

# BCCC-AFRICA WASTE NEWS

OCTOBER, 2014

BASEL CONVENTION COORDINATING CENTRE FOR THE AFRICAN REGION (BCCC-AFRICA)

## ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PETITIONS FOR FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

The World Wildlife Fund in Switzerland has urged producers, retailers and consumers to drastically reduce food waste. The group wants parliament to set legal conditions to implement the necessary measures.

A petition launched ahead of World Food Day on October 16 calls for a reduction of food waste in Switzerland by

at least 50% by the year 2025.

"There are still more than 800 million people who don't have enough to eat," the environmental group says. "At the same time, studies show that two out of three potatoes are wasted in Switzerland."

That amounts to an estimated 303,000 tons of potato, as well up to 40% of fresh vegetables and 19% of meat, that are thrown out annually.

Those figures are based on surveys in Britain as there are no specific data available from Switzerland. But the situation in both countries is comparable, the group says.

It adds that a detailed

**"THERE MUST BE A REASON WHY SOME PEOPLE CAN AFFORD TO LIVE WELL. THEY MUST HAVE WORKED FOR IT. I ONLY FEEL ANGRY WHEN I SEE WASTE. WHEN I SEE PEOPLE THROWING AWAY THINGS WE COULD USE"**  
**MOTHER TERESA (190-1997)**

evaluation of the figures from Switzerland would help to tackle the issue of food waste. World Food Day is

celebrated every year around the world to honour the creation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

See more:

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/173587/environmental-group-petitions-for-food-waste-reduction.html>

**Culled from: Turkish Weekly**

## E-WASTE EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

In the past two decades the global growth in electrical and electronic production and consumption has been explosive.

Whilst our lives have been made easier with home appliances, information technology, multimedia tools and new electrical and electronic products being pushed into the markets with growing pace, the electronic waste (e-waste) has become the largest waste stream in the world.

It is estimated that by 2030 developing countries will be disposing around 400–700 million outdated computers per year, compared to 200–300 million in Western nations.

Despite the international treaty on hazardous waste movement the shipment of e-waste especially into Africa is still very much on the agenda.

**See more:**  
<http://team.finland.fi/public/Print.aspx?contentid=300133&nodeid=47843&culture=en-US&contentlan=2>

## **EU LEADERS AGREE TO CUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 40% BY 2030**

European leaders have struck a broad climate change pact obliging the EU as a whole to cut greenhouse gases by at least 40% by 2030.

But key aspects of the deal that will form a bargaining position for global climate talks in Paris next year were left vague or voluntary, raising questions as to how the aims would be realised.

As well as the greenhouse gas, two 27% targets were agreed – for renewable energy market share and increase in energy efficiency improvement. The former would be binding only on the EU as a whole. The latter would be optional, although it could be raised to 30% by a review in 2020.

“It was not easy, not at all, but we managed to reach a fair decision that sets the EU on an ambitious but cost-effective climate path,” Herman Van Rompuy, the president of the European Council told a press conference in Brussels.

“This package is very good news for our fight against climate change,” the European

Commission president, Jose Manuel Barroso, added. “No player in the world is as ambitious as the EU.”

See <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/24/eu-leaders-agree-to-cut-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-40-by-2030> more:

Culled from: The Guardian

## **E-WASTE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UMICORE AND WORLDLOOP WINS BELGIAN ENTREPRENEUR S FOR ENTREPRENEUR S TROPHY**

The partnership between Umicore and WorldLoop has won the first Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs Trophy. The jury praised the partnership for its joint efforts in providing local African entrepreneurs with the educational tools and knowledge to set up environmentally sound solutions for e-waste collection and dismantling in Africa.

There is a fast-growing need to avoid uncontrolled dumping or improper dismantling, burning and leaching of electronic waste.

It is proven by renowned international organizations such as the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) that such highly toxic materials trigger environmental and health issues in the developing world. To help overcome these issues the partnership is instrumental in WorldLoop's activities to set up local sustainable businesses and recycling infrastructure through knowledge sharing, coaching and support in training local entrepreneurs. These activities are combined with raising awareness in Africa as well as in Europe.

WorldLoop teaches African entrepreneurs how to appropriately treat all fractions in e-waste through intensive training in addition to receiving insights regarding good business practices. This year for example they followed a one week practitioner training in Belgium organized by WorldLoop and UNIDO with hands-on, practical training including a half-day session at Umicore.

See <http://www.unicore.com/en/media/news/2014/WorldLoopEforETrophy/WorldLoopEforETrophyEN.htm> more:

Culled from: Umicore.com

## **EU RESEARCH TURNING FOOD WASTE INTO FEED**

Global demand for food is expected to increase by 70% by 2050, while a steep increase in biomass use will also put pressure on agriculture. Feeding the world without damaging the environment is the focus of World Food Day 2014 – and the goal of several EU-funded research projects.

The EU is investing over €4 billion in research and innovation for a European bioeconomy that makes the most of our renewable biological resources. Agriculture is a key component, securing food production, ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and supporting development in rural areas.

The EU is the source of 18% of world food exports, worth €76 billion. But in the EU and elsewhere, agricultural waste is holding farmers back and costing taxpayers money – between €55 and €99 per tonne.

Turning agricultural waste into animal feed – the solution favoured by EU-funded research project NOSHAN – would open up new opportunities for farmers while cutting Europe's dependence on feed imports. This would, in turn, create new green jobs in waste collection, treatment plants and feed manufacturing. The concept will be particularly welcome in rural areas, where growth is less intensive than in urban areas, and where the feed industry is a powerful economic engine.

“One third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally – a total 1.3 billion tonnes a year – and food processing produces a large amount of this waste,” explained NOSHAN scientific coordinator Montse Jorba of the LEITAT Technological Center in Spain.

**See more:**  
[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-1165\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1165_en.htm)

**Culled from:** European Commission

## **EPA FUNDING TO REDUCE WASTE, POLLUTION AT U.S.-MEXICO BORDER**

The EPA is awarding more than \$8.6 million in grants to fund environmental improvement projects along the U.S.–Mexico border.

“Water, waste and environmental health concerns cross national boundaries, and environmental solutions benefit communities on both sides of our shared border,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “Border environment projects have already benefitted 8 million border residents, providing 63,000 homes with first-time drinking water service and 569,000 homes with first-time wastewater services.”

The EPA funds were awarded in partnership with the North American Development Bank and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission to advance commitments in the U.S.–Mexico environmental collaboration known as the Border 2020 Program. These grant awards are in addition to seven environmental improvement projects announced earlier this year along the California and Arizona U.S.-Mexico border, which

leveraged an additional \$425,500 from the recipient organizations.

**See** **more:**  
<http://www.pollutionengineering.com/articles/89262-89262-epa-funding-to-reduce-waste-pollution-at-us-mexico-border>

**Culled from:** Pollution Engineering

## CHANGE AND HOPE COMES TO AGBOGBLOSHIE: AFRICA'S LARGEST E-WASTE DUMP BEGINS TRANSFORMATION TO MODEL RECYCLING CENTER

A **celebration** marked the opening of the new e-waste recycling facility in Agbogbloshie, Accra, Ghana. Dignitaries, dancers, performing school children and a balloon archway stood out in sharp contrast in this sooty, trash-strewn landscape. This collaborative effort to transform Agbogbloshie from one of the world's largest e-waste dumps into a model recycling center was launched **on October 9,**

2014 by [Blacksmith Institute for a Pure Earth](#), a New York-based non-profit, with local partners Green Advocacy Ghana (GreenAd) and the Greater Accra Scrap Dealers Association (GASDA).

The start-up of the new e-waste recycling facility includes four automated wire-stripping units, housed in repurposed bright blue shipping containers, staffed with newly trained workers. These new machines can strip or pull apart plastic coated cables and wires of various sizes, scavenged from the e-waste dump, to extract copper and other valuable materials without burning.

“It took a while to hit on a method that appealed to the informal recyclers here in Agbogbloshie”, said Dr. Jack Caravanos, CUNY professor and research lead at Pure Earth, who started visiting and assessing worker's health and the environmental devastation in Agbogbloshie in 2008. “There are so many toxic chemicals and heavy metals contaminating this region, but it was clear that the most urgent intervention was to provide an

alternative to the burning of plastic coating on scavenged wires.”

Caravanos explained, “First we proposed an elevated burning platform to reduce the flow of toxins into the soil and water, but realized this approach wouldn't have much impact. In 2010, we rigged up a manual wire-stripping unit, which was cumbersome and not widely embraced by recyclers. Finally, we found the mechanized wire-stripping units, tested them out with partners and recyclers, made modifications based on their feedback, and started planning the new center.”

Next, GreenAd and GASDA developed the pricing structures and market incentives attractive enough to convince e-waste workers that coming to the center, stripping the wire coating rather than burning, would bring them greater income.

The new facility is expected to be able to extract about 10 tons of copper per month from e-waste. GASDA will use some of the profits to maintain the facilities and machines.

“Burning e-waste was and still is, to many, the established way of working here. That is why we are grateful to see so much support from the recyclers and residents of Agbogbloshie for this new recycling facility,” said Yaw Amoyaw-Osei, Founder/Executive Director of GreenAd, one of Blacksmith/Pure Earth’s partners on the project.

“There was a lot of distrust initially. We had to convince the recyclers that we did not want to take away their livelihoods...They are aware of the hand they deal themselves,” according to Amoyaw-Osei.

“We did a health exposure survey and found serious anomalies. There were such elevated levels of heavy metals. We couldn’t believe it. But when we met and discussed all this with the recyclers, they told

us that they have 20,000 people depending on them here. They must survive.”

**See more:**  
[http://www.enn.com/press\\_releases/4285](http://www.enn.com/press_releases/4285)

**Culled from:** Environmental News Network

## **ABOUT BCCC-AFRICA**

The Basel Convention Coordinating Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region (BCCC-Africa) was established on 20th Of September 1994 by the defunct FEPA (which has been absorbed into the Federal Ministry of Environment in June 1999) following Basel Convention COP2 approval. The Center has a dual mandate to serve as a National Institution as well as a Regional Institution. As a National Institution, it is to serve as a Federal Ministry of Environment linkage center with the University of Ibadan. This linkage center has a mandate for Cleaner Production Technology and Hazardous Waste Management. The Center also, as a Regional Institution, has the mandate to serve as the Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Center for Africa, to assist African Countries implement the 1989 Basel Convention on the Transboundry Movement of Hazardous Waste and their disposal. The Centre also coordinates the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for Arabic-speaking African countries based in Egypt, French-speaking African countries based in Senegal and English-speaking African countries based in South-Africa respectively This is the only Linkage Center of the Ministry that is a United Nations designated capacity building center with mandate to service Wastes and Chemicals Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), these are the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

## **A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BCCC-AFRICA**

All correspondence to:

Omotayo Sindiku

Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region

1, Ijoma Road, University of Ibadan

Ibadan,

Nigeria

Website: [www.baselnigeria.org.ng](http://www.baselnigeria.org.ng)

E-mail: [thayor@basel.org.ng](mailto:thayor@basel.org.ng), [info@basel.org.ng](mailto:info@basel.org.ng)