

Introducing Soil & More Reliance

Project Profile

Local partner: Reliance Compost (Pty) Ltd.

Location and operation: Since 1998 Reliance Compost (Pty) Ltd. produced compost on a small-scale for its own farming operations. In April 2008 it formed a joint venture with Soil & More International under the name Soil & More Reliance. The composting site is located close to the city of Paarl (to the northeast of Cape Town).

Input material (nature and quantity): Mainly municipal garden and park waste as well as organic agricultural waste and manure. 150 tons of biomass are processed each day.

Production capacity: In April 2009, Soil & More Reliance signed a contract worth around 70 million Rand with the City of Cape Town: The company was awarded the right to recover about 95% of the City's green waste for organic composting. This is a 400 % growth within only two years, which will increase the amount of chipped green material from 9 000m³ to 23 000m³ (36 000m³ to 92 000m³ unprocessed) per month over the next three years.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction: Currently, the composting site reduces GHG emissions by about 50 000 tons a year. This amount will soon increase to approximately 60 000 tons annually.

Social impacts: Since Soil & More Reliance's composting site has started operating, 55 full-time jobs have been created and about 60 indirect jobs are likely to be created up and downstream.

Future plans: Our plan is to increase the compost production of the existing site and also set up new sites, thus further reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Potential new sites are in the planning process in the area of Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth. Our long-term target is to introduce our formula throughout other African countries.

Local and global impact

Some of the biggest environmental problems South Africa has to face are the lack of fertile land, soil degradation, and pollution of its rivers and groundwater. One of the main factors causing these problems is the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pest and disease control agents.

The main input material for producing Soil & More Reliance's compost is municipal green waste, as well as alien vegetation that presents an environmental threat in the Western Cape area. By removing this alien vegetation from the water, Soil & More Reliance helps fight river pollution while producing high quality compost that is designed to replace chemical fertilizers. Soil & More Reliance's efforts to address this problem are in line with the World Bank's initiative "working for water".

The application of high quality compost leads to fertile soil, good yields and a stable income. This is an important first step to job security and helps to prevent mass migration from rural areas to the cities.

Globally, Soil & More Reliance's composting site reduces GHG emissions, thus mitigating the impacts caused by climate change.