

COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT THROUGH RECYCLING INITIATIVES AT KATHU SOLAR PARK. PLANT 1 - 100 MW (NET)

Recycling initiatives at Kathu Solar Park are not just contributing to a sustainable environment, but also provide community upliftment during the process.

The reduction of Kathu Solar Park’s overall carbon footprint through various recycling initiatives are conducted throughout the construction process of the project. Kathu Solar Park is currently recycling 93% of all waste generated on site, which is considered as a major achievement. However, the success of the recycling implemented on this project could not have been possible without the assistance of key recyclers, Jacobsdalsaagmeule and Waste Dump Cleaners, a locally owned company.

These organisations are going above and beyond to ensure that all recyclable materials are collected, provided to local community projects, re-used and recycled. This is a daily process that was started in January 2017 and will continue until the project is completed.

Waste Dump Cleaners was the first sourced recycling company at Kathu Solar Park and recycles various materials such as wood, plastic, paper, cardboard, cans and woven polypropylene bags. Currently, Waste Dump Cleaners have 12 permanent employees and occasionally employ 4 casual workers to assist with the sorting process of the wood. Cardboard and plastic recyclables are transported to the bale site situated in Kathu, Northern Cape where it is shaped into 240kg bales. The bales are then transported to Corroseal in Springs, Gauteng where it is recycled. Wood is transported to a temporary holding yard in Dibeng, Northern Cape where it is sorted and stored. The wood is then made available for collection by local community members for the manufacturing of furniture and houses.

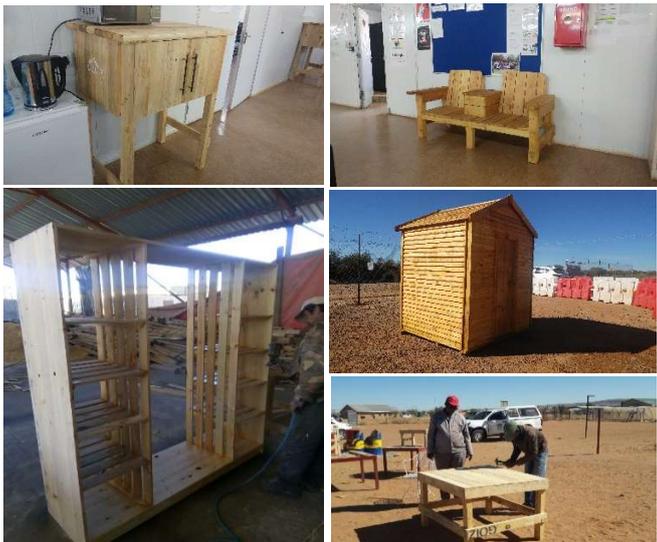
Waste Dump Cleaners also have a small workshop where furniture is manufactured with the wood obtained from Kathu Solar Park. They employ previously unemployed local community members as a local skills development initiative to assist with the furniture manufacturing. Refer to images below.



Due to larger volumes of waste being generated on the project, Jacobsdalsaagmeule was appointed to assist with recycling at Kathu Solar Park. Jacobsdalsaagmeule is based in Jacobsdal, a small farming town in the Free State. They are investing a great deal of time, effort and resources into the project and local communities to ensure a significant contribution to the overall recycling. They are based on site and daily conducts the recycling of various materials. They are responsible for the recycling of tons of wood, scrap steel, aluminium, copper, plastic and woven polypropylene bags. They have 3 local employees on the project and have also employed 12 employees in Jacobsdal who forms part of a skills development initiative where they manufacture furniture in their workshop with wood obtained from Kathu Solar Park.

Jacobsdalsaagmeule also transports wood from the project to a community learning facility, Baone Learning Centre, as well as skills development centers in Deben and Sishen. The steel, aluminium and copper are recycled at Kathu’s recycling facilities which in turn assist

in creating more local employment opportunities. They are planning to build a few six-seater benches for the local schools in Kathu. They have provided the project with a Wendy-house for the security guards and Liciastar's offices with coffee cupboards and a comfortable bench, made with the recycled wood from the project. Refer to images below.



Between Jacobsdalsaagmeule and Waste Dump Cleaners they have thus far recycled 421 865kg wood; 657.28kg paper; 20 359.96kg plastic; 140 080kg scrap steel and 386.01kg cardboard. This is a massive achievement that Kathu Solar Park are extremely proud of. This would not have been possible without the diligent work ethic and perseverance of these recyclers to create a better environment and future for all. We are very proud and privileged to have these recycling companies at Kathu Solar Park and we are looking forward to increasingly reduce the project's carbon footprint with their assistance.

Article written by: Marike Janse van Vuuren (Environmental Officer – Liciastar)