

# 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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