

Editors Column

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to our first edition for the year. Our theme for this newsletter is 'The Best Out Of Waste'. We talk about litter and how it affects the environment and how we can help reduce it. We look at what one organization is doing towards eradicating litter and some DIY tips that you can use in your own home re-using waste around the house.

We look back at how Black Crystal celebrated National Tree Planting Day in 2013, and an interesting article about the Bank of England, which is planning to introduce a polymer plastic note that has less environmental impact than a paper bank note.

We welcome your comments and environmental contributions to the Editor:

infor@blackcrystal.co.zw

Thank you and happy reading!



Environmental Consultants
Caring for the environment beyond today

Black Crystal Consulting is one of Zimbabwe's leading reputable companies offering a quality service in environmental and socioeconomic consultancy services. Black Crystal Consulting believes in ***caring for the environment beyond today*** to ensure that biodiversity is maintained and that natural resources are not depleted for the next generation.

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Did you know: Litter discarded in streets and parks can travel through the storm water systems to our river systems, where it can cause harm to humans, wildlife and aquatic life.

Littering

Littering means to throw (often man-made) objects onto the ground and leave them unremoved, as opposed to disposing of them properly. Litter consists of waste products such as containers, food waste, bottles, cans, paper, batteries, bulbs and wrappers and so on. Often people do not consider small items such as gum or even cigarette butts to be litter but these small pieces of rubbish are often some of the most littered items on our streets.



Picture showing how long litter takes to decompose

Littering is one of the most problematic environmental problems in Zimbabwe. It is amazing that 94% of people identify litter as a major environmental problem and yet people still litter. Carelessly discarded litter affects every member of society. It can cause harm to people and animals, damages our river systems and drains, costs money and suggests that we do not care for our environment. We live in a plastic throwaway society. Virtually every human being on this planet uses plastic materials directly and indirectly every single day. Every year we eat and drink from some thirty-four billion newly manufactured bottles and containers worldwide. We patronize fast food restaurants and buy products that consume another seven billion kilogrammes of plastic.

Littering is caused by several things which include:

- Pedestrians dropping litter in the street or gutters.
- Motorists discarding litter out of vehicle windows.
- Uncovered vehicle loads. Unsecured goods can easily be blown out of trailers and cause roadside littering.
- Household refuse disposal. Animal scavengers and the wind can dislodge unsecured items placed out on

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the corner for collections. Litter can also result from overloading dustbins.

- Commercial refuse. Poorly secured commercial refuse can easily become litter.
- Construction projects. Litter can be generated from building waste and workers' lunchtime refuse.
- Entertainment events. Events create a large amount of litter, which can overflow onto neighbouring areas when measures to control it are not carefully planned.
- Illegal dumping.

Litter can cause a whole range of problems for everyone in the community. Removing litter from the environment costs everyone money as it means high council rates in order to employ more workers to clean up the streets. It is a threat to public health as it attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria. Items such as broken glass and syringes can be a health hazard in public places. Accumulated litter looks awful and negatively affects the image of places, especially tourist locations, while sending out a message that people do not care for the environment and that it is acceptable to litter.

What is the solution?

- Every person and authority in control and responsible for the maintenance of a location must at all times ensure that places are provided with rubbish bins which should normally be adequate and suitable for the safe discarding of litter.
- Public transporters or any owner of a public vehicle must ensure that no litter is thrown from the transport conveyance.
- Individuals should not dump or leave any litter on any land, street or road except in a container or place provided for that purpose.
- Waste bins must be emptied at places which have been especially designated, indicated, provided or set for such purpose.

Polymer banknotes for Bank of England

Following a three year research programme and a public consultation during autumn 2013, the Bank of England has decided that its next £5 and £10 banknotes will be printed on polymer. The aim is to introduce the next £5 (featuring

Sir Winston Churchill) in 2016 and £10 note (featuring Jane Austen) a year later. The new notes will be smaller (by around 15%). The Bank's research has shown considerable benefits in polymer banknotes: they are cleaner, more secure, and more durable than paper banknotes. They will provide enhanced counterfeit resilience, and increase the quality of banknotes in circulation. Polymer notes are also more environmentally friendly than paper and, because they last longer will be cheaper than paper banknotes.



The results were supplemented by feedback gained during a 10 week public consultation programme, which showed 87% of respondents in favor of a move to polymer. During the consultation period, the Bank conducted an online survey and attended nearly 50 events around the country, as well as commissioning independent focus groups and surveys. In the lead up to the introduction of the new polymer banknotes, the Bank will carry out a full education and publicity programme to ensure that retailers, businesses, and the general public are fully aware of what the new notes look like and how to authenticate them.

Other countries and regions with notes printed on polymer in circulation include: Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Hong Kong (for a 2-year trial), Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Solomon Islands (no longer issued), Sri Lanka, Thailand, Samoa, Singapore and Zambia. Canada released its first polymer banknote (\$100) on 14 November 2011, followed by the \$50 banknote on 26 March 2012 and the \$20 banknote on 7 November 2012 and finally, the \$10 and \$5 banknotes on 7 November 2013. Countries and regions that have issued commemorative banknotes (which are not in circulation) on Guardian polymer include: China,

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Taiwan, Kuwait, Northern Ireland and Singapore. For more details about their survey, visit the Bank of England website: www.bankofengland.co.uk

Trashion Show by Proudly Zimbabwean.

Proudly Zimbabwean Foundation is an organisation that is looking at moving Zimbabwe forward on a global level by encouraging Zimbabweans to realise and show its true potential by eradicating negative thoughts and weaknesses by replacing them with positive thoughts and growing our strengths.



Left: Mealie meal sack, bottle top and plant outfit by Saru. Right: Sack and magazine paper outfit by Mufaro Mukoki

Proudly Zimbabwean's team includes Dr J. Kanyekeye who is the Board Chairperson, Mr G Pasipanodya, the Deputy Board Chairperson, Mr Dave Emberton, a trustee, Miss G Danzvara who is the programs Officer and Ms Kudzai Sevenzo who is the brand ambassador. In a bid to show the strengths of our nation, Proudly Zimbabweans hosted a show on the 29th of November 2013 dubbed the Trashion Show which was aimed at raising awareness, highlighting alternative uses for litter and educating the business community and the nation at large on how we can eradicate littering in Zimbabwe.

The theme of the show was 'Fashion from Trash', where several designers including: Praise, Natasha, Mufaro Mukokio, Saru, Graham and Blessed Nkosi showcased some of their designs made from waste material. Material they used for their beautiful creations included rope, , mealie meal sacks, compact discs, crushed glass, dried plants, bottle tops, plastic bottles and plastic bin liners.

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Left: Crushed glass, scrap pieces of cloth and rope outfit designed by Blessed Nkosi. Right: Mealie meal sack and bottles outfit designed by Graham

The event was graced by the former Minister of Environment, Honourable Minister Dr F.D.C Nhema. Entertainment was provided by the Green Ambassador: Mr Dereck Mpofu. For more information about Trashion and proudly Zimbabwean, visit their page on Facebook and Twitter and also their website. www.facebook.com/ProudlyZimbabwean. Twitter: Proudly Zimbabwean. www.proudlyzimbabwean.org

SEAT Review for Unki Mine

Black Crystal Consulting is proud to announce that it has been retained to undertake the second SEAT (Social Economic Assessment Toolkit) review for Unki Mine. The review, which commenced in October 2013 is ongoing and a SEAT Report 3 will be produced shortly.

Background to the Review

A SEAT Report is an essential planning tool that will assist Unki Mine with managing identified social and economic impacts arising from mining operations and the development of sustainable stakeholder relations as the basis for local accountability. The SEAT report updates Unki Mine's SEAT process, contributes to Unki Mine's understanding of the social and economic context, identification of local stakeholders as well as analysis of existing community initiatives. Through the SEAT review Unki Mine will be able to build a profile of communities affected by the Project (Project referring to Unki Mine and development), identify social and environmental impacts, design appropriate mitigation measures which manage potential negative Project

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impacts and enhance potential opportunities. This will contribute to sustainable development in the Project area and enhance the long-term economic and social sustainability of communities surrounding the mine.

Project objectives

Objectives of this projects are to

- Identify and manage social and economic impacts (both positive and negative).
- Facilitate better understanding of the concerns and priorities of local stakeholders and, where possible, to address them.
- Improve the contributions that the operation makes through the management of its core business – through partnerships or through the operation’s socio-economic benefit delivery (SEBD) initiatives.
- Facilitate improvement of communication with stakeholder groups.
- Enhance long- term socio-economic opportunities for Unki mine stakeholders, reduce dependency on the operation establish more sustainable development.

Project outputs

Black Crystal as part of the review process has already undertaken a Socio-Economic Baseline study as well as Stakeholder Consultations in consultation with the provisions of the SEAT Toolbox Version 3. A Social and Economic Management Plan incorporating a Community Development Plan as well as a Community Engagement Plan will be produced.

If you were a product at the end of your life, where would you like to be? In Africa! Why?

Because in Africa products are valued resources and have nine lives. You're never discarded but reincarnated, reinvented, redistributed and put to good use. You are non-disposable. You are indispensable. You will be well looked after. No matter if you're bent out of shape, someone will straighten you out, and if you fall apart and go to pieces, rest assured someone will rehabilitate you. You will never meet the tragic fate of so many products in wealthier lands. You will never be stuffed in a closet or drawer and simply forgotten. You will not be cast off as

'junk' or tossed out as 'trash'. You will never - go to waste! African genius for creating new things is endless.

You may even end up in the hands of teenager - Jonathan Kapute! Or you may end up in the hands of El Anatsu and become immortal and worth more than when you were alive!

Since 1992 at the first Earth Summit in Rio Mr Gary Waterworth Owen has produced and presented hundreds of workshops, lectures and presentations about Award Winning Waste and Life Cycle Thinking - now more commonly referred to as the Circular Economy.

Landfills all over the developed world are filled with products that won awards for many a designer. Waste is being designed in and the only solution is to design it out! But for that to happen we need to Get REAL ~Responsible Environmentally Aware Leadership ~ and that message is a core focus of his training programmes. Read More <http://www.responseabilityalliance.com>

National Tree Planting Day 2013 at Black Crystal

As a tradition in our organization, every year we make a point to plant trees in a secure area, be it at a school or in a park. This year we realized that we had never planted a tree during this annual event at our office premises. We decided to do our tree planting in house. The event was attended by the Black Crystal staff in the picture, and a colleague Mr Peter Annesley



Our Ecologist, Mrs Susan Worsely gave advice on how to correctly plant a tree. The national tree of the year was the Red Leafed Fig tree, however due to its qualities, rock splitting being one of them, it was not possible to plant it at the office. We decided to plant two flowering shrubs instead.

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Mackaya bella - a shrub with lilac/white coloured trumpet shaped flowers that attract bees.



Antidesma venosum - common name tassel berry. A shrub that bears purple coloured edible berries that attract birdlife.

recipients of such materials on the streets, public places or on public transport to throw litter on the street or road. Section 23 subsection (3) of Statutory Instrument 6 of 2007 authorises the imposition penalties and fines against offenders who dump litter in violation of its provisions.

The Best Out Of Waste - DIY Tips for your home



Don't throw away all those plastic containers after drinking the soda, or excess piping material, instead get those succulent plants that need to be watered once a week and decorate your garden with them. They don't use a lot of space and make spaces beautiful.

Legislation Corner

What Does the Law Say on Littering?

The Environmental Management Agency has a statute that regulates litter. It is clearly stated in section 83 of the Environmental Management Act [Cap 20:27] that it is an offence to discard, dump or leave any litter on any land, street or road except in a container provided for such purposes or at a place which has specifically been designated for such purpose.

Public transporters must put in place sufficient waste bins within their vehicles for use by the passengers as stipulated in section 23 subsection (2) and (3) of Statutory Instrument 6 of 2007. Section 83 of the Environmental Management Act and section 23 of S.I. 6 of 2007 seek to prevent the nuisances associated with the distribution or casting of flyers, pamphlets, advertisements or waste paper upon undesignated places. It is also an offence for



Re-use your jam jars and wine bottles. Carefully cut off the top section, clean them and put special pictures inside and light them up with a few tea light candles. Bring new meaning to your home décor.