

## “Direct Return to Supplier” packaging waste agreement for suitable reusable and refillable (bulk container) items such as juice bottles and canisters, glass bottles, jam jars, cooking oil buckets but also product wrapping, delivery crates etc.:

### Introduction:

In South Africa, packaging is estimated to contribute some 12% of the household waste stream (PIKITUP Survey 2004). Single serve packages are some of the most wasteful items produced globally causing litter problems in every country and depleting both renewable and non-renewable resources unnecessarily.

Every effort must be made to replace virgin material manufactured single serve items with multiple use, recycled content containers that are refillable, reuse-able and ultimately returnable to their original suppliers for subsequent recycling when a new delivery of products is made.

By requesting a “return service for product waste from the original supplier the ultimate product waste responsibility gets shifted towards the initial waste generator – the manufacturer as the supplier will put pressure on him if he gets inconvenienced and financially burdened with having to dispose of YOUR valueless waste. The desired result would then be a complete product redesign that would accommodate a demand for take-back for recycling rather than wasteful disposal.

### Major benefits:

- Save cost of waste disposal
- Extend lifespan of landfills (only 5 yrs landfill space left in the Western Cape)
- Promote recycling and extended producer responsibility
- Promote more environmentally friendly product designs

### Typical Environmental Savings:

An average household can save 550 kgs of Co2 if they reduce waste (mostly packaging) by 10% and another 1100kg Co2/per year if they recycle half of it- WWF. Therefore, imagine what a hotel can do ?

### Capital Costs:

None because collection of packaging would be a criteria for selecting suppliers

### Typical Payback Period:

Immediate (savings on waste disposal) and storage space.

### Did you know?

In the Western Cape, enough waste is thrown away annually to fill a row of disposal trucks stretching from Cape Town to Gauteng – that is about 1 400 kilometres! (Fairest Cape Association, 4th edition).

The lifetime of much of our packaging waste exceeds 500 years and 2% -3% of all oil is used globally for packaging



*Bottles with deposit*



*Returnable  
crate Systems*



*Package and design products  
with the planet in mind*

