Introduction to the SAEWA

Status Quo and Quo Vadis

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Chairperson and Coordinator of the Southern African E-Waste Alliance
SAEWA- How it ALL Started…..

2004: Gerry Newson meets Susanne (CoCT Waste Reduction Advisor)

2005: EMPA visits CT (while doing RSA baseline study)

2006: Susanne invited to Swiss funded (EMPA, SENS, SWICO) e-Waste Study tour

2005-2007: Swiss students come to study and research various aspects of e-waste management (Dominik Zumbuehl; David Liechti, Jerôme Laffely, Matthias Kolb, Anahide Bondolfi)

2001-2007: Gerry/Susanne building first collaborative Western Cape based business relationships under initiative named first: “Green e-Waste Channel” then “Recover-e-Alliance”
How it ALL Started.....

2007-2008: HP/DSF sponsors Cape Town Pilot Project working with members of the Alliance and assistance from EMPA

2010: Gerry passes away, Susanne elected as Chair. Organisation is renamed to e-Waste Alliance (eWA)

2012: Work scope of eWA moves away from protecting local interests to become a nationally represented and recognized “voice of the industry” and increasingly beyond (Namibia, Lesotho)

since 2014: Final renaming to SAEWA (Southern African e-Waste Alliance) registered as an NPO with a Constitution, Member Code of Conduct, regular meetings and AGMs, logo branded marketing materials AND a bank account

SAEWA.....it is a Model for PROCESS in PROGRESS.......run with much passion on a shoe-string budget
The SAEWA today

- Voluntary and self-regulatory industrial association for both formal and informal e-waste service providers in South(ern) Africa

- SAEWA Vision: Develop a blueprint for the responsible collection and treatment of all WEEE in the Southern African region

- SAEWA increasingly represents “the voice of the industry” for formal AND (currently still) informal e-waste practitioners in Southern Africa

- Growing exposure to free marketing via TV, radio, press, conferences

- SAEWA is a stakeholder of the Steerco that was formed in November 2014 to finalise the IndWMP for WEEE (to be submitted to the DEA shortly)
The SAEWA today

• Based on a tiered Membership system to make it possible and affordable for ALL stakeholders of responsible e-waste management to collaborate with the SAEWA for the greater good.

• Tier 0 AFFILIATES (introduced November 2014): Membership is open to ANY informal operation wishing to improve on standards and formalise operations in a structured, accountable manner.

• Tier 1 MEMBERS of the SAEWA are fully legally compliant key role players in regional e-waste collection, transport dismantling and refurbishment services, collaborate as an “Alliance” and provide on request Mentorship services to Tier 0 (Incubation Tier) AFFILIATES.

• Tier 2 MEMBERS are representatives of the OEM and retail sector.

• Tier 3 MEMBERS – added value parties e.g. Academia, Scientific Institutes, Media.
Organisational structure of the SAEWA

SAEWA Coordinator

Tier 1 Members:
- Just PCs
- DESCOW
- Transworld Cargo (Namibia)
- Group II (Lesotho)
- eWaste Africa
- RECLITE
- Africa e-Waste

Tier 2 Member:
- HP

Tier 3 Members:
- Greenedge Communication
- UCT Chemeng
- UCT Environmental Management
- NCPC (Africa Institute pending)

Tier 0 (Affiliates)
- 8 Affiliates
How the SAEWA works

• Voluntary minimum agreements that form entry level requirements for existing and new Tier 1 MEMBERS- Code of Conduct in conjunction with majority vote and Affidavit
• Members support the increased formalisation of a growing network of “Affiliates” and actively seek to assist
• Tier 1 Members receive preference to connect with potential work contracts as incentive and motivation- e.g. GreenCape WISP database networking
• SAEWA meeting held quarterly to connect and update
• Daily communication via Tier and Affiliate specific Googlegroups
Status Quo (Tier 0) Affiliates

- Anyone who is committed to improve current work practices and wants to grow degree of legal compliance can join as an AFFILIATE
- Due Diligence Audit offered by Third Party consultants at reduced cost
- Access to recent compilation/summary of legal Nationwide Minimum Requirements for Tier 1 Members for orientation
- Guidance, legal updates, best practice via coordinator
- Special logo and certificate to distinguish from MEMBERS
- Abuse of MEMBER logo or false representation = blacklisting by MEMBERS
Challenges

• If over threshold and licence requirement is triggered it is a COSTLY and LENGTHY process – hence many SPs prefer to fly under the radar...

• SAEWA members compete financially directly against an increasing number of unethical and illegally operating businesses:
  - making false claims (e.g. EMS accreditations) to access e-waste removal and handling contracts
  - green-washing their operations but actually violate basic environmental and social minimum standards severely
  - cherry pick out the valuables and dump the rest
  - make unsubstantiated promises to government wrt job creation benefits

Also external “recycling infrastructure development entities” with an entirely different initial core business try to “mushroom” into the e-waste recycling business now with neither history nor expertise in WEEE
Opportunities for SAEWA

• Solid and supportive Tier 1 Membership with unique and highly specialised:
  - Refurbishment and recycling experience
  - Refurbishment and recycling infrastructure
  - Guaranteed minimum waste handling and recycling standards

• Highly supportive Tier 2 Advisory guiding Members and Affiliates:
  - Private sector needs
  - Potential private sector support structures, funds and programmes
  - Future capacities and services required when EPR kicks in
  - International trends
Opportunities for SAEWA

• Code of Conduct is unique and sets SAEWA apart from other e-waste Industry Associations as it provides a QC for any service provided by a MEMBER

• Improving on the SQ of predominantly informal e-waste handling is a reality that will be tackled by the SAEWA. Commitment to assist with growth and support of growing Tier 0 segment

• SAEWA aims to work with a formalised cooperative of collectors of all sizes that supply e-waste in its entirety and to properly licenced SAEWA members

• SAEWA wants to be part of forming a regional solution rather than only a local one
Future Plans

Awarding many, many, many more of those!

AND those ones of course too...
What we struggle with.....

- Financial feasibility (for the Chair to run all of this single-handedly exclusively through the Membership fees of R 450 per month (Tier 1) and Affiliation fee of R 500 per year
- Monthly running budget < R 3500 !
- Danger of Affiliates being hesitate to upgrade to proper Membership due to additional costs
- No funds for marketing
- No funds for due diligence auditing
- No funds for training
- NO FUNDS
Thank You For Your Interest

Q&A