

CTICC, Mining Indaba partner to boost environmental sustainability

The Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) has made great strides in environmental sustainability in recent years and this success has become one of the centre's unique selling points. As such, an environmental sustainability collaboration between the CTICC and Investing in African Mining Indaba has diverted eight skips or 24,000kg of wood from landfill from exhibition stands, and have donated it to the Orion School for Persons with Disability and Cabrico Genuine Face Brick & Pavers.



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"We are passionate about finding ways to not only reduce our impact on the environment, but also to assist our clients to reduce theirs," said Julie-May Ellingson, CTICC CEO. "For years, we have been assisting our clients to reduce, reuse, recycle and upcycle what some would consider 'waste', whether it be materials used to build exhibition stands or excess food, so that we can divert as much waste as possible from landfill."

The Orion School for Persons with Disability is located in Atlantis and cares for children and adults with physical, mental, intellectual and neurological disabilities. The school will use the 6,000kg of wood donated to manufacture tables and bookshelves for their classrooms, and to make coffee coasters, trays and placemats as part of their arts and crafts and income generating programme.

Cabrico Genuine Face Brick & Pavers, are based in Stellenbosch and manufacture bricks in an environmentally sustainable and energy efficient manner. The 18,000kg of wood received will be used as fuel for their oven that bakes the plaster bricks.

In addition to donating wood "waste", Scan Display, who built the event's exhibition stands, donated the branded fabric used for branding and directional signage purposes to Sealand Gear, who will reuse the fabric to produce bags, accessories and clothing.



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Investing in African Mining Indaba is the largest mining gathering on African soil and this month brought together ministers and senior government representatives, major mining companies, mid and junior miners, investors and service providers. This year's Indaba attracted 6,050 delegates, using the entire CTICC 1 building, including all the exhibition halls which cover a space of 11,399m².

Alex Grose, managing director of Investing in Africa Mining Indaba said they were excited at the prospect of creating a more sustainable, green and environmentally-friendly event.

"We are always looking for ways to go green and learn about how we can do our part to impact the environment. The mining industry places great importance on sustainability. As a leading event in the mining industry, we are keen to lead on that front and are constantly looking at ways to operate in a responsible and sustainable manner. That includes our carbon footprint, community engagement, resource usage and much more," said Grose.

In the 2017/18 financial year, the CTICC diverted 84% of its waste from landfill.

"Sustainability is everyone's responsibility and, to this end, the CTICC has a clear sustainability strategy," says Ellingson.

"Events can cause a lot of waste and leave a large carbon footprint, so it is important that all event organisers try to increase their sustainability efforts where possible. It's not as hard as we may think but it takes conscious effort," adds Grose.

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