

## EnviroServ and customers share insights over breakfast

EnviroServ recently completed a series of customer breakfasts giving a scientific perspective on the challenges experienced at landfills, addressed by EnviroServ technical specialist Dr Johan Schoonraad, international environmental consultant Dr Robert Gregory and EnviroServ Group Corporate Affairs Director Thabiso Taaka.

Many of our customers took the time out to attend the breakfasts and heard first-hand from these experts how the legislative landscape for waste management is changing, creating new challenges as many countries, including South Africa, seek to move up the waste hierarchy.

Dr Schoonraad explained how new environmental legislation introduced in South Africa in 2013 demanded new technologies and alternative solutions for waste management, with a major emphasis on extracting value from waste and reduction of waste at source.



Dr Johan Schoonraad - EnviroServ technical specialist

The new legislation also requires that general and hazardous waste must be separated. The introduction of alternative technology to manage the new demands has become critical, according to Dr Schoonraad.

The globally renowned Dr Gregory provided insights into the effects of legislative reform in the UK, which resulted in elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide emissions. Landfills had stopped accepting iron, which acts as a natural sink and buffer against hydrogen sulfide production, after new legislation came into effect in 2005, he said.



Dr Robert Gregory - International environmental consultant

This led to hydrogen sulfide yields going “through the roof” in the UK between 2005 and 2010, with a highest recorded level of 97 000 milligrams/m<sup>3</sup> being measured at a landfill in Wales - several times the peak value of 12 000 mg/m<sup>3</sup> recorded at Shongweni, before mitigation measures were implemented there.

Up next was our own Thabiso Taaka to talk about the central importance of stakeholder relations in managing a landfill.

The task was complicated by the divergent expectations of various parties, with some communities demanding jobs, while others simply did not want a landfill on their doorstep.

He said the government and waste generators shared the goal of moving up the waste hierarchy, but the government wanted it to happen as fast as possible, which led to the adoption of measures implemented in countries like the US and UK which were 20 years ahead, creating unforeseen challenges.



Thabiso Taaka - EnviroServ Group Corporate Affairs Director

All in all, the breakfasts were well attended and a great success, giving EnviroServ a valuable opportunity to spend time with customers and share important information.



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Raising the waste game

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