

# Shifting attitudes about the environment

This week our fifth and final study article for the 2018 Thrive EnviroQuiz competition, written by sustainability advocate **ANNABEL RYDER**, explores water and waste for sustainable living.

Included are 10 questions that may be asked during the inter-schools Enviro Quiz and Art competition, on Friday September 7, to be held at Kronendal Junior School between 2pm and 5pm. All are welcome.

The previous article explored waste within our homes, schools and offices, and this week's article looks at the benefits to our local communities of working collaboratively to shift the daily attitudes and behaviours of individuals.

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The concept of sustainability is composed of three broad pillars of capital: economic, environmental and social – also known informally as profits, planet and people.

With the human population more than doubling since 1960, our consumption (or use) of many resources has outstripped their supply, and from rain forests, to fish stocks, to water, we are seeing insufficient replenishment of naturally constrained resources coupled with excessive pollution of our oceans, soils and air systems.

In 2015, the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Plan comprising 17 global Sustainable Development Goals, under an initiative titled "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

In 2030, many of you school children will be young adults, having recently matriculated, and in your lifetimes the need to better protect and restore Planet Earth is more critical than ever.

This 2018 series of study articles has explored two of Thrive's five pillars of sustainability, water and waste, giving some practical suggestions as to what you can do, together with some introduction to the current challenges given the

way society has organised itself.

This is not always about waiting for government to come and "fix it" or formally "recognise" climate change; rather it is about smaller, local communities working together to make incremental changes, that collectively on a daily basis, will add up to make huge differences.

This, together with appropriate community engagement through the official City of Cape Town channels, will hopefully see more focus and resources given to these everyday societal concerns.

Social and digital media have made it easier than ever to allow communities such as Hout Bay's NGO Thrive to grow and share ideas, in support of the long established and international NGOs such as WWF and Greenpeace.

The issues haven't really changed, but the urgency to "do something" is greater than ever before.

Accountability is shifting away from a centralised government to more localised champions and change agents.

At a community level, Thrive Hout Bay has a couple of recent initiatives focused on waste reduction, especially important given the City's inadequate capacity to manage landfill.

Thrive's flagship initiative, the IY Waste Minimisation Project, began in July 2017 in collaboration with the Hout Bay Partnership.

This project is aimed at sensitising the community and educating households and businesses in the need and methods to separate their waste at source.

The pilot project was conducted in Hout Bay's informal settlement of Imizamo Yethu. It was precipitated by concern about the flow of solid waste into the Hout Bay River, onto the beach and into the sea, and the resulting impact on tourism, which is one of Hout Bay's most important economic drivers.

The broader inter-connectedness and knock-on consequences become more apparent, when one considers the health hazards and environmental damage. Not only do these negatively affect all residents, but they also lead to reduced numbers of visitors, which, in turn, affects the ability

of the hospitality industry, such as guest houses and restaurants, to provide jobs.

The project focused on community education programmes, implemented by Thrive, to explain the importance of waste minimisation and separation of waste at source.

Thrive facilitated various stakeholder sessions in three key areas of Imizamo Yethu, namely Mbeki, Zola and Disa Depot, to forge relationships so as to begin to understand the problems and challenges.

Thrive's intention has been to engage with the local community to collaboratively seek solutions to the problem of poorly managed solid waste.

These community stakeholder engagements included 300 household interviews, 20 business interviews, six community engagement sessions and two workshops.

Activities included hosting a waste information sharing session at the clinic, waste reduction education and gardening workshops through the Imizamo Yethu Container Business Park and several childcare establishments.

The project is now in its second phase, subject to funding, and has already highlighted just how inter-connected Thrive's pillars of sustainability are: the responsible separation of waste at source enables the collection of clean recyclables by WastePlan and the channelling of green waste to create compost to grow local food, all resulting in a drastic reduction in landfill.

Water-wise methods are encouraged, where, for example, formalised irrigation is not possible.

A focus on biodiversity involves introducing water-wise indigenous plants back into the community and teaching residents about the benefits.

This project's continuation is key to ensuring waste management becomes a way of life, and to promote self-help initiatives and skills development among residents, and, in so doing, helping to address poverty.

Launched in November 2017, Thrive's Zero Waste project, "For the good of our hood", seeks to persuade local restaurants to be more environmentally sustainable

Focus Area	Qualifying Actions for Star Accreditation	Benefit to Eatery / Restaurant
Recycling	Separate clean, dry recyclables into clear bags for weekly cost-free collection by Wasteplan, to divert waste from landfill	Reduction in number of black wheelie bins over time. More waste diverted away from landfill reduces rates bill.
Food waste composting	Divert green waste from landfill. (Uncooked fruit / vegetable peelings / veg food scraps) from other "waste", for use in your own compost heap or delivery to other composting sites.	Reduced wet waste and smells on site. Assisting other NGO's such as "Love in a bowl" and "Soil for Life" who collect wet waste to make compost to grow food. Divert green waste from landfill.
Buy or grow local fresh produce	Source local fresh produce (herbs and vegetables) by either buying local (e.g. supporting Hout Bay High School) or growing your own (with advice from Thrive's local gardening consultant)	"Farm to fork" tastier and healthier ingredients for their food offering, from local, known suppliers. Fewer food miles and lower carbon footprint. Support of community initiatives.
Water reduction	Implementing water saving awareness signage and measures e.g. grey water usage, rainwater harvesting, use of hand sanitisers, reduced flow valves for taps, toilet cistern weights to reduce flush volume	Lower water bills over time, improved eatery brand reputation. Eateries are contributing to CoCT's efforts to avoid Day Zero under Level 6b water restrictions, encouraging visitors to keep Cape Town and Hout Bay high on their preferred destination list.

## Criteria graphic

in their waste, local food and water practices.

Each participating restaurant is mentored by a Thrive volunteer who assists the owner / manager in changing existing practices to more sustainable ones, examples of which are included in the table below. On achievement of certain levels, the restaurant is "awarded" a Thrive window decal, with space for up to four stars, which is then placed on display in view of patrons who then have the information they need to be able to choose which restaurants to support.

To date, of some 65 or so Hout Bay eateries, there are 37 restaurants on the "For the good of the hood" programme, with seven restaurants having been awarded four stars and nine awarded three stars.

Restaurants wishing to join the initiative or to discuss their plans can contact Nontsikelelo Martel, Thrive sustainable communities manager at 084 726 6729.

A Hout Bay visitors map is planned, profiling participating restaurants and their status.

So, as we conclude the last of our Thrive study articles for 2018, you are now better equipped to be a Water and Waste Warrior (not a Worrier), at home, at school and in your own local community.

Just by changing two or three small habits daily, you can make a difference. Do all that you can to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, as if your life depends on it.

For your home, our Planet Earth, does need your help right

now. But more than anything else, it's time to rethink society's systems for what we do and how we do it.

## Questions

1. The three pillars of sustainability economic capital, environmental capital and social capital are sometimes referred to as what?

2. The global human population has more than doubled since when?

3. How many countries signed the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals programme?

4. How many sustainable development goals are there?

5. Name the two mentioned global NGOs that have been campaigning for years for sustainable development.

6. How many different stars can be earned by eateries participating in the Hout Bay restaurant campaign, "For the good of our hood"?

7. How many eateries of the total 37 participating, have full accreditation and can display four stars on their Thrive window decal to patrons?

8. What is the full name of the informal settlement where Thrive Hout Bay runs its flagship waste minimisation project?

9. Can you name three methods of waste management currently in operation in Hout Bay?

10. Name as many recyclables as you can that, when placed in the clear recycling bags, will be collected by Wasteplan in their weekly roadside collection service.

● See page 11 for answers

# Cash injection gives new hope for Disa River and wetlands

## STAFF REPORTER

Thanks to a substantial cash injection, new life has been breathed into the Disa River and Hout Bay wetlands.

In the past 20 to 30 years, flash flooding-induced erosion on the river has increased due to a combination of factors: new building developments, sub-divisions, alien foliage growth and inadequate preventive measures.

In particular the Kronendal Retirement Village began to suffer flooding and property damage.

Their homeowners' association, initially chaired by Richard Evered and later by Guy Dickerson, entered into a protracted process of consultation with the City of Cape Town's informal settlements and water and waste services and Trans-

port and Urban Development Authority's asset management and maintenance division.

This led to a site visit led by Abdulla Parker, representing the City departments, in 2016, which resulted in some temporary corrective measures. However, public funds were not available to implement long-term solutions.

This resulted in a decision to raise the funds privately and the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development issued an emergency directive approving the project based on the assumption of private funding.

The Kronendal Retirement Village Community and the Cape Peninsula Organisation for the Aged then invested R700 000 in creating a bund and the

stream bed. Furthermore the rhinomat channel was widened and angled to diffuse water into the wetlands.

"The work was completed in time for the current rainy season and is working well," said Terry Murphy, chairperson of the Hout Bay Rivers Catchment Forum.

"It will materially reduce river bank erosion and it will stimulate the wetlands with additional waters.

"It is the objective of the Hout Bay Rivers Catchment Forum to create a Hout Bay Rivers Nature Park and we are very grateful indeed to the Kronendal Retirement Community and their 'can do' leaders for raising the funds and staying the pace through the complex process of securing all necessary approvals," he said.



■ Some of the work that has been done to alleviate problems on the Disa River.