

Circular Economy

A Strategic Investment Opportunity
in Cape Town & the Western Cape

July 2025



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
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Tiny Keg , Cape Town © Marla Burger Photography

Sector Overview

The Western Cape is primed to lead South Africa's shift to a circular economy - backed by forward-thinking policy, strong public-private collaboration, and a thriving green innovation ecosystem.

With an estimated US\$366 million in untapped value annually, the province offers significant opportunities in recycling, remanufacturing, and regenerative design.

Globally, the circular economy is booming - set to grow from US\$554 billion in 2023 to US\$1.9 trillion by 2033. South Africa generates 122 million tonnes of waste each year with 90% of it going to landfill, representing a US\$1.5 billion missed opportunity.

The time to invest in circular solutions is now.

Key segments include:

- **Organics:** Cape Town landfilled 385,000+ tonnes of organic waste in 2020. Circular solutions like composting and biogas could unlock between US\$1.1M - US\$213M annually.
- **Plastics:** The Western Cape generated 245,000 tonnes of plastic waste in 2020 worth up to US\$146M. Cape Town leads in volume, enabling scalable recycling and reuse.
- **E-waste:** Rising digital use is driving e-waste - creating high-value opportunities in repair, refurbishment, and material recovery.



Atlantis Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Cape Town



WHY CAPE TOWN & THE WESTERN CAPE

1. Partnerships Driving Impact

220+ business partnerships through the Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme have turned waste into value - cutting costs and emissions.

2. High-Value Opportunities

Huge untapped potential in organic waste, plastic, and e-waste could add up to US\$366 million to the economy each year.

3. Recycling on the Rise

Cape Town is rapidly expanding its ability to process organic waste, nearly doubling capacity by 2027 with new composting, biogas, and insect farming sites.

4. Supportive Ecosystem

Government bodies like GreenCape and the Atlantis Special Economic Zone (SEZ) support circular economy businesses through incentives, infrastructure, and market access.

5. Circular Thinking in City Policy

Cape Town integrates green jobs, climate action, and smarter waste into urban strategy.

6. Insect Farming Innovation

Cape Town leads in using insects to turn food waste into animal feed and fertiliser - Black Soldier Fly tech can process 275,000 tonnes of food waste and create hundreds of jobs.

7. Clean Energy Loop

Businesses are investing in solar panels and batteries that let them produce, store, and reuse their own energy - helping cut reliance on the national grid.

8. Smart Farming for Exports

Tech-driven agriculture conserves water, boosts exports, and meets global standards.

9. Reliable Governance

The Western Cape's stable governance, commitment to sustainability, and business-friendly policies make it a secure, strategic base for investment.

10. Incentives

For additional information scan here:



Circular Economy Companies Shaping Cape Town & the Western Cape



Contact us for more information

For further information on setting up or expanding your business in Cape Town & the Western Cape please contact Wesgro's Investment Team

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