

One Day National Awareness and Training Workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Lesotho

Presenter:

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Virtual



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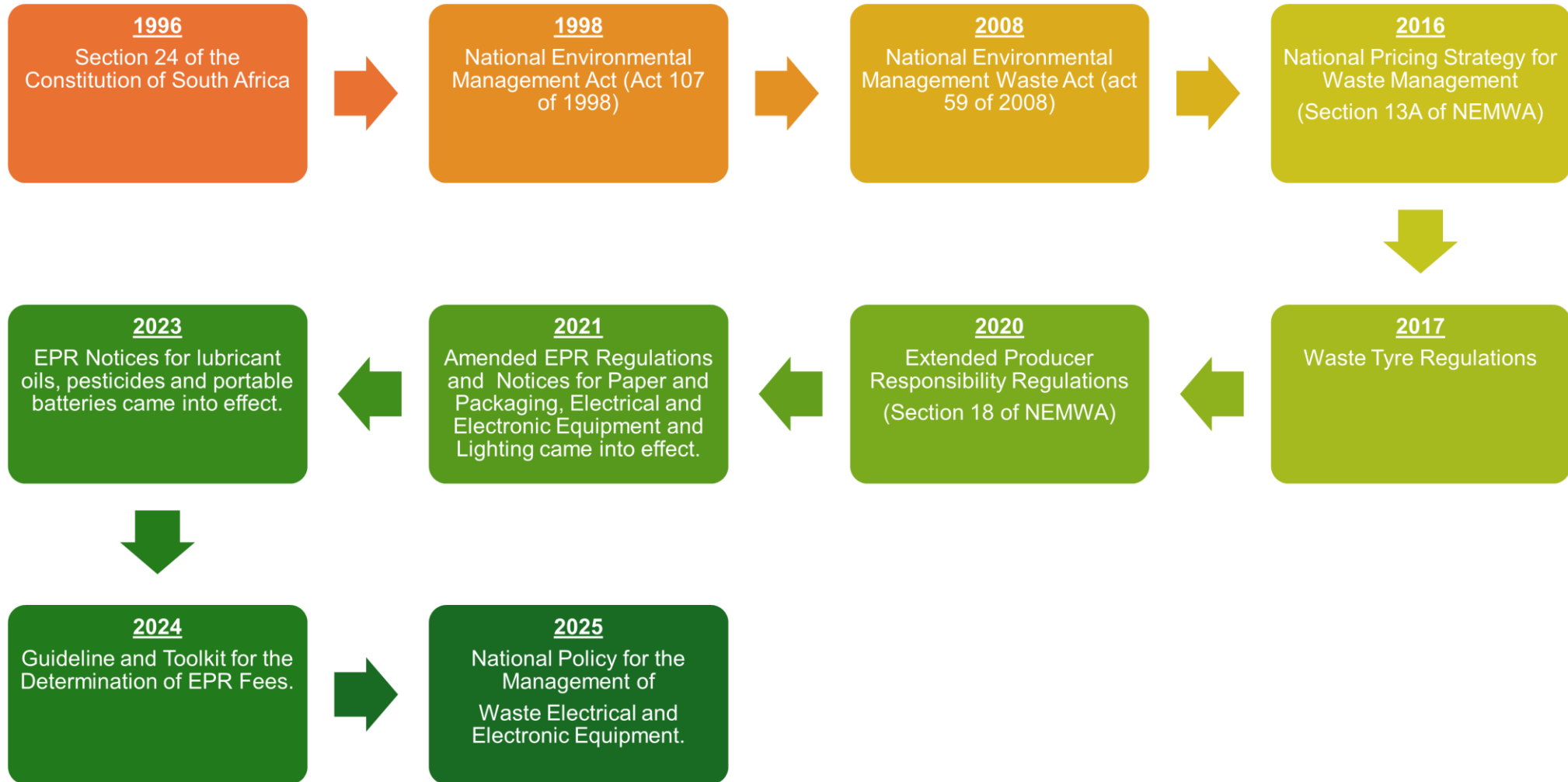
Background

- Waste generation remains a critical challenge in South Africa, owed to social and economic factors such as high population growth (> **63.1 million** in 2025), urbanisation and demand for resources to cater for livelihoods.
- In turn, an exponential growth in consumption rates and expansion of products has been observed.
- Million tons of waste are generated annually, with very limited amounts being recycled.
- Uncollected and poorly managed waste contaminate freshwater resources, block stormwater infrastructure, pollute land, contributes to climate change and air pollution, ultimately posing adverse public health implications.
- Landfill sites are under immense pressure and recycling rates remain uneven across material streams.
- Hence, the **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** was introduced to ensure that producers take accountability and responsibility for their products throughout their life cycle, including post-consumer stage.

EPR and its objectives

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** is an environmental policy approach in which producers are given significant responsibility, including financial and operational, for the management of products at the end of their life cycle.
- **Objectives of EPR include:**
 - ✓ Shifting waste management costs from government and taxpayers to producers.
 - ✓ Promote waste prevention and resource efficiency.
 - ✓ Increase collection, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste.
 - ✓ Life cycle assessment.
 - ✓ Support the transition towards a circular economy.
 - ✓ Stimulate green jobs and enterprise development.
 - ✓ Reduce environmental pollution and landfill disposal.

Legislative framework and EPR regulations timeline



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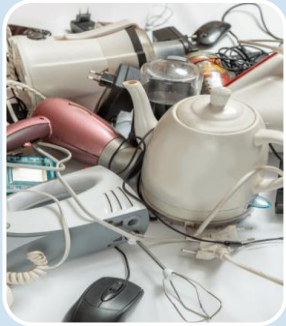
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Products currently covered in the RSA EPR



Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE)



Lighting



Paper, packaging and some single-use products



Portable batteries



Pesticides



Lubricant oil



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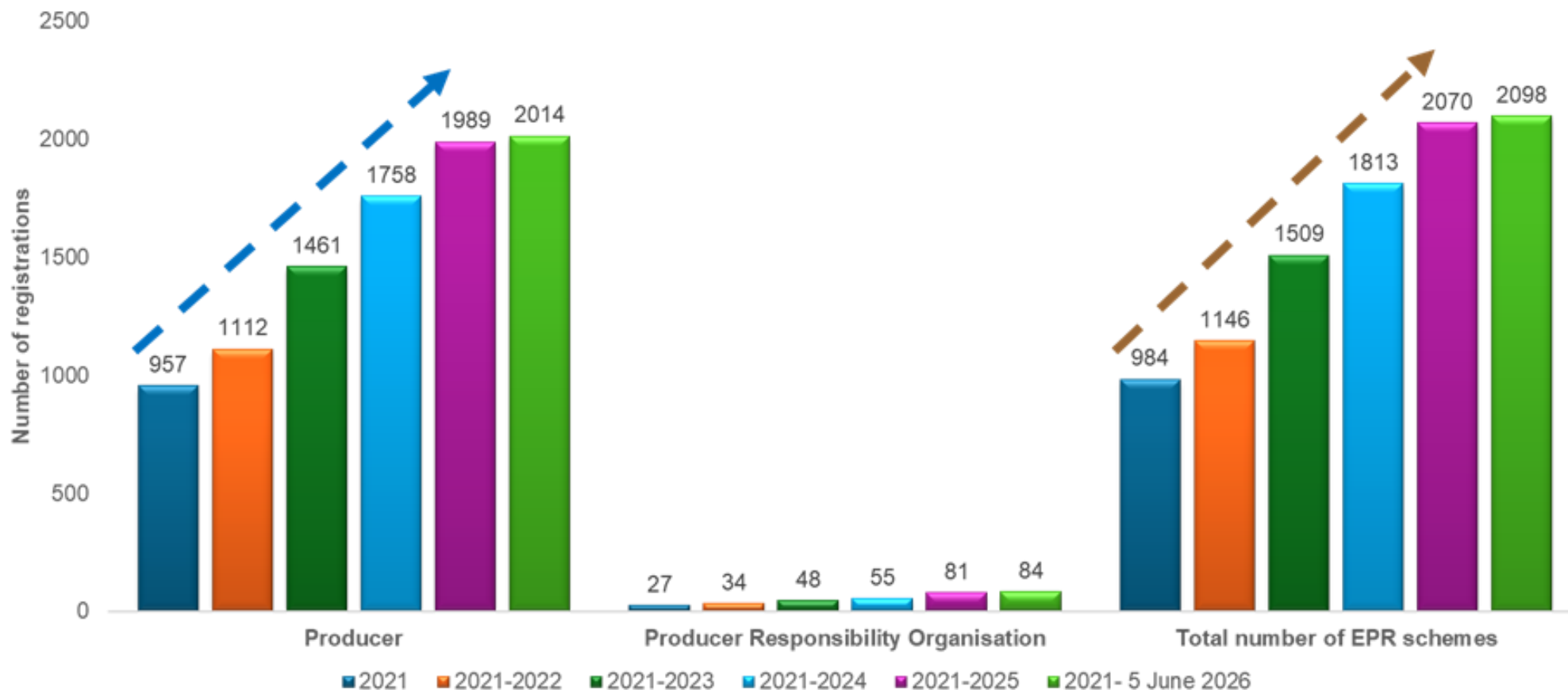
EPR Registrations statistics in RSA

Number of Producers and PROs Registered on EPR system on SAWIC (as of 5 June)

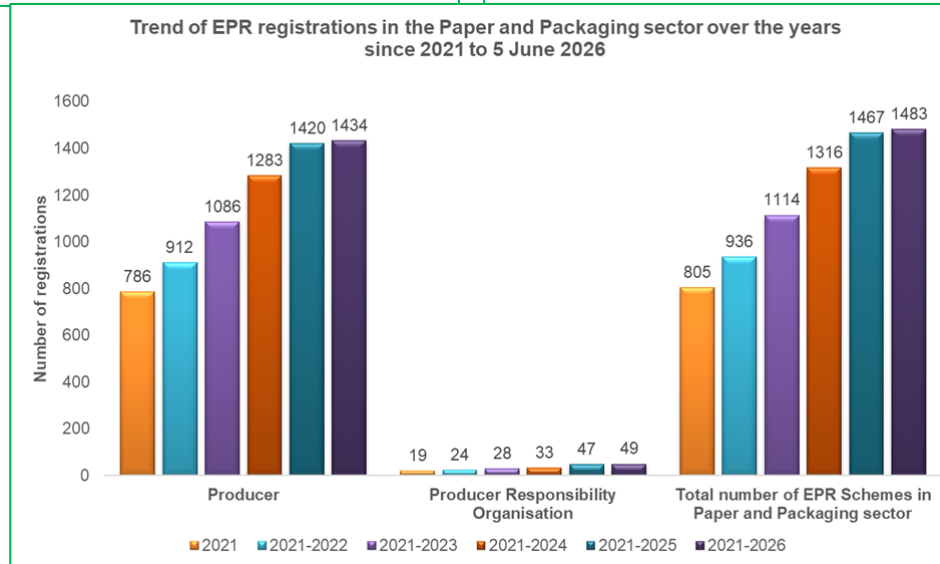
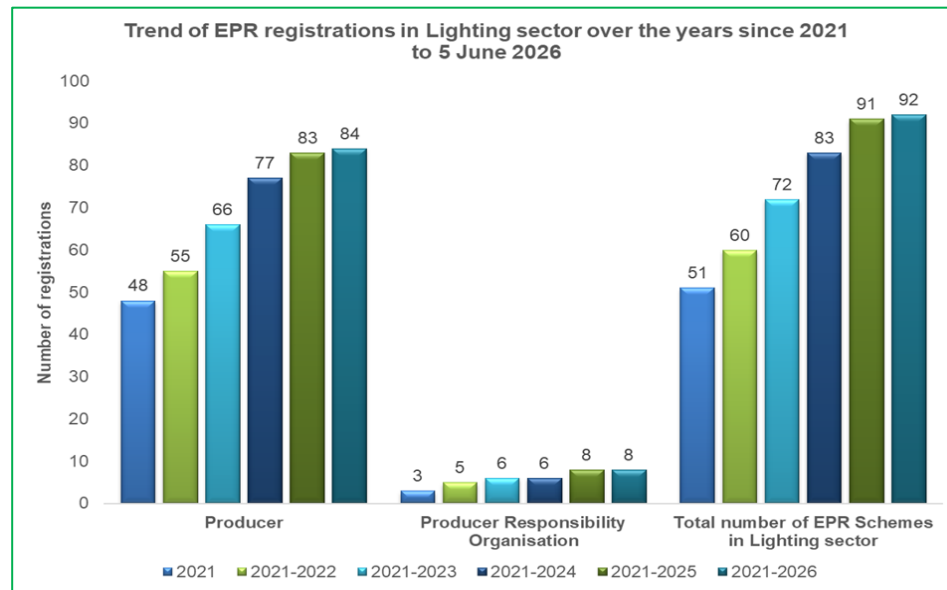
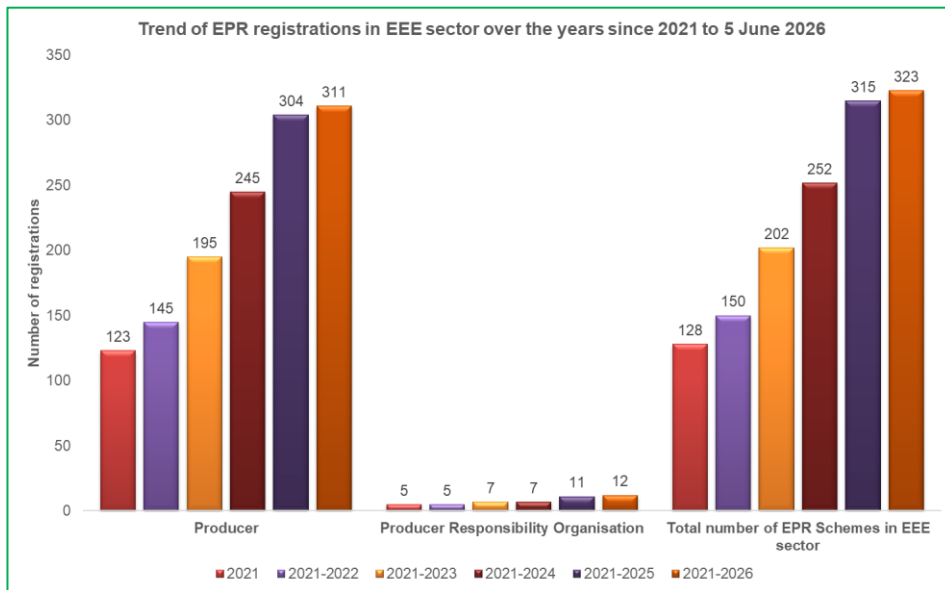
	Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE)	Lighting	Paper, packaging and some single-use products	Portable batteries	Pesticides	Lubricant oil	Total
PRO	12	8	49	5	1	9	84
Producer	311	84	1 434	26	111	48	2 014
Total	323	92	1 483	31	112	57	2 098

EPR Registrations in RSA over the years

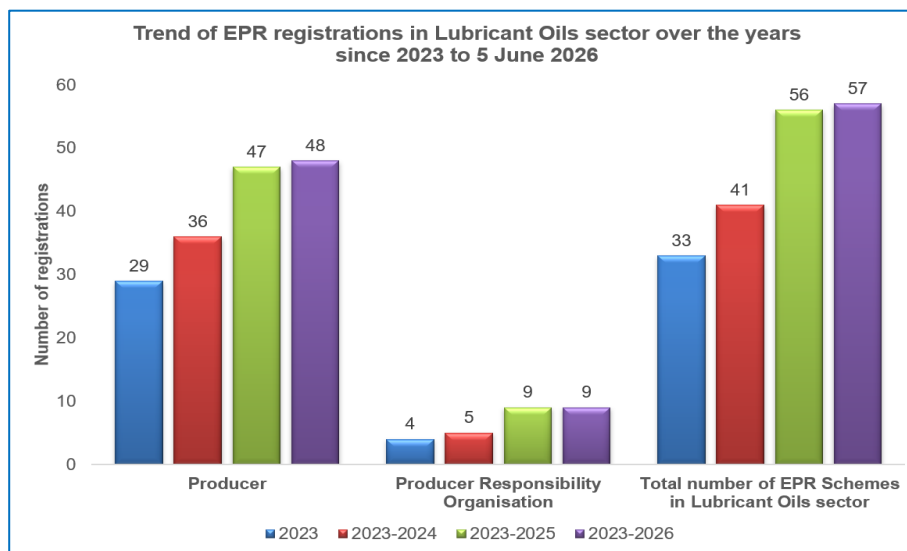
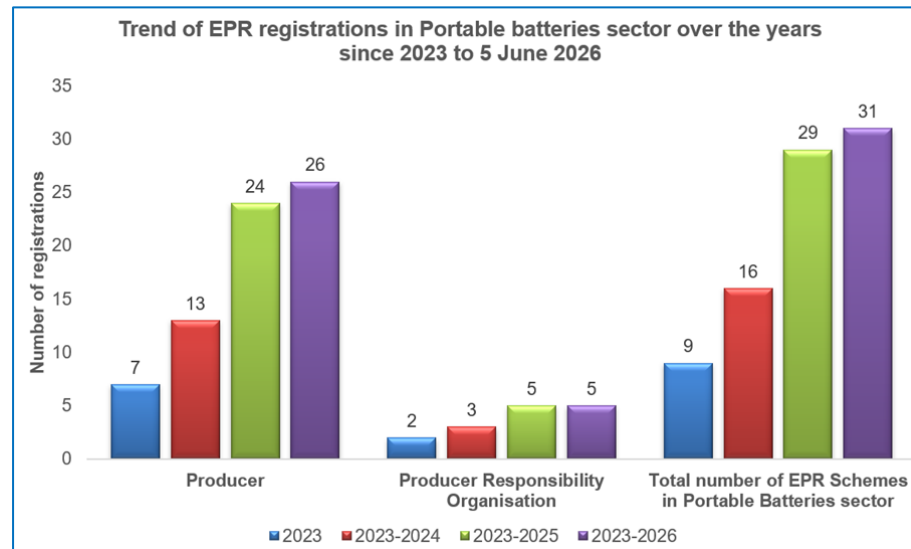
Trend of EPR registrations over the years since 2021 to 5 June 2026



EPR Registrations in RSA over the years



EPR Registrations in RSA over the years



Governance and institutional arrangements

- Who should do what?

DFFE	Producers	PROs	Other stakeholders	National Treasury
▪ Policy and regulatory oversight. ▪ Registration of producers and PROs. ▪ Compliance monitoring and enforcement. ▪ Evaluation of EPR performance.	▪ Registering with DFFE. ▪ Implementing an approved EPR scheme. ▪ Paying EPR fees to PROs (if under PRO). ▪ Achieving collection and recycling targets. ▪ Adhering to all requirements of EPR regulations. ▪ Reporting performance to the DFFE.	▪ Implementing EPR scheme on behalf of producers. ▪ Collecting EPR fees. ▪ Funding collection, recycling and awareness initiatives. ▪ Reporting performance to the DFFE.	▪ Municipalities ▪ Waste management facilities ▪ Recyclers ▪ Waste pickers ▪ Civil society organisations ▪ Consumers	• Consideration and approval of EPR fee concurrences every year.

Key developments in South African EPR

- EPR portal develop in the South African Waste Information Centre (SAWIC).
- EPR Schemes and PROs have been established and operationalized across the six (6) identified products.
- EPR fee systems have been introduced and are currently being implemented.
- Reporting is a requirement, along with audit processes, report submission, and compliance and monitoring.
- Waste collection and recycling systems have been developed.
- EPR regulations require the integration of downstream value-chain players.
- EPR regulations require the integration of socio-economic and transformation objectives, such as inclusion of waste pickers, SMME development and transformation and inclusive participation across the value chain.

Achievements and Progress

Key achievements since mandatory implementation

Significant increase in producer registrations.

Growth registered PROs and producers.

Increased investment in collection and recycling.

Improved national awareness.

Expansion of recycling infrastructure and collection systems.

Increased participation of waste pickers and informal waste sector actors.

Improved availability of sector performance data.

Broader benefits

Diversion of waste from landfill.

Increased resource recovery.

Creation of green employment opportunities.

Growth of recycling markets and circular economy activities.

Contribution to circular economy

EPR in South Africa supports circular economy by:

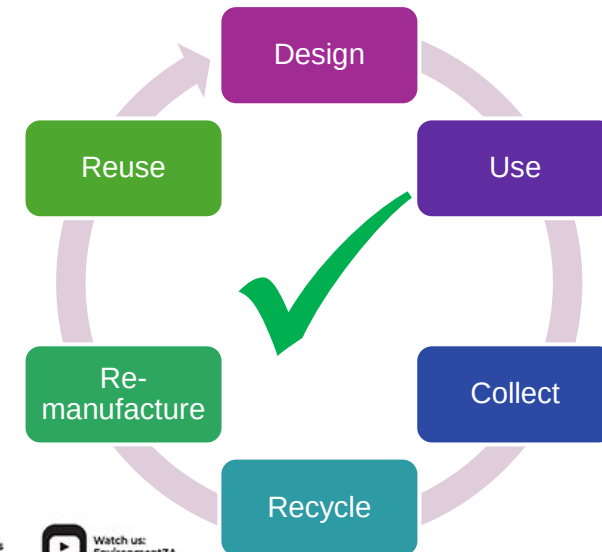
- ✓ Keeping materials in productive use for longer.
- ✓ Encouraging product redesign and recyclability.
- ✓ Increasing recycled content in products.
- ✓ Conducting life cycle assessments.
- ✓ Stimulating markets for secondary materials.
- ✓ Creating opportunities for innovation and green entrepreneurship.

The circular economy outcomes are envisaged to move:

From



To



System-wide challenges in RSA EPR

Compliance challenges

- Free riders who do not register or contribute to EPR schemes.
- Inconsistent reporting by some producers and PROs.
- Limited enforcement capacity.

Governance challenges

- Multiple PROs operating within the same sector.
- Duplication of activities and administrative costs.
- Fragmented data management systems.

System-wide challenges

Financial and social challenges

- Oversight of accumulated surplus funds.
- Transparency and consistency in financial reporting.
- Waste picker compensation and job creation still limited despite high revenue and surplus accumulation

Operational challenges

- Uneven recycling infrastructure.
- Limited collection services in some areas.
- Inadequate separation at source.
- Inadequate waste management trends.

Lessons from RSA experience

- Strong legislation is essential but alone, it is not sufficient.
- Effective compliance monitoring and enforcement is critical.
- Reliable data systems are fundamental.
- Stakeholder collaboration determines successful EPR implementation.
- Strong governance structures and systems enable robust implementation .
- Waste picker integration should be prioritised from the beginning.
- Municipal involvement remains important.
- Awareness and education programmes must be continuous.
- Targets should be realistic, measurable and regularly reviewed.
- Monitoring and evolution is pivotal, along with the cumulative review of the regulatory framework.

Recommendations and considerations for Lesotho

- Develop a clear legal and policy framework for EPR.
- Start with priority waste streams.
- Establish clear institutional responsibilities and governance structures.
- Develop a producer registration system early.
- Create transparent reporting requirements.
- Build reliable waste and recycling data systems.
- Integrate municipalities into EPR implementation.
- Recognise and support informal waste collectors (incentives and enabling resources).
- Promote stakeholder collaboration from inception.
- Introduce realistic targets and progressively strengthen them.

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