



On the night of 19 September 2024, the South African Plastics Recycling Organisation (SAPRO) held its annual gala dinner for the SAPRO Awards for the Best Recycled Plastic Products at The Avenue, in the beautiful Cape Town Aquarium. A night of delights was enjoyed by 190 guests from across the recycling value chain, comprising plastic recyclers, converters, brand owners, producer responsibility organisations (PRO's), research institutions and technology providers.

Guests arrived to canapes and fine sparkling wine sponsored by [Spier Wines](#), while they perused the display of entries for the SAPRO Awards and a demonstration of a [Plasticpreneur](#) small scale extruder from [Erema](#).

The SAPRO Awards were made possible by an esteemed group of sponsors. Platinum sponsorship came from [Polyco](#) a long-term partner of the SAPRO Awards and South Africa's largest PRO, representing almost 700 companies' EPR obligations and financial partner to roughly 70 recycling and 40 recyclables collection companies. Our second platinum sponsor and long-term partner of 7 years was [Erema Africa](#). Erema supplies top of the range recycling technology to large industrial and small-scale recyclers alike with cutting edge technology, like Vacunite for PET bottle-to-bottle and Refresher for HDPE bottle-to-bottle recycling. The Plasticpreneur range for small scale recycling is great for education and awareness raising too. SAPRO was thrilled to be joined by a new silver sponsor, [Coperion GmbH](#), a global recycling technology company offering end-to-end solutions with some specialities being compounding and extrusion systems, including conveying, mixing and feeding. Our other long-term partners are, [Plastics|SA](#), [Packaging SA](#) and [Petco](#).



After an exciting start, guests were seated for starters and 2 funny and heartfelt speeches from Johann Conradie, chairman of the SAPRO Board, and Patricia Pillay, CEO of Polyco. After a delicious lamb shank dinner guests were entertained by comedian Riaad Moosa, who had everyone in stitches. After desert the awards ceremony could at last get underway. Beautiful recycled plastic frames for the award certificates were sponsored by [Supreme Mouldings](#) and gold winners got a bottle of premium Spier MCC. Winners and categories for 2024 are as follows:



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New category - Creative and artisanal solutions:

- Finalist – Coasters & undertrays by Trash To Chic
- Bronze – Waste reclaimer trolley by Luc Salzwedel (University of Johannesburg)
- Silver – Surfboard fin by Nico van Blerk (UJ)
- **Gold** – Ergonomic bag carrier by Lethabo Maganyele (UJ)

Flexible packaging products:

- Bronze – Flexi bag by Trio Flexibles
- Silver – Shopping bags by Kr Polymers, Flexotuff & Dischem Pharmacy

Rigid packaging products:

- Finalist – Clip-it tube by Extrupet, Lovell Industries and Zimflex
- Finalist – Engen oil bottle by Myplas, Alpla Packaging and Engen
- Finalist – Econo range clamshell by Zibo Containers
- Bronze – Tighthead 210L drum by Myplas and Polyoak Packaging
- Bronze – Bubble range clamshell by Zibo Containers
- Silver – Jik bottle by Myplas, Alpla Packaging and Reckitt
- **Gold** – Safety-First thin bleach packs by Extrupet, Bowler Packaging and Shoprite Checkers

Agriculture and related products:

- Silver – the Hydrobox by ART Plastaform and SFG Technologies
- **Gold** – Beehive by Infinite Industries

Household and leisure products:

- Finalist and Judges special mention – Checkers Sixty60 teal ride-on bike by Myplas, Hope Sonic and Shoprite Checkers
- Finalist and Judges special mention – Shoprite Kasi Kruza childrens scooter by Myplas, Hope Sonic and Shoprite Checkers
- Finalist – Prestige picnic set by Southgate Recycling and Fullimput
- Bronze – Pool noodles by Airothene Products
- Silver – Foosball table by Infinite Industries
- **Gold** – Luggage suitcase by Blue Print

Construction and building sector products:

- Finalist – Bitumen plastic binder by Imaginelf, Stone Pony, Pepsico and Unilever
- Finalist – Warehouse rack shelving by Tufflex Plastic Products
- Finalist – Resin8 by CRDC
- Bronze – Designer floors by Tuff Floors Africa
- Silver – PVC pipes by T&T Pipes and Card Technology Services
- **Gold** – PVC Composite Decking by Revinyl and Nowatech

OVERALL WINNER:

Safety-First thin bleach packs by Extrupet, Bowler Packaging and Shoprite Checkers



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This product was selected as the overall winner for the use of 100% rHDPE, shifting >200 tonnes per year of recycled material. The pack also boasts numerous design adjustments which improve recyclability after use, such as harmonised white caps.

Judges for the competition came from Plastics|SA, Polyco, CSIR, Media24 & Waste Plan. Entries were judged against these criteria:

- Uniqueness
- Difficulty to recycle
- Technical achievement / manufacturing excellence
- Market acceptance / marketability
- Fit for purpose
- Tonnages recycled & % recycled content

Patricia Pillay, CEO of Polyco, said, “ Polyco is proud to co-sponsor SAPRO’s Best Recycled Plastic Product Awards, an event that truly highlights the innovative spirit within the plastics recycling industry. I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the winners, whose remarkable contributions showcase the incredible potential of recycled plastic. These innovations prove that plastic waste can be transformed into valuable new products, turning waste into opportunity. As we work to build a circular economy and end plastic waste, it is essential that we support and celebrate those who are driving this change. Innovations such as these not only assist our work in boosting recycling rates, but also change perceptions around recycled products, making them part of a sustainable future. Polyco remains committed to driving this change by investing in recycling innovation, infrastructure and education across South Africa, ensuring that plastic waste is not an end, but a new beginning.”

Event photos are freely available [HERE](#)



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