



Bocas Recycle Center

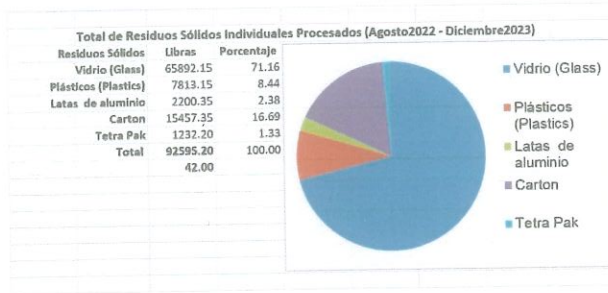
Isla Colon, February 08, 2024

**BOCAS RECYCLE CENTER UPDATE**

Bocas Recycle Center has ended 2023 in great shape. Over the last 12 months we have not sat still. The outstanding advancements that the dedicated volunteers and staff have made are to be commended. Since the appointment of our manager Eduardo Nelson, the recycling center has exceeded all expectations in its pursuit of becoming the leading waste management company in Bocas.

One of our major goals is to become the leading example of recycling centers, not just in Panama but in Latin America. With Eduardo's background and local knowledge, he has been able to implement many different educational programs in the schools not just at a primary level but all levels. With his dedication and contacts, we have been able to reach far and wide looking for help and finding similar programs worldwide from which we can learn and implement new ideas. His ability to navigate through the pathways of bureaucracy has been a tremendous help in moving forward.

- 1) As you can see by the graph bellow, we have processed an approximate of 93,000lbs of recycled waste. That is 42 tons that does not go to land fill and is being used in the manufacture of recycled goods. At present all plastics are separated into their 5 different categories, then compressed into bales and sent to a recycling center in David. This is about to change. We are presently negotiating with ECOPLASTIC PANAMA, who will turn our plastic into usable decking which we will sell in Bocas. We will update this news as it happens.



- 2) This year we are set to triple the volume of collectable goods to 300,000Lbs and we are well on the way. With the generous donations the center has been able to place a down payment on a 2-ton truck for the collection of recyclables on the island. This will be operating by the end of the month. This will allow us to plan and schedule collections of the recyclable solid waste from our clients who have joined our subscription program.



- 3) The purchase of an E-Bike and trailer allows us to start the Implementation of the Environmental Awareness and Education Program with the Eco-E-bike and trailer for collection. Its main objective is to encourage the community to dispose properly of their plastic, aluminum cans and Tetra Pak packaging throughout the streets of Bocas in a responsible manner. We are starting to advertise on TV and when the road construction is finished will have the Eco-E-bike traveling the streets and people can place their plastic, Tetra Pak, aluminum cans and cardboard on the trailer free of charge.



- 4) After negotiations with the Bocas Municipal Council, we have not only managed to extend our concession to operate for another 10 years but expanded it to include: aluminum, cardboard, Tetra Pak and glass. Before it was only plastic.
- 5) Also included in the above concession is the permission to instigate and operate our self-funding program. It has taken over 5 years to get this passed, we are not finished yet as guidelines of operation are still being negotiated with the powers to be but we are over the mountain and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. When we instigate this program, it will take 4 to 5 months before we can generate enough income to start the education programs in the schools and in local media.
- 6) We have been approached by BIOCAR PANAMA that collects cooking oil. So, we now collect used cooking oil which is collected and re-refined off island.
- 7) We have processed approximately 2,000 eco pavers. All made from sand and glass processed at the center. 5 bottles go into the making of one eco paver. These pavers have been tested in David and are designed for light traffic. Now to complement these pavers we have designed and implemented the production of eco pedestrian pavers designed for walkways and footpaths. They can be made in red, green, grey, and yellow.  
Thanks to the Red Frog Foundation we are full-time producing pavers to fill their orders. The foundation then donates the pavers to schools and communities where they can help improve and make a change for the best.



- 8) We have completed the expansion plans for the building we operate in. Now we are waiting for the permission and building permits. The expansion will give us another 500square feet of operating space and will allow us to streamline how we work and in turn increase our efficiency. At present the roof needs replacing as we have 1 inch of water on the floor after heavy rains.



TETRA PAK PANAMA in Panama City is donating 80 sheets of roofing made from recycled Tetra Pak (poly-aluminum). And we will install this using volunteers.

Finally, we would like to thank all our sponsors that, without their generous help, Bocas Recycle Center would not exist. We have been operating now for 7 years and people and businesses have donated time and money believing in what we are trying to achieve. We will not disappoint you. With Eduardo Nelson our dynamic manager and the board members behind him we can only succeed, "we cannot fail".

Thank you once again for your support. For any questions or for more information please feel free to contact Eduardo Nelson at +507-6687-8349 (direct or whatsapp) or by email at [bocasrecycles@gmail.com](mailto:bocasrecycles@gmail.com).

Best regards,

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