steps toward achieving long-term sustainability.

## Honouring O.R. Tambo and Reflecting on Progress

On 7 October 2025, MetPac-SA participated in SALGA Eastern Cape's Grand Dinner in honour of Oliver Reginald Tambo, attended by more than 300 delegates from government and the private sector.

Invited to deliver a keynote address, Dr. Singh reflected on MetPac-SA's journey since its establishment in 2017 as an industry initiative promoting the sustainability of steel and aluminium packaging. He highlighted how, following South Africa's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations in 2021, MetPac-SA evolved into a fully compliant national PRO that works closely with municipalities, recyclers, and government partners to ensure responsible waste management and circularity in metal packaging.



## Looking Ahead: A Shared Commitment to the Eastern Cape

Dr. Singh announced that MetPac-SA and SALGA Eastern Cape plan to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise collaboration on key sustainability initiatives, including recycling education, infrastructure development, capacity building and waste-stream optimisation.

"These engagements represent a significant step forward in our mission to enhance circularity and support municipalities in delivering sustainable environmental solutions. We are committed to working hand-in-hand with SALGA Eastern Cape to create cleaner, more resilient communities," said Dr. Singh.

He also praised South Africa's EPR model for uniting government, industry, retailers and consumers around shared sustainability goals. "This partnership-based approach shows what is possible when all stakeholders take joint responsibility for a sustainable future," he added.

*The collaboration reinforces MetPac-SA's growing role in advancing the circular economy, improving waste management systems, and promoting ethical, efficient service delivery across municipalities.*

## Towards a Cleaner, Greener Future

Through continued collaboration, MetPac-SA and SALGA Eastern Cape are aligning their efforts to promote sustainability within ethical, transparent governance structures. Their shared vision is to build capable, accountable municipalities that deliver measurable benefits to communities while contributing to South Africa's broader environmental and socio-economic goals.

# METPAC-SA HANDS OUT MUCH NEEDED PPE TO SAWPA WASTE PICKERS IN KZN

MetPac-SA successfully hosted a special PPE handover ceremony in Verulam, KwaZulu-Natal, on 29 October 2025 where more than 150 waste pickers from the South African Waste Pickers Association (SAWPA) received new sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) and branded apparel.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the MetPac-SA team had been hard at work sorting, packaging and labelling the PPE items to ensure that every waste picker received a full and properly fitted set. The kits included essential safety items such as gloves, masks, reflective vests, boots and overalls that were specifically selected to provide protection and dignity for the workers who play a vital role in South Africa's recycling value chain.

"This PPE handover formed part of MetPac-SA's ongoing commitment to supporting and empowering waste pickers, who represent the backbone of the country's informal recycling sector. By providing proper protective equipment, we are hoping to make a tangible difference by improving the working conditions and wellbeing of these individuals while promoting safety, health and professionalism within the industry," explains Dr Kishan Singh, CEO of MetPac-SA.

Dr Singh highlighted that waste pickers are on the front lines of recycling in South Africa. They help divert valuable materials from landfill, keep our environment cleaner and provide a continual source of input raw materials for the formal recycling sector.

"It's our responsibility to ensure they can do this important work safely and with dignity. By investing in their safety and visibility, we are investing in the sustainability of the entire recycling ecosystem," he said.

The event brought together representatives from SAWPA, local municipalities and community leaders, who joined MetPac-SA in recognising the contributions of waste pickers and celebrating their partnership in advancing a circular economy.



Above: SAWPA waste pickers receiving PPE hampers.



“Waste pickers are exposed daily to potential hazards such as sharp objects, broken glass, and harmful substances.

Providing PPE not only safeguards them from injury and illness, but also enhances their visibility and sense of belonging within the recycling community. MetPac-SA's PPE donation reflects the PRO's commitment to safety, dignity and inclusion, while ensuring that every worker can contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable South Africa”

Dr Kishan Singh,  
CEO of MetPac-SA



The MetPac-SA team with SAWPA Representatives



Above: MetPac-SA & SAWPA representatives with PPE kits

Left: Dr Kishan Singh engages with waste pickers

# METPAC-SA HANDS OVER PPE TO WASTE PICKERS AT INKOSI MTUBATUBA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

**On 4 November 2025, MetPac-SA made a significant impact at the Inkosi Mtubatuba Municipality Hall by officially handing over personal protective equipment (PPE) to 120 local waste pickers, proudly supporting their safety and dignity. This event, which painted the skies of Inkosi Mtubatuba blue and white, marked a milestone in MetPac-SA's ongoing efforts to uplift the waste picker community.**

In partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), MetPac-SA identified the critical need for PPE as part of its broader commitment to improve the lives of waste pickers.

These individuals, including mothers, fathers, and grandparents, are the backbone of the country's recycling industry, collecting recyclables from local communities and businesses as their primary source of income. Many of these waste pickers walk long distances daily to reach buy-back centres, where they sell the materials they collect.

The ceremony was opened by Bheki Ntshalintshali from EDTEA, who extended his gratitude to all involved parties and welcomed representatives from local municipalities as well as the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). Mulalo Tshikotshi, representing the DFFE's national office, spoke about the essential role that waste pickers play in the circular economy. He stressed the importance of reinvesting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees into initiatives that improve the lives of these frontline environmental workers.

Ms. Khosi Mbatha, representing MetPac-SA, highlighted the organisation's vital role as the Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) for the metal packaging sector in South Africa. She commended the waste pickers for their dedication to metal recycling and emphasised MetPac-SA's commitment to promoting waste separation at the source as part of a national behavioural change initiative. She also pointed out the dangers of landfill scavenging and reaffirmed MetPac-SA's commitment to waste diversion through community engagement and education.

The Mayor of Inkosi Mtubatuba Municipality, His Excellency Mr. Mthethwa delivered an inspiring address, recognising waste pickers as unsung heroes who help maintain clean and safe streets. He suggested convening an imbizo to explore sustainable solutions to improve the livelihoods of waste pickers within the municipality.

Looking ahead, a municipal site in Inkosi Mtubatuba has been identified as a potential location for a local buy-back centre. This development would bring recycling infrastructure closer to the community, alleviating the burden on waste pickers who currently have to travel long distances to sell their recyclables.

The PPE handover ceremony was a resounding success, demonstrating the power of collaboration, compassion and the positive impact of EPR in transforming the lives of South Africa's waste pickers and their communities.



# TURNING WASTE INTO A RESOURCE: ORICOL LEADS THE WAY IN RECYCLING ALUMINIUM COFFEE PODS

In a world where convenience often comes with an environmental cost, Oricol Environmental Services is proving that even the smallest waste streams can create big opportunities for sustainability. Their latest innovation in recycling aluminium coffee capsules is not only reducing landfill waste — it's demonstrating how small, everyday actions can contribute to a greener future.

## Where Every Brew Leads to a Greener Future

Every cup of coffee leaves behind a tiny aluminium pod and a handful of spent grounds. Individually, these may seem insignificant. Collectively, however, they add up to a mounting waste challenge. Recognising the potential locked inside these used capsules, Oricol has engineered a smarter, more responsible solution—one that keeps valuable materials in circulation and turns a routine habit into an act of environmental stewardship.

At the heart of their initiative are Oricol's custom-designed packaging separation machines. These machines delicately extract the aluminium casing from the coffee grounds inside each capsule, ensuring efficient recovery without compromising quality.

## How It Works

- **Aluminium Recovery:** Once separated, the aluminium is sent to a smelter where it is upcycled into new products, conserving natural resources and reducing the need for virgin materials.
- **Organic Reuse:** The spent coffee grounds take on a new life through Oricol's organic composting solution, becoming a nutrient-rich soil conditioner that supports healthy plant growth.

This closed-loop approach ensures that both components of the capsule are put to meaningful use. In fact, Oricol already recycles approximately 76 tons of coffee grounds per year—a testament to how consistent collection of small waste items can generate substantial environmental benefits.

## Small Waste, Big Impact

The brilliance of Oricol's coffee capsule recycling lies in its simplicity and scalability. By creating a system that transforms something so small into something meaningful, they make it easy for consumers and businesses alike to participate in sustainability efforts.

The message is clear: even the smallest waste stream can have a big impact. When businesses innovate and consumers make mindful choices, everyday actions—like enjoying a cup of coffee—become opportunities to protect the planet.

## Inspiring a Culture of Sustainability

For MetPac-SA, Oricol's initiative offers an inspiring example of how industry can lead through innovation. By turning waste into a valuable resource, they are helping to strengthen South Africa's circular economy and encouraging more stakeholders to rethink what is possible when it comes to recycling metal packaging.

Every recycled capsule is a reminder that sustainability doesn't always require grand gestures. Sometimes, it begins with something as small as a coffee pod—and a willingness to do things differently.



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# PIVOTAL WASTE RECEIVES SOLAR-READY BATTERY SYSTEM TO BOOST RECYCLING CAPACITY

**MetPac-SA proudly supports Pivotal Waste Pty (Ltd), a 100% black woman-owned recycling business in Johannesburg. In November 2025, it sponsored a high-voltage battery system worth R289,900 to enhance the company's operations and sustainability.**

Pivotal Waste, owned by 29-year-old entrepreneur Sisipo Mabika and managed alongside her husband and COO Moses Mbika, plays an important role in the local recycling value chain. The company employs 23 staff members, of which 20 are youth, and sources recyclable materials from over 100 waste pickers through a Lariat-based system that ensures fair and efficient payment of waste picker service fees.

Despite having high-quality equipment and infrastructure in place, Pivotal Waste has faced significant operational challenges due to the lack of a stable electricity supply. For months, the business relied on a generator to power its baling machines. This proved to be an expensive and unsustainable solution that placed pressure on its bottom line and limited its ability to operate at full capacity.

The new high-voltage battery system will enable Pivotal Waste to fully integrate its solar power setup and operate independently of the grid. This investment is expected to substantially reduce operating costs, minimise downtime, and increase monthly recycling tonnages. Importantly, the ability to reliably bale cans and other recyclables will not only cut transport costs but also allow the company to secure higher market prices for baled material compared to selling it loose.

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MetPac-SA is committed to supporting emerging enterprises within the metal packaging value chain. This partnership with Pivotal Waste reflects that commitment and reinforces the association's ongoing efforts to enhance capacity, support transformation, and empower youth and women-led businesses in the recycling sector.



waste recyclers

# Phoenix For the Planet Community Clean Up

## In Association with MetPac-SA

MetPac-SA, in partnership with Phoenix for the Planet, recently hosted a community clean-up aimed at promoting proper waste management, recycling practices, and environmental sustainability. The event drew participation from Safe Cities, Fibre Circle, members of ACT Church and local community members.

The clean-up generated significant interest, as residents were eager to learn about practical solutions for reducing waste and adopting recycling habits. Against the backdrop of growing environmental concerns, the initiative provided an excellent platform to educate the community on waste reduction and responsible recycling.

**MetPac-SA emphasised the importance of separation at source, particularly the segregation of recyclables such as metals, to prevent them from ending up in landfills.**

The clean-up reinforced the principles of waste minimisation and landfill diversion, with the following results:

- Total waste collected: 25 bags
- PET plastic: 95%
- Glass: 4%
- Aluminium cans: 1%

Community members confirmed the value of metals, noting that aluminium cans are often collected at home and either given to waste pickers or sold at buy-back centers to generate income.

The event was a resounding success. MetPac-SA is proud to sponsor Phoenix for the Planet and applauds their outstanding efforts in advancing waste minimization and environmental awareness within the community.



To support participants, MetPac-SA provided gloves, trash bags, water and cooldrinks, ensuring volunteers could work safely and comfortably.

Community members, including youth students who acted as role models, collected discarded plastic, glass, paper, and metals throughout the neighbourhood. The youth also encouraged peers to start recycling metals, highlighting both environmental benefits and potential income opportunities. Participants asked insightful questions about implementing separation at source and adopting circular economy practices to transform daily habits.

# METPAC-SA DROPS CATCHY NEW SONG TO PROMOTE METAL RECYCLING AWARENESS IN SA

**In a bold and innovative move to educate the South African public about the environmental benefits of metal recycling, MetPac-SA has released a vibrant new Zulu song titled "Qoqa Amakani" performed by rising local artist Maronza Robzen.**

Loosely translated, the title means "Pick up those cans," and the song uses storytelling and energetic beats to symbolise the life cycle of a metal can.

MetPac-SA wanted to find a unique and engaging way to communicate the message that metal packaging can be recycled over and over again, without losing its quality.

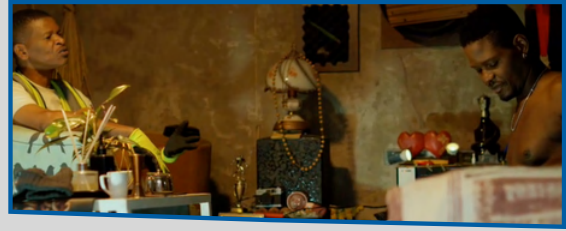
"Qoqa Amakani is more than just a catchy tune. It's a celebration of circularity and a reminder that our everyday choices impact the planet. By collecting cans South Africans can also learn about the importance of keeping metal in use through recycling", explained CEO of MetPac-SA Dr Kishan Singh.

The song blends township rhythms with modern beats, highlighting the infinite recyclability of metal and metal packaging. With memorable lyrics and an upbeat tempo, Qoqa Amakani aims to engage communities across the country, especially the youth, in a conversation about responsible waste management and sustainability.

**"This initiative forms part of MetPac-SA's broader public awareness campaign, which includes community outreach programmes, school partnerships, and digital media content. Environmental sustainability education through music can break down barriers and make environmental topics more relatable and accessible to the public"**

*Khosi Mbatha,  
MetPac-SA Project Manager*

*Qoqa Amakani by MetPac-SA is available on all major streaming platforms and is free for educational use. MetPac-SA encourages schools, municipalities and community groups to incorporate the song into their recycling awareness activities.*

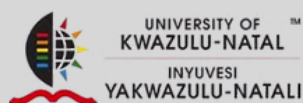


Maronza Robzen, known for his commitment to using music as a tool for social change, expressed pride in being part of the project. "When MetPac-SA approached me with the idea, I was immediately on board. Music is a powerful language. It connects people and if we can use that connection to drive positive environmental behaviour, then we are making a real impact," he said.

The music video, shot in various urban settings across South Africa, features waste pickers collecting cans from rivers and from the streets. Waste pickers take the cans to a local buyback centre where they get paid money for the cans collected.

"Our goal as MetPac-SA is not only to increase the national recycling rate, but also to create a culture of environmental responsibility including the adoption of a circular economy. Metal is a permanent material that can be recycled forever. Through this song, we're conveying that fact into a message of hope and action," Khosi concluded.

# METPAC-SA AND HULAMIN PARTNER WITH UKZN STUDENTS FOR SDG INNOVATION CHALLENGE



**In collaboration with Hulamin, MetPac-SA proudly participated in the 2025 Soapbox Grand Finale Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Challenge, held at Valterra Platinum, Johannesburg, on 30 October 2025.**

The annual initiative aims to drive sustainable innovation in South Africa's business sector as the country works toward meeting the United Nations' 2030 SDG targets. The challenge pairs private-sector organisations with university students to develop innovative, real-world solutions to sustainability challenges.

This year's event saw strong participation from leading companies, including Mama Money, Ivanplats, Rio Tinto RBM, Valterra Platinum, Standard Bank Group, TUHF21, PPS Investments, and the MetPac-SA/Hulamin partnership.

Each organisation collaborated with students from universities across the country, including the University of Pretoria, University of the Free State, University of Zululand, University of Johannesburg, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and the University of the Witwatersrand.

The overall winner of the 2025 Grand Finale was Ivanplats and the University of the Free State, who impressed the judges with their community-level food security initiative demonstrating how responsible mining and social purpose can drive meaningful impact.

## **A Win for Collaboration and Learning**

Although the MetPac-SA/Hulamin team did not take home the top prize, their project was widely regarded as a resounding success. The initiative provided valuable real-world experience for the participating students, who gained practical research and problem-solving skills while contributing to meaningful sustainability outcomes.

"This collaboration showcased how industry-academic partnerships can generate innovative solutions that benefit both business and the environment," said Dr. Ravi Nadar of MetPac-SA.



Above: The MetPac-SA, Hulamin and UKZN team Mhlengi Makhathini (UKZN), Lerato Masinga (UKZN), Dr. Ravi Nadar (MetPac-SA), Thabiso Zondi (Hulamin) and Sishosonke Nsele (UKZN).

## **Driving Circular Economy Research**

Representing the metals packaging sector, MetPac-SA and Hulamin partnered with a team of five UKZN students to explore challenges and opportunities in South Africa's used beverage can (UBC) recycling value chain.

The project ran over three months and was facilitated by Dr. Ravi Nadar, Khosi Mbata and Rishant Harichunder (MetPac-SA), together with Hendrik de Villiers and Thabiso Zondi (Hulamin).

The team's research focused on two critical issues:

- Improving the cleanliness and quality of used beverage cans to enhance recyclability and reduce contamination challenges faced by Hulamin during remelting.
- Strengthening data collection and reporting systems for UBC recovery to align South Africa's performance with global best practice and improve the accuracy of national recycling statistics.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT SOCCER TOURNAMENT KICKS GOALS FOR METAL PACKAGING RECYCLING AWARENESS



**Save a Life Save a Nature NPC, in partnership with MetPac-SA, hosted the second annual Waste Management Soccer Tournament in Umlazi Township from 10–12 October 2025**

Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, this year's tournament saw an incredible 48 teams, over 700 learners and more than 1,000 community members come together in support of cleaner communities and a greener planet.

The tournament blended sport and sustainability, using soccer as a powerful platform to promote recycling, waste reduction and environmental stewardship. Youth participants collected recyclables before and during the matches, which were later processed at the Save a Life Save a Nature Buyback Centre – turning waste into opportunity while educating future eco-champions.

The organisation's broader mission includes biodiversity protection, food security, youth recycling education and sports development, thereby helping communities understand the impact of pollution, while building pride and purpose through environmental action.

Participants were also introduced to key recycling concepts, including the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and the infinite recyclability of metal packaging.

Youth participants collected recyclables before and during the matches, which were later processed at the Save a Life Save a Nature Buyback Centre – turning waste into opportunity while educating future eco-champions.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Mr. Goge, Education Manager at the Waste Directorate, commended the progress made by Save a Life Save a Nature and thanked MetPac-SA for its sponsorship and leadership in advancing community-based recycling.

"MetPac-SA is a true example of Ubuntu in action," said Mr. Goge. "Through initiatives like this, they are empowering communities and promoting sustainable waste management practices."

The event once again proved that when communities play and recycle together, they score lasting wins for both people and the planet.



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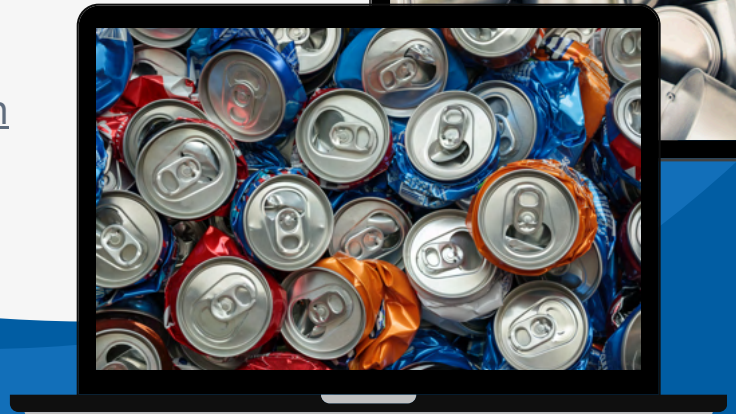
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MetPac-SA is a Non-Profit Company focused on sustainable development in the metal packaging industry in South Africa. As a preferred Producer Responsibility Organisation, it promotes effective collection, recovery, and re-utilisation of post-consumer metal packaging. Key areas of focus include:

- Implementing the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategy
- Helping members meet EPR obligations and attract new members
- Monitoring member statistics against EPR targets to support recycling and data accuracy
- Assisting municipalities, Buyback Centres, recyclers, and waste pickers
- Promoting education and awareness initiatives.



## MetPac-SA

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[www.metpacsa.org.za](http://www.metpacsa.org.za)

