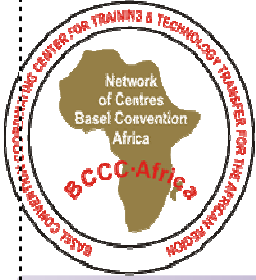


# Basel Monthly Waste News

January 31, 2015

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



Plastic waste

## **10,000 TONNES OF PLASTIC WASTE TO BE RECYCLED YEARLY**

A programme dubbed 'Eco Collect' will get rid of plastic waste in the national territory.

Statistics from the Ministry of Environment and the Protection of Nature shows that 600,000 tonnes of plastics are produced in Cameroon each year and not properly disposed of after use.

Following a joint communiqué of the Ministry of Trade and that of the Environment and Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, which obliges producers, importers and distributors of non-degradable plastics to put in place a collection, treatment and recycling mechanism taking into consideration environmental protection norms.

**See more:**

<http://www.cameroonweb.com/CameroonHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=317855>

**Culled from:** CameroonWeb

## **EPA LAUNCHES FOOD WASTE REDUCTION TOOLKIT**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently unveiled its Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging Toolkit designed to "save money by reducing food and packaging waste." The initiative is aimed at food service facilities and provides technical services to save money and help the environment.

Restaurants, cafeterias, grocers, and other commercial and institutional kitchens located in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands (EPA Region 9) are invited to pilot the toolkit. Participants are offered one-on-one technical assistance from an EPA team member, the opportunity to participate in peer groups, and the chance to present in future EPA webinars.

The EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Web Academy is also hosting a free four-part webinar series to guide users through the waste assessment and reduction process. The series will explain how to prepare for an assessment, analyze data, implement reduction strategies, and track progress.



**Culled from:** Foodtank

**See more:** <http://foodtank.com/news/2015/01/epa-launches-food-waste-reduction-toolkit>



## AMERICA SUCKS AT RECYCLING, SO WE'RE BURNING TRASH AGAIN

Americans produce a whopping [4.4 pounds](#) of waste per person per day, more than any other nation in the world. Recycling facilities and landfills can't seem to keep up. Hence the resurgence of a decades-old disposal idea: [trash incinerators](#).

But today's incinerators — including the country's first commercial-scale incinerator in 20 years, about to be fired up in West Palm Beach, Fla. — are waste-to-energy plants, promising to turn garbage into electricity. The EPA classifies them as "[renewable energy](#)" and plans are unfolding in half a dozen states across the country.

Here's the catch: They're pretty damn dirty (emitting mercury and lead and dioxins, among other things) and expensive. A [controversial incinerator proposal in Baltimore](#) is now expected to cost \$1 billion, though it's still three years away from completion, and — of course! — slated to be built a low-income neighborhood in South Baltimore already plagued by a deluge of industry-associated health impacts.



**See more:** <http://grist.org/news/america-sucks-at-recycling-so-were-burning-trash-again/>

**Culled from:** Grist



Photo: Kenyan Student using Laptop

## Laptops in Africa's classrooms; saviour or a waste of good money?

AFRICA'S tech boom has made many governments on the continent eager to incorporate e-learning into their education policies, to mixed success.

Rwanda's One Laptop per Child project has seen over 203,000 laptops distributed to primary school pupils, making it the third largest deployment of laptops to schools globally after Peru and Uruguay.

But laptop projects have stalled in other countries, as controversies over corruption and political opportunism, and as to whether laptops are a good educational investment in the first place, throw a spanner in the works.

**See more:** <http://mgafrica.com/article/2015-01-04-the-future-of-education-controversies-over-laptops-in-schools-but-theres-more-to-the-story>

**Culled from:** Mail & Guardian Africa News



## SEWAGE SLUDGE COULD CONTAIN MILLIONS OF DOLLAR'S WORTH OF GOLD

In a new study, scientists at Arizona State University (ASU), Tempe, quantified the different metals in sewage sludge and estimated what it all might be worth. They took sludge samples gathered from around the country and measured the metal content using a mass spectrometer that can discern different elements as they are ionized in a superhot plasma. The upshot: There's as much as \$13 million worth of metals in the sludge produced every year by a million-person city, including \$2.6 million in gold and silver, they report online this week in Environmental Science & Technology.

That amount won't be rattling the world gold market, nor would it be feasible to extract every last bit. But the study's lead author, environmental engineer Paul Westerhoff, says it could prove worthwhile for cities looking for ways to gain value from something that can be a costly disposal problem. One city in Japan has already tried extracting gold from its sludge. In Suwa in Nagano Prefecture, a treatment plant near a large number of precision equipment manufacturers reportedly collected nearly 2 kilograms of gold in every metric ton of ash left from burning sludge, making it more gold-rich than the ore in many mines.



**See more:**  
<http://news.sciencemag.org/environment/2015/01/sewage-sludge-could-contain-millions-dollars-worth-gold>

**Culled from:** Science Mag News

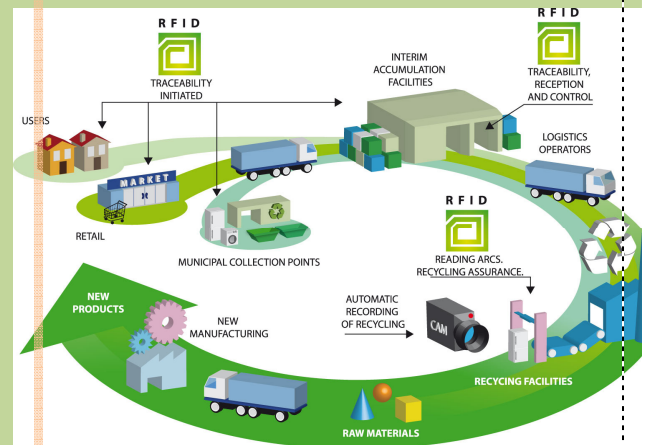


Photo: The EU-funded project WEEE TRACE

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**See more:**  
<http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/advanced-technologies-tracing-waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment>

**Culled from:** European Commission Website

# A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BCCC-AFRICA

## 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 Transboundary 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.

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