

2018

The Hammarsdale Waste Beneficiation Centre



A USE-IT, DEA, Green Fund Initiative creating inclusive transformation in the Green Economy



Chris Whyte

USE IT WASTE BENEFICIATION (RF) NPC

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INTRODUCTION:

USE-IT WASTE BENEFICIATION (RF) NPC is an eThekweni-funded NGO based in Durban with a successful 9-year track-record in creating over 2500 jobs in the waste sector using innovation to unlock the value-chain in waste. The Department of Environmental Affairs, through the Green Fund, embodied this vision and partnered with USE-IT to make this a reality.

VISION:

The vision behind the HammarSDale Waste Beneficiation Centre (HWBC) is a paradigm shift in development of inclusive and transformative facilitation in the Waste Economy encompassing Circular Economic Development, Social Transformation and Sustainable Green Economic Development.

CONCEPTULISATION:

Frustrations felt by USE-IT in attracting investment and development of waste beneficiation projects led to the concept. Too many local and foreign investment opportunities in adding value to waste resources have been lost to South Africa because of the lengthy and complicated compliance and regulation process needed in establishing these projects. As an agent of change, USE-IT’s mandated responsibility is to unlock these opportunities and facilitate green economic development. The vision was based on the simple mantra of “build it and they will come”.

The concept sold to the Green Fund was to embark on a Greenfields development to build an inclusive and transformative “centre of excellence” as a showcase for the African Continent. As an NGO with no commercial interests, USE-IT were able to carry the idea and vision for the five and a half years it has taken to realise this vision.

As a Greenfields development we were also able to direct the architecture and design to incorporate as many sustainable features in the build as possible. The bulk of the infrastructure has been built with another USE-IT product called the RamBrick™ which is essentially a fully recycled block made from waste soil and rubble diverted from landfill. The RamBrick™ is a fully certified and compliant building medium with the lowest carbon footprint and highest thermal efficiency of any other building material and is the first and only 5-Star rated EcoStandard building medium in Africa.





The Centre has incorporated many other green components in the build including an engineered wetland or bioswale to clean and purify any surface water runoff from the site, indigenous plantings, waterless urinals, efficient lighting, local stone gabion walls and recycled bottle walls, rainwater harvesting and passive air flow design. The Centre is also in the heart of the community and not tucked away in some industrial zone inaccessible to the community.



Engineered wetland or bioswale to clean and purify any surface water

Recycled Bottle Wall



The Centre is not just about key industrial tenants paying for space, but we have included 10 incubators and a training room with the aim to develop local capacity and skills in the



community forging new enterprise developments in recycling, upcycling and recovery of waste.

The Admin Centre of the facility is to host visitors and educate all in embracing this inclusive approach to sustainable industrial development, also to act as a marketing and distribution centre for upcycled and recycled products manufactured in the incubators.

We will also engage with the community regarding food security, nutrition and agri-processing initiatives that create sustainable jobs. The Centre is to be a Campus of learning and shared growth and we aim to expand the centre and showcase this as the model of future sustainable development.

Thus, integration of sustainable green economic investment, community and SMME development fits in with the guidelines of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), specifically SDG9 of 'Building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation'.

The HWBC will touch on many other aspects of Sustainable development, specifically SDG's 1,2,3,6,7,8,9,11,12,13 & 17

