



General Invitation to Attend the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) World Congress 2024

The organisers of ISWA2024 Congress would like to invite you to register to attend the congress.

We are pleased to announce that the South African Cabinet has approved the hosting of The International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) World Congress 2024 which is being organised by the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa partnered by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, City of Cape Town, South African Airways, ISWA African Chapter and the ISWA Young Professionals Group. This will be the first time the conference is hosted in Africa.

The International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) is an international network of waste professionals and experts from around the world whose mission is "To Promote and Develop Sustainable and Professional Waste Management Worldwide and the transition to a circular economy." It achieves this by bringing together waste experts from around the world to network, create best practices, produce industry reports, as well publishing a scientific proceeding. It also provides a platform that allows members to share and curate knowledge among their peers.

The congress's theme is "Waste to Wealth: Solutions for a Sustainable Future," encompassing a comprehensive range of topics within the waste management field. "The topics to be discussed at the conference speak directly to NCPS's strategy around waste management. Some being:

ISWA 2024 PROPOSED TOPICS

Topic	Sub-topics
1. Waste management service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Urban waste collection systems b. Achieving waste service delivery in rural/ inaccessible areas c. Separation-at-source servicing d. Waste logistics
2. Waste diversion through treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Technologies for optimising waste treatment b. Managing waste treatment operations c. Harnessing energy from waste d. Opportunities for organic waste
3. Advancing waste disposal by landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Technologies for landfill disposal b. Innovations in landfill design c. Managing landfill operations
4. Social inclusivity in the Waste Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promoting behaviour change b. The informal waste sector c. Inclusivity, fairness and justice

5. Waste management for environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Climate change mitigation b. Protecting biodiversity c. Localised solutions
6. Law, governance and regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Legal definitions and interpretations b. Waste classification and categorisation c. Extended producer responsibility d. Fair and just inclusive governance
7. Waste streams of concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Electrical and electronic b. Absorbent hygiene products (AHP) c. Tyres d. End-of-life renewable energy technologies e. Food waste f. Healthcare risk waste g. Other streams of concern
8. Resource management for circularity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Design for circularity towards waste avoidance b. Recycling and waste minimisation c. Refurbishment and reuse d. Industrial symbiosis / waste exchange
9. Funding and financing for waste management and circular economy initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Affordability of waste management solutions b. Funding opportunities c. Investment partnerships

The conference will also provide a comprehensive Technical Tours programme as well as a full and varied social programme.

The ISWA World Congress is the foremost event in the field of solid waste management. It will serve as a global assembly, featuring elevated plenary sessions, technical site visits, and a rich cultural and social itinerary. Here, waste management professionals, government officials, municipal officials, industry leaders, policymakers, scientists, and emerging professionals convene, engaging in constructive dialogues to encourage scientific and technical advancements in sustainable solid waste management. This congress usually commences with the ISWA General Assembly, alongside the ISWA board and scientific and technical committee meetings. The conference should attract between 750 to 1000 attendees with an estimated economic tourism impact of R19 200 000 and R25 600 000.

ISWA 2024 offers a platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, techniques and technologies. By granting regional and local educators, practitioners, and researchers access to an international network, this conference and exhibition fosters opportunities for regional and local participants to establish novel business connections and research collaborations. This collaborative networking endeavour is poised to stimulate innovation, catalyse ideas, and set research agendas for years to come, and bolster the region's economy.

The event is set to spotlight a vast array of regional and local entrepreneurs, artisans, artists, and craftspeople, granting them access to a global audience. This collection of small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) constitutes a pivotal sector for fostering the growth of the Southern African economy. The conference will play a role in nurturing and expanding these SMMEs, leaving a lasting impact far beyond the conference's conclusion. This, in turn, will contribute to launching and enhancing numerous careers.

Social sustainability will be a core focus of the conference, aiming to broaden its outreach to directly support disadvantaged communities. Such initiatives will extend the event's influence, leaving a more enduring legacy. An innovative "Waste Repurposed" Project will be initiated, inviting students to craft art pieces from waste materials. The repurposed creations will be sold during the conference to generate funds for sustainable projects in Southern Africa. This endeavour not only advances social sustainability through charitable contributions but also bolsters the visibility of these emerging SMMEs. The conference will seek to leave a legacy through a dedicated focus on environmental sustainability, by not just minimizing damage but actively attempting to improve the environment when the conference takes place e.g., optional carbon footprint offset fee, using environmentally friendly suppliers, materials and products. It will also run a competition for the best environmentally friendly stand/project/supplier as encouragement.

For Young Professionals in Waste Management who are attending the conference, there will be networking opportunities, such as social events and meet-ups, as well as sessions dedicated to papers from young professionals. These papers will consist of research being conducted by Young Professionals as well as feedback on the activities and work of the ISWA YPG.

The Students Program looks to offer funding and bursary opportunities for students who would otherwise not be able to attend the conference. Funding for these bursaries will be through sponsorship by companies and individuals. The applicants will be expected to read a paper at the conference and will submit a report on their experiences at the end of the event. There will also be opportunities for students from local universities to be invited to visit the exhibition free of charge to learn more about the Waste Management Industry and to encourage them to take up careers in waste management.

The Scholars program will provide opportunities for interested scholars (particularly those from STEM clubs, etc.) to visit the conference exhibition free of charge. These scholars will be provided with transport to the CTICC and access to the exhibition during the afternoon sessions to enable them to learn more about waste management and how they can make a difference. This will be a part of the legacy of the conference, as it will inspire scholars in how they can make a difference.

Participation from the African region is driven in different ways, one of which is through the ISWA Africa Chapter. The participation of the chapter ensures that this is not just a South African conference, but a truly African event. Solid waste management experts in the region are contributing to the formulation of the programme, bringing regional knowledge, services and products which will continue to promote a circular economy in the region.

The conference will, subject to funding availability, include a volunteer programme designed to facilitate participation by students, interns and retirees involved in waste management.

Key Objectives of the congress:

- Promote and develop sustainable and professional waste management in the region and the transition to a circular economy.
- Bring together waste experts from around the world to network, create best practices and produce industry reports.
- Foster and encourage the development and training of waste management in the region.

- Stimulate Knowledge and Skills Transfer - would facilitate the sharing of knowledge, ideas, techniques, materials, and technologies by providing local educators, practitioners and researchers with access to a network of international attendees.
- Encouraging international cooperation in waste management which in turn will hopefully generate innovation, ideas and research agendas for many years to come and support the region's economies.
- Stimulate Foreign Direct Investment in the region
- Promoting resource efficiency through sustainable production and consumption in the region.
- Provide an opportunity to showcase the best available technologies and practices to the region.
- Allows the sharing and curating of knowledge among peers.
- Identify and promote competence in a body of individuals through accreditation.
- Providing support to the region's developing and emerging economies.
- Aid in the region's economic recovery both in tourism and waste management sectors.
- Stimulate other industry trade in products and services - showcase local entrepreneurs, artisans, artists and craftspeople and give them access to a global audience. These small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) form part of a sector which has been identified as crucial to growing the region's economies.
- Assist in the growth and development of these SMMEs and provide an impact long after the conference, and in turn, be responsible for launching or boosting many careers.
- Provide a social benefit to South Africa – the conference will take its social sustainability footprint seriously, and work to expand the reach of the event to directly assist disadvantaged communities.
- Initiatives will extend the conference's footprint and leave a more lasting legacy. e.g., It will commission a "Waste Repurposed" project where students are invited to create works of art from waste. These repurposed items will be sold at the event to raise funds for sustainable projects in South Africa. The project will work both to further social sustainability through charitable contributions and boost the profile of emerging SMMEs. This will give you more products and better products and still allows for some Waste to Art.
- Provide a legacy - through a dedicated focus on environmental sustainability by not just minimising damage but actively attempt to improve the environment when the event takes place e.g., optional Carbon Footprint offset fee.
- Publish the scientific proceedings.

ISWA 2024 Provisional Programme at a Glance <i>(please note session dates and times may change)</i>					
Sat 14 Sep	Sun – 15 Sep	Mon – 16 Sep	Tues – 17 Sep	Wed – 18 Sep	Thurs – 19 Sep
	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
Pre Leisure-Tours		Opening, Plenary AM and PM		Plenary AM and PM	Post Technical Tours
ISWA Board Meeting -	ISWA General Assembly	Waste Management Service Delivery Session	Social Inclusivity in the Waste Sector Session	Waste Streams of Concern Session	Post Leisure Tours

		Waste Diversion Through Treatment Session	Waste Management for Environmental Protection Session	Resource Management for Circularity Session	
		Advancing Waste Disposal by Landfill Session	Law Governance and Protection Session	Funding and Finance for Waste Management and Circular Economy Initiatives Session	
		Workshops, Demonstrations, Tutorials, Short Courses	Workshops, Demonstrations, Tutorials, Short Courses		
		Welcome Reception	Gala dinner	PM Technical tours	
Exhibition Build Up	Exhibition Build Up	Exhibition & Posters	Exhibition & Posters	Exhibition & Posters/Exhibition Break Down	

We look forward to seeing you there.

ISWA2024 Secretariate.