



SEED Initiative

supporting entrepreneurs for sustainable development

Founding Partners



SOUTH AFRICA WINNER 2013

The enterprise collects organic waste from low-income households and processes it into compost, which in turn provides valuable nutrients for their urban food production. By combining composting and sustainable food production the cooperative helps improve community waste management.



Duncan Village Recycling Secondary Cooperative, South Africa

BUSINESS MODEL

Duncan Village Recycling Secondary Cooperative (DVRS) captures the entire bio-waste value chain by establishing composting facilities linked to a highly productive organoponic system of urban food production. It covers its expenses by collecting waste and is thus a sustainable business model for source separation of waste at a household level.


DVRS also receives revenues from food production, the resale of fresh produce to the community where the collection of source-separated waste takes place, and recycling the collected dry waste streams.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS

Location	East London
Year founded	2011
Sector	Waste management
Product/Service	Organic food and recycling material

CONTACT

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Social impacts:

- Providing training, skills and jobs to over 150 people, 60 % of them women.
- Providing waste collection services to low-income communities currently with poor or erratic municipal waste collection.

Environmental impacts:

- Avoiding 1.5 tons of food waste going to landfills each day.
- Collecting and recycling source-separated waste from 5,000 households.
- Producing over 250 tons of low-carbon food with 2 hectares of organoponic urban food gardens and reducing "food miles" to "food metres".

Economic impacts:

- Providing a sustainable model for replicating waste separation at source and recycling in other towns and cities.
- Helping divert money from food purchases of imported fresh produce to local food production.

” The cooperative specifically focuses on the business of promoting source separation of waste at a household level, collecting these resources and recycling or reusing them directly wherever possible.

Scaling up activities:

- Expand operations from 1,000 to 5,000 households, collecting their source-separated waste and supplying them with fresh organic produce.
- Create 150 jobs in the green economy by collecting and recycling source-separated waste resources, including composting, vermicomposting and organic urban food production.
- Generate local revenues of over ZAR 1.9 million a year from the sale of fresh produce.
- Develop plans to up-scale the enterprise to all households in the City of East London, including processing organic waste to biogas to generate ZAR 60 million a year from the sale of bio-methane and organic food.



” The enterprise serves as a model for replicating source separation of household waste and effective urban food production in other urban communities.



Partnership

- **Element Consulting Engineers** is responsible for building, operating and transferring the composting facility, two hectares of organoponic urban food gardens and the community food stalls.
- **Growing Power NPC** is an NGO providing agro-ecological training and technical support.
- The **East London Industrial Development Zone** supports the project by incubating two hectares of organoponic food gardens on its premises and providing funding support.
- **DNF Waste & Environmental Services** provides technical support for expanding source-separated waste collection from 1,000 households to 5,000 households and for recycling of non-organic resources.



The 2013 SEED Awards in South Africa are supported by the European Union, which is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies.

About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs who while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. SEED provides these entrepreneurs with know-how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making. For more information please write to info@seedinit.org or visit:

www.seedinit.org

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