

STANFORD COMMUNITY RECYCLING PROJECT (SCORE)

22nd April 2019

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Under the auspices of the Stanford Conservation Trust (SCT), the Stanford Community Recycling project (SCORE) – also known as the Stanford “swop shop” – seeks to promote recycling and consequently reduce solid waste by giving Stanford’s disadvantaged and economically challenged residents the opportunity to exchange recyclable plastic, glass, tins and some paper for tokens which can be used to ‘purchase goods from the Swop Shop. The goods consist of school stationery, reading books, toys, second-hand clothing, household linen and goods, shoes, toiletry items including sanitary pads (both disposable and washable, re-usable). One of the aims is to instil an ethic of having to ‘work’ to be able to ‘buy’ what you need – no free handouts.

The Swop Shop is open three times a month – twice a month at the Stanford Community Hall precinct and once a month for weighing and ticketing, at Die Kop, the informal settlement. Most items in the shop are donated, and everyone ‘manning’ the shop does this on a voluntary basis. Regular fundraising and donations allow the SCORE team to purchase some of the other vital goods available in the Swop Shop.

LOCATION / AREA

The SCORE Swop Shop is located on Stanford Municipal premises / Stanford Community Hall (Die Stoor) precinct in Bezuidenhout Street. The shop operates from 2 containers which were recently donated by Nedbank and Gray Swan. Once a month volunteers weigh recycling bags and issue tickets at Die Kop for use at the Swop Shop at Die Stoor.

BENEFICIARIES

The low income residents of Stanford South, Tembelihle and Die Kop are the beneficiaries. They are able to “purchase” necessary school and personal items by means of personal effort (collecting recyclable items) and rather keep their meagre income to put food on the table.



The introduction of sanitary pads is an additional aim to enable the disadvantaged female youth to regularly attend school and receive the education they are entitled to.

MOTIVATION

About 60% of Stanford's residents are economically challenged and more often than not have to forfeit human dignity (toothpaste, sanitary pads etc) in order to buy food for the table. The same applies to items that stimulate children mentally and physically – such as reading books, balls etc. The Swop Shop gives residents the opportunity to access these types of goods and hence improve their human dignity and scholastic development. The Municipality, on the other hand, benefits in that they do not have to collect recyclable material and only assist 2 hours a day every three times per month to collect all the recyclables brought to the Swop Shop. The municipality further benefits from the project as promoting recycling reduces the volume of waste brought to the landfill site, extending the life span thereof and the subsequent capital cost of having to build a new landfill site.



IMPACT

The SCORE Swop Shop hopes to educate as many of the local population as possible in the importance of keeping their environment clean, as well as the health hazards to which their families are exposed because of diseases proliferating in garbage. It will be measured by noticing the difference in the cleanliness of the streets, getting feedback from the municipal refuse collection staff on the volumes of recyclables which are collected without them having to employ more labour. It is hoped that with constant educational talks and the very act of collecting the items will instil in the residents who attend the Swop Shop the importance of not littering, i.e. throwing down the goods in the first place.



The RECYCLING project therefore reduces SOLID WASTE by cleaning up the ENVIRONMENT and stimulates SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT by focussing on the most marginalised communities in the Overstrand area.

COMMENCEMENT

This project has been running since 2014 and used to operate under the wing of Stanford Rotary. However, in August 2016, Stanford Rotary requested the Stanford Conservation Trust to take over SCORE on as a project as the point of departure is a cleaner environment. Since then SCORE is officially a Stanford Conservation project.

The project is ongoing as long as the SCORE Team can keep it sustainable. This is made possible with help from the local community who donate most of the items for sale in the swap shop, except for most of the stationery and toiletries for which funding is sought. The main focus is to provide school stationery in order to improve school performance.

Unfortunately the school performance of disadvantaged girls is severely hampered because of the female biological cycle. As they do not have the money to purchase sanitary pads, they stay at home and lose a week's school work.

A program, with the assistance of the local Clinic provides sanitary pads to girls who attend the clinic regularly for medication. Education re using washable and/or re-usable sanitary wear is part of the program. Basic toiletries such as soap, toothpaste and deodorant are also in great demand.

Grant-in-Aid funding will enable the project to continue the good work to date, keep the environment clean, allow the youth to improve school performance and assist the municipality in postponing the development of new landfill site and reducing sewerage blockages because of the (monthly) rags flushed down the sewerage system.



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