

Communal/informal Sector Participation in the Waste Management Industry

BY:
TAIWO ADEWOLE



Who are the informal stakeholders

Informal stakeholders are active in solid waste collection and recovery all over the world. They work as waste collectors, collectors of recyclable materials in the streets or as waste pickers on transfer stations and dumpsites.

Waste pickers, scavengers, boller boy ... all these are names for people who make a living on waste in an informal way. Informal means that they have no contract, no regular income, rather simple equipment to work with, little recognition and high vulnerability.

It is estimated that up to 2% of the urban population in low- and middle-income countries work in the informal waste sector.

Typical Waste Pickers in Nigeria



Engaging the informal sectors

This forum will give the government the chance to really understand the strengths of the private informal and formal sector actors in Lagos State, and to analyse the unseen and poorly understood processes by which informal entrepreneurs actually keep their cities' waste systems operating.

In order to overcome the technical and financial deficiencies associated with the current waste management system, LAWMA is increasingly resorting to the use of private contractors for collection, transportation and disposal and private capital to supplement the mechanization/improvisation process.

In recent times, the engagement of private sector participation has increased from short-term contracts to long-term partnerships. Close to long-term Build-Operate-Transfer concessions have been awarded to the private sector to manage solid waste in the state

Encouraging the informal sector participating in the delivery of waste management services



CASE STUDY OF SOME COMMUNAL SECTOR



REBRANDING THE WASTE PICKERS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR



A TYPICAL RECYCLING HUB



AVENUE FOR COMMUNAL / INFORMAL SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

The informal sector achieves high recovery rates (up to 80%) because the ability to recycle is vital for the livelihoods of the people involved. Consequently a huge variety of recyclables is segregated and can be further processed in accordance with new demands and technological advancements in the recycling industries.

Government can help through:

- ▶ Organization/recognition of the informal sector
- ▶ support in instituting collection hubs and sites that the Informal sector can manage the facility under and MOU with LAWMA
- ▶ Government need to work on the extremely hazardous working and living conditions

COLLECTION HUBS



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE INFORMAL SECTOR PARTICIPATION



Cooperation and organization of the informal sector

The creation of self-confidence and trust between informal sector workers is a precondition for organisation in small enterprises, an important factor to establish regular relations with the government and the private sector. NGO's often can help create a sense of common interests among informal waste workers,

In 1990 the Project for the Empowerment of Waste pickers of the Women's University in Pune in Western India started organising waste pickers around their work issues. In Brazil, cooperatives of waste pickers were created in several cities, and were very successful. These activities paved the way for the creation of a national movement, which began with the 'First National Congress of Brazilian Waste Pickers' held in 2001.

Social acceptance of waste pickers' activities

Coming from the lowest social level, waste pickers in all cultures traditionally have a bad reputation. To promote the integration process, which can only proceed in step with public opinion, the widespread public idea of waste pickers as vagabonds and criminals must be changed into a perception of them as environmental agents and valued partners, acting together towards common goals



Political will for recognition

Political will to integrate the informal sector is one of the major factors defining the level of integration being reached. It is both a matter of national policy - of respective laws and regulations - and a question of underlying attitudes towards informal sector activities in general. It is also determined by the willingness and creativity of local decision makers, using the space within existing regulations to create initiatives with the informal sector.



Legal protection measures for informal workers

Legal protection measures for waste pickers (identity cards, land property rights etc.) facilitate the organization and professionalization of waste pickers' activities.

The adaptation of laws, orders, regulations and bylaws at federal, state and local government levels to the requirements of a successful integration process paves the way for further developments.

To this end, fiscal and financial incentives must be made available for recycling industries and for the development of regional programs in partnership with pickers' organisations, in addition to financial support for the structuring of these organisations.

Management and technical skills

The entrepreneurial capacities of informal sector workers and organizations are an important factor in the sustainability of informal sector intervention.

Activities supporting informal sector integration include should facilitating credit, skills development and improvements in managerial know-how and marketing to enhance the competitiveness of labour-intensive small-scale activities.

There is a need for complete support from the government/waste management authorities, in conducting additional trainings on financial management, marketing etc. seemed necessary

Partnerships with private enterprises

In the context of privatised waste collection services, there are many sources of potential conflict between the formal waste collection enterprises and the informal sector.

But there might also synergies between the two, and seeking convergent interests/complementary action between formal sector enterprises and the informal sector can strengthen the position of informal sector recyclers.

Also, the establishment of regular business relationships with recycling and productive industry improves income opportunities of informal sector workers.

Access to waste materials

The waste management system foreseen by the municipality should include measures guaranteeing

regular access to waste for recovery. These can either be created by informal sector groups themselves or by official government arrangements.

Activities of organising informal workers must bear in mind that a far greater number of people will continue to intervene in a non-organised manner and might even constitute competitors to newly organized informal sector actors in searching for recyclable materials.

Establishing organized value chains and franchising systems with actors who are organised to a lesser or greater degree, might therefore constitute a solution to the problem that the whole waste recovery chain is difficult to control. The establishment of transparent and fair prices for recyclable materials paid by recycling cooperatives would already constitute a significant improvement in income for actors that continue to work individually in waste recovery.

Extended Producers Responsibility/CSR



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy tool that holds producers financially responsible for the post-use collection, transportation and processing (i.e., dismantling, shredding and/or recycling) of their products.

Traditionally, it has focused on producers collecting and recycling the packaging they produce, although recent efforts have expanded EPR to include reducing packaging, using more sustainable materials and preventing litter.

The concept of the producers of products being responsible for their end-of-life management.

HOW DOES IT WORK

In a collective system, a system operator (state- or producer-run) manages a large scale collection and recycling network (CRN) with many origins (waste collection points) and destinations (processors). The CRN collects, transports and processes a mixture of recyclables waste consisting of many different product types originally sold by producers participating in that collective system.

What Are the Benefits of EPR?

- **EPR reduces landfill costs**
- **EPR reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**
- **EPR takes pressure of state government budgets**
- **EPR gives producers a financial incentive**
- **EPR creates measurable goals. It sets recycling targets and creates a framework for reporting by producers.**

Extended Producer Responsibility BILL

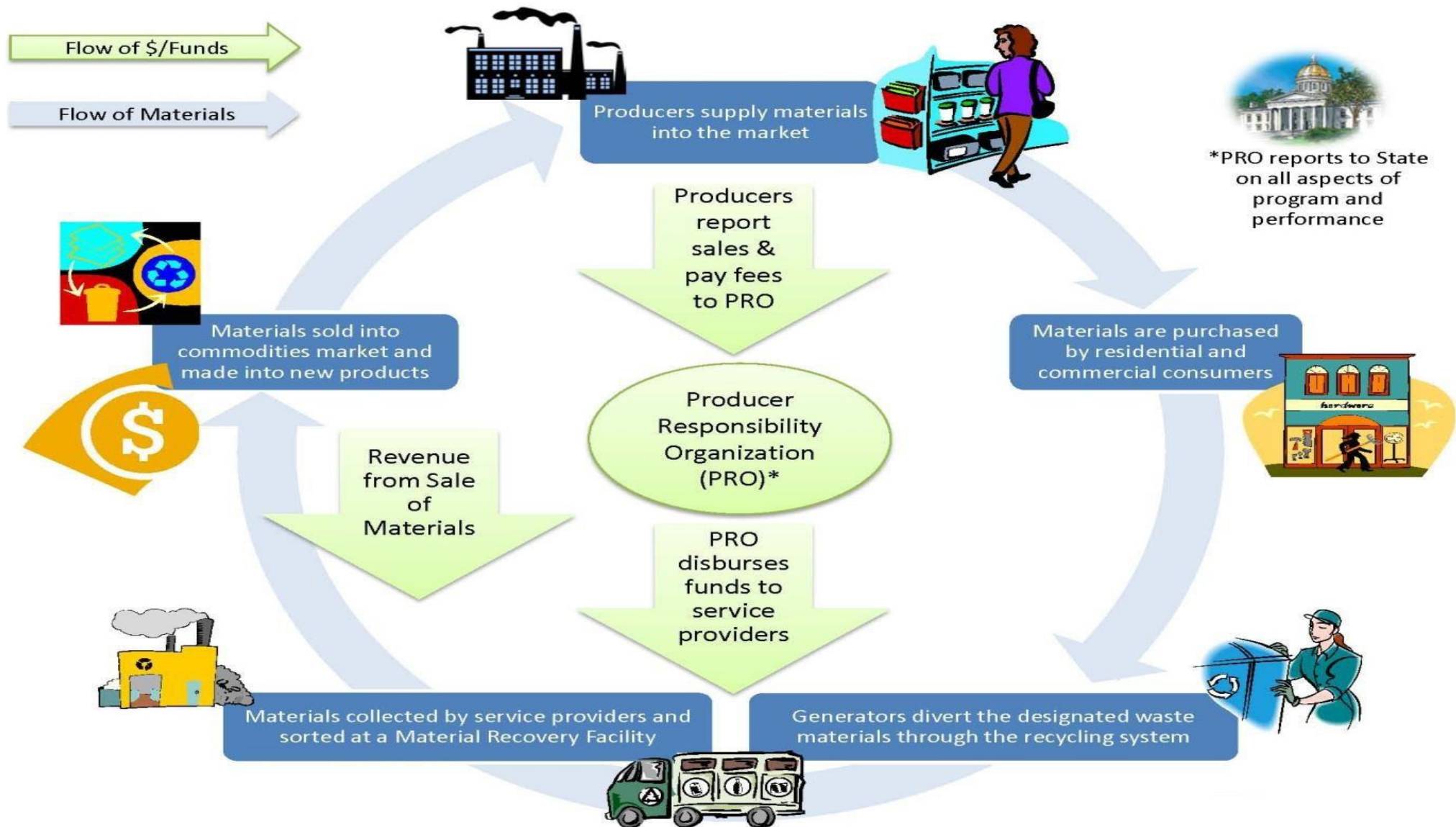
The Extended Producer Responsibility bill would create a new solid waste program so that producers of packaging and printed material would be responsible for collecting and recycling these materials.

The producers would have to pay for the program and would be mandated to increase recycling rates.

Nigeria PET recycling:

In 2005, Coca-Cola, in collaboration with Alkem Nigeria Limited, a fiber processing manufacturer, initiated a buyback and recycling scheme for used PET bottles, regardless of source or brand. Together, the partners launched Nigeria's first bottles-to-fiber recycling operation. Coca-Cola is the only player in the beverage sector that is investing in this initiative and was joined in 2009 by its bottling partner, Nigerian Bottling Company Limited. Since 2005, the volume of bottles that are recycled through the program has grown from 135 tons in 2005 to 6,200 tons in 2012. And, the initiative has help create jobs for an estimated 1,500 people.

Service providers who help E.P.R



E.P.R will encourage competition among service providers (collectors, transporters and processors) by employing competitive contracting further increasing cost efficiency

SERVICE PROVIDERS

What's the minimum RecyclePoints I can earn before I start redeeming and when & how can I redeem my RecyclePoints?

The minimum is 2000RecyclePoints. At the moment, you can place your redemption orders any day but it will only get to you before the last day of the month. As we progress, we will improve on the frequency of our redemption. Once you get to the 2000Recyclepoints mark, you can Redeem to a balance of zero (0) RecyclePoints.

To redeem, you send a message through any of our Social Media platforms (SMS, Blackberry, Twitter, Facebook) with your iRecycle Registration ID Number saying "Redeem". The items available for redemption will be uniquely identified with Pictures and Codes in the iRecycle Store leaflet. To Redeem, send sms in this format: iRecycle(Space)Reg.Number(Space)Redeem(Space)Item Code"
E.g: iRecycle 2013010001 Redeem FAN001

You will get a reply that informs you of your Total/Balance RecyclePoints & items chosen for Redemption within the total RecyclePoints you have already earned / accumulated. Any item you choose within the month will be sent to you before the last date of that month.

You can place your Redemptions Orders via any of our Social Media Platforms.

How can I keep record of my RecyclePoints?
Your Points are currently recorded on your Green Card. The Green Cards shows the

quantity of items collected from you. It records each collections against the week in which it is collected and the sum total is calculated after each month. At each collection, you have to sign off a Record Sheet to confirm what was collected from you & the RecyclePoints Collector would also sign on your Green Card to confirm quantity collected from you.

What is the Difference between Guaranteed and Bonus RecyclePoints?
You earn "Guaranteed Points" each time you give RecyclePoints any PET Plastic Bottle (PET), Used Beverage Can (UBC), Pure Water Sachet (PWS), Corrugated Brown Carton (CBC) and Old Newspaper (ONP). These "Guaranteed Points" are strictly earned for actual recycling of the identified items stated herein and can be directly offered in exchange for items available for redemption. "Bonus Points" are earned each time you participate in any activity identified and supported by RecyclePoints. For instance, each time you refer or recruit someone to join the iRecycle Network, you earn 100 Bonus Points, and the person you recruited will earn 50 Bonus RecyclePoints at inception. RecyclePoints frequently offers Bonus Points through interactions and contests staged on its Website and Social Media Platforms like Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn. iRecyclers also earn Bonus Points by engaging in identified eco-friendly activities like paying and showcasing their Waste Bills, participating in Green-Walk Rallies, using Public means of transportation etc.

- Do you know Recycling...?
- Reduces the amount of waste sent to the landfills?
 - Prevents and reduces the amount of gas pollution/emission which contributes to climate change?
 - Saves energy (electricity)?
 - By Recycling natural resources such as trees, water, minerals etc. are conserved?
 - Also helps sustain the environment for the future generations?
 - Recycling also creates job opportunities?

Recycling can benefit our community and our environment.

Let's Rethink, Recycle and Redeem.

Locate us at JobMag Office,
254 Herbert Macaulay Way, Yaba, Lagos
Tel: 0805 324 2182 (Glo),
0809 800 7003 (Etisalat),
0803 704 5324 (MTN),
0802 335 4679 (Airtel)

www.recyclepoints.com	@recyclepoints
+234 805 324 2182	ng.linkedin.com/in/recyclepoints
irecycle@recyclepoints.com	facebook.com/recyclepoints
2182730A	2774ED43



...reclaim your world

ABEG. GIVE US RUBBISH. WE GO GIVE YOU...

COOL HOUSEHOLD STUFFS LIKE



AND MUCH MORE

HOW IT WORKS!	SO FOR:	YOU GET (either of):
For every kilogramme of reusable waste like plastic bottles, pure water sacks and drink cans we collect from you, you earn points which you will receive as SMS updates sent to your phone.	100 Points*	Face cap, N100 Recharge Card, Kitchen Towel
These points will be exchanged for useful household items every three months!	200 Points	Bucket, Small Waste Bin
And you don't have to worry about bringing the materials to us—our dependable wecyclers will be there weekly to pick them up from you. Isn't that fantastic?	300 Points	2 Level Stainless Steel Lunch Box, Small size Cooler
START BY SIGNING UP	500 Points	Medium Size Cooler, Aluminium Water Bottle
Register yourself by sending a text message with your full name and address to our registration line 08175648428 . You will receive an SMS notification telling you that you are successfully registered. If you have already been registered by our Wecyclers in person, then you do not need to send the SMS.	900 Points	N1,000 Shoprite Gift Voucher, Big Size Cooler, Big Tin of Milo
	1,500 Points	Pressing Iron, Steel Cooler Set, Clock, Small Solar Lamp, blender
	3,000 Points	Sandwich maker, Phone, Mp3 Player, Big Size Solar Lamp
	10,000 Points	TV, Bicycle, Hot Plate, Portable DVD
	15,000 Points	Generator Set

* You may also roll over your points until they reach the total required for the household item that you desire.

Wecyclers
6th Floor,
294 Herbert Macaulay
Road, Yaba,
Lagos

www.wecyclers.com
Since August 2012, Wecyclers has created over 3,000 individuals and households in its Cool Household stuff for Rubbish program. Learn more about us on our Website and engage us on Social Media. Looking forward to meeting you.

@wecyclers
facebook.com/wecyclers

MODE OF COLLECTION



CONCLUSION

The positive consequences of the different projects described above are visible: national and state government can initiate partnerships with informal workers for waste collection or recovery.

Informal workers have organized in small enterprises or cooperatives, manage sorting and recycling centers and provide the local or international recycling market with valuable materials.

The workers integrated in cooperatives can earn 50-100% more than after the support measures. They can also benefit from improved working conditions and better health protection.

With these experiences, it shows that the partnership with the informal recycling sector is a real opportunity to improve waste management and resource efficiency in low- and middle income countries like Nigeria, while contributing to poverty reduction.

THANK YOU

ADEWOLE TAIWO

CEO/MD

Taiwo Adewole and Associates

ED, Recyclepoints Nigeria

ED, Wasteaid Canada

Close 12 House 10 Satellite Town

Lagos State,

+2348023354679, +2347062031060

taiwoadewole@yahoo.com, adewoletaiwo@gmail.com