

## **'Motherwell Community and Enviro Hub' - Request to help collect waste**

A project is underway at the 'Buy-Back Centre' in Motherwell in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, which includes upgrades and an expansion to the current waste recycling facility. The aims are to reduce waste to the Swartkops estuary, create environmental awareness on the impact of waste and its potential value, empower women and children, and stimulate local economic development opportunities and skills development in the local community.

The project entails upgrading the existing Motherwell 'Buy Back Centre' and expanding it to integrate with an Enviro-Education facility, food gardens and composting areas.

One of the aspects of the project is to test how we can use waste as a building material - for structures, paving, furniture, vegetable garden beds, decorative purposes etc.

**For both the testing and building phases of the project, we need help collecting a substantial amount of the following waste types in Nelson Mandela Bay, as soon as possible:**

**1. Eco-Bricks:** these are plastic bottles (the typical 2 l 'Coca-Cola'-style bottle) filled with waste. Its best to use green or brown bottles, as the clear bottles are widely recycled and have a better value. Examples of types of waste that can be used are chip and sweet packets, chocolate wrappers, foil from tea bags, cut-up foam trays etc.). Only use **clean waste** to prevent rot (i.e. no meat wrappers, milk sachets etc. Waste must be tightly packed into bottles from the bottom, leaving no gaps. A metal rod or dowel stick can be used to help push waste in tightly. On completion, each bottle should weigh between 500 and 600 g, and should have less than 10 percent 'squishiness' when pressed on the sides. You can view information posters and videos with information on making Eco-Bricks at the following links: <https://sst.org.za/news/how-to-make-eco-bricks/>

**2. Wine and beer bottles.** Please rinse these

**3. Plastic bottle tops**

**4. Beer bottle and other metal tops**

**5. Pallet wood**

**6. Wattle poles**

**7. Polystyrene and styrofoam**

**8. Any other item** you feel may be useful that we haven't thought of

**If you are interested to participate, you are very welcome to contact us for more information, if needed at the following details:**

- Belinda Clark – 072 725 6400 / [bclark@telkomsa.net](mailto:bclark@telkomsa.net)
- Therese Boule - [boulletherese@gmail.com](mailto:boulletherese@gmail.com)

We are sourcing **waste drop-off points / collection measures**, and have the following secured so far:

- **Sustainable Seas Trust** offices: 222 Main Road, Walmer – Eco-Bricks only please
- If you already are a '**Greencycle**' client, you can put Eco-Bricks in your recycling bag
- Contact Belinda or Therese at the details above, and we will collect at your convenience