

A new chapter for Waste Sustainability: CGCSA PRO launches to drive EPR compliance



The South African consumer goods industry has taken a decisive step towards a more sustainable and circular future. The Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) officially launched at the Food Safety and Sustainability Seminar on Monday, 29 September 2025, marking a significant milestone in mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) compliance. As an industry association representing over 9000 members, CGCSA is uniquely positioned to guide the industry to comply with EPR regulations, create a circular economy, and reduce the environmental impact of waste.

Leveraging industry expertise for EPR compliance

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“Our decision to form a PRO is based on decades of experience and deep-seated network within the South African consumer goods value chain. By using our existing industry expertise and platforms, the PRO is dedicated to helping our members meet their recycling targets and fulfil all legal EPR obligations,” says Matlou Setati, Executive: Food Safety & Sustainability Initiative at CGCSA.

CGCSA PRO provides a comprehensive, one-stop solution for its members, streamlining the complexity of regulatory requirements. The EPR scheme covers three material streams that are central to the consumer goods sector:

- Paper and Packaging
- Electric/Electronic Equipment
- Lighting

“The scale of the challenge, and the opportunity, in these material streams is immense. While South Africa has made notable strides in recycling, a significant portion of valuable materials still ends up in landfills,” says Setati. “The PRO is committed to a cleaner South Africa by actively supporting an inclusive recycling value chain for these materials.”

Beyond compliance: Building a socially responsible circular economy

The PRO views its role as playing a socially responsible role in the circular economy by contributing to the well-being of local communities and supporting small businesses within the waste sector. A core pillar of this mission is the commitment to social development, specifically through job creation and transformation within the informal waste management sector. This aligns the PRO's work with the national imperatives of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To turn this commitment into reality and ensure a fully integrated recycling value chain, the CGCSA PRO announced its first round of grant recipients at the launch event. These six organisations exemplify the PRO's dedication to supporting grassroots empowerment and formal integration:

- Dada Waste Management CoOp
- KLK Waste Management
- Urban Surfers
- K1 Foundation NPC

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- Plant The Seed



By funding and partnering with grantees like these, the PRO is actively supporting small businesses and waste entrepreneurs to generate meaningful, local jobs.

The path forward

Zero-waste to landfill and the development of a circular economy is a collective journey. It cannot be done working in silos.

When producers, converters, manufacturers, importers, and retailers plug into our EPR scheme, it will not only enable them to meet their recycling targets but will also catalyse material circularity and the recycling value chain. Our existing partnerships with local government, recyclers and the informal waste sector offer a collaborative framework necessary to meet legal obligations and enhance your brand's reputation as a good corporate citizen.

Join the CGCSA PRO as a member by visiting this website: <https://www.cgcsa.co.za/Waste-PRO/>

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