

Inspiring results for waste minimisation at SANS Fibres

SANS Fibres (SANS) has been a dedicated member of the Waste Minimisation for Large companies in the Western Cape since the establishment in January 2001. They have set up a Waste Minimisation Opportunity Assessment (WMOA), which was organised as a formal project within the company. With the aid of four students SANS has gained many environmental and financial benefits.

Financial savings of approximately 1,2 million Rands have been identified, and SANS has already put into effect the first R 915,579. The company has also discovered that making environmental improvements has brought operational and cultural changes, which have led to improved operational performance. The projects have also had a ripple effect within the organisation.

The environmental benefits are as impressive as the cost savings. SANS has saved approximately 85 912 m³ of water, 625 069 Kwh of energy, over 3 million m³ of compressed air and 32 000 litres of raw materials saved on an annual basis. Once all the prevention opportunities were identified action plans were put in place.

The students also assisted as an extra resource by performing the groundwork of the implementation of an environmental management strategy (ISO 14001) at SANS. The methodologies developed in the project are being passed on to employees throughout the company.

The tables below describe all projected savings with associated reduction in raw and auxiliary materials.

Table 1: Executed projects with associated savings

Executed projects	Projected savings	Amount	Status
Reduce Sewage Costs at SANS Site	R 471 314	423 979 m ³	Implemented
Reduce Sewage Costs at SANS Park	R 74 484	32 704 m ³	Implemented
Water Quality (Spin Finish)	R 173 781	32 000 L	Implemented
Vacuum Pumps/ MRS ejectors	R 196 000	41 158 m ³	Implemented
Total savings per annum	R 915,579		

Table 2: Ongoing Projects with associated savings

Ongoing projects	Possible savings	Amount	Status
Fix water and steam leakages	R 23,508	1 012 m ³	Underway
Water Recycling Boiler House (Ash cooling)	R 57,522	11 038 m ³	Underway
Pack Preheaters	R 71,759	551 992 Kwh	
Electricity-Light saving	R 9,500	73 077 Kwh	
Compressed air Leakages (in T30)	R 71,485	365 817 m ³	Underway
Compressed air Interminglers (in T30)	R 59,600	2 980 000 m ³	Underway
Total savings per annum	R 275,252		