



a toxics-free future

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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Zero Waste videos

NGO: Taller Ecologista

Country: Argentina

Date: February 2011

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Work toward establishing and implementing national action plans with respect to waste minimization and waste disposal, taking into consideration relevant international agreements and by using the cradle-to-cradle and cradle-to-grave approaches (69); Carry out measures that will inform, educate and protect waste handlers and small-scale recyclers from the hazards of handling and recycling chemical waste (72); Promote waste prevention and minimization by encouraging production of reusable/recyclable consumer goods and biodegradable products and developing the infrastructure required (73); Implement demonstration projects on waste minimization and efficient resource management including zero waste demonstration projects (262)

Description of current waste management practices in your country:

Almost all the urban solid wastes produced in Argentina are disposed of in sanitary landfills or open-air dumpsites. Approximately half the population, which is concentrated in the largest cities, uses sanitary landfills, while the other half, dispersed among small cities, disposes of its solid wastes in dumpsites with few controls. The amount of wastes that are recycled or composted is low, although the exact amount is unknown because the recycling or composting that takes place is largely carried out through informal collections, and the municipalities with collection programs do little to measure results. On the other hand, a significant increase has been observed in the past 20 years in the amount of waste generated per capita.

The situation in Latin America as a whole is similar or worse. According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), only 23% of wastes collected are disposed of in sanitary landfills, while 24% are deposited in controlled landfills and the rest ends up in dumpsites or waterways or is burned. Existing sanitary landfills are generally located in the large cities. There is also a lot of missing information regarding the final destination of wastes and regarding recycling circuits.

Description of health and environmental effects of current waste handling practices:

Very few measurements and studies exist in Argentina that analyze the environmental and health impacts of sanitary landfills and dumpsites. Nevertheless, according to the literature available on the topic, significant impacts may be assumed to exist on populations living in the proximity of open-air dumpsites and especially on those who carry out informal waste recovery activities in these sites. Many groups of citizens living close to sanitary landfills or dumpsites denounce the health effects they suffer, including skin diseases, headaches, leukemia, and other illnesses.

Description of existing legislation on waste management:

The primary norm that exists on the matter at the national level is law 25.916, which establishes minimal budgets for the integral management of household wastes.¹ The law establishes a hierarchy of waste management, prioritizing prevention and the recovery of materials, after which energetic valuation and burial are allowed. Despite establishment of this hierarchy at the legislative level, in practice the local and provincial governments tend to prioritize the final disposal phases. In Santa Fe province, law 13.055 was approved in 2009, establishing zero garbage goals for waste management in the province and technical requirements with which final waste disposal must comply.² Various waste management norms exist in the city of Rosario, in particular ordinance 8335 that establishes a zero garbage plan and goals for the city.³

Project Outcomes:

The support received was used to carry out the research, write the script, and collect the interviews for production of two videos with durations of approximately 25 minutes on "Zero Garbage," one focused on the city of Rosario and its Zero Garbage ordinance, and the other with a more general orientation that we anticipate may be used by other organizations and citizen groups to promote zero garbage plans in distinct Spanish-speaking localities.

As part of these efforts, more than 30 interviews were carried out, from which 23 were selected for inclusion in the videos (see Annex 2). Images were recorded of several sites including two sanitary landfills. Images were also requested from other organizations (including Greenpeace, among others) and from neighborhood groups affected by sanitary landfills. Interviews were gathered for the video during the "Zero Garbage and Climate Workshop-Encounter" held in Bogotá on 19-21 October.

¹ <http://www.infoleg.gov.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/95000-99999/98327/norma.htm>

² [http://www.santa-](http://www.santa-fe.gov.ar/gbm/sin/mitemplate.php?tiponorma=ley&anio_norma=2009&nro_ley=13055&fecha_norma=26/11/2009)

[fe.gov.ar/gbm/sin/mitemplate.php?tiponorma=ley&anio_norma=2009&nro_ley=13055&fecha_norma=26/11/2009](http://www.santa-fe.gov.ar/gbm/sin/mitemplate.php?tiponorma=ley&anio_norma=2009&nro_ley=13055&fecha_norma=26/11/2009)

³ <http://www.rosario.gov.ar/normativa/verArchivo?tipo=pdf&id=54499&modo=attachment>

See the video here:

<http://tallerecologista.org.ar/sitio/video-areas-ind-sub.php?video=40>

.....and further information here:

http://tallerecologista.org.ar/sitio/areas-ind-sub.php?sec=8&sec_sub=11

A specific web site is available on the Zero Garbage and wastes topic with information on the issue and related activities (see: www.basuracero.org). The delays incurred in production of the two documentaries have meant that no massive dissemination activities have yet been carried out.

Impact on target groups and policies:

The video was produced with the collaboration of members and supporters of the Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAIA) in Latin America, aiming to reflect the experience accumulated by the distinct associations in this matter.

The objective of the videos in relation to public policies is to achieve a level of awareness to promote changes in waste handling in the region oriented toward the Zero Garbage concept. Specifically in the Rosario video, we aim to achieve a commitment of the organizations that form part of the Zero Garbage ordinance Follow-up Committee to implement dissemination activities, for which the video may be highly useful. For the year 2011, we have foreseen the implementation of a strong dissemination effort in conjunction with these actors (see Annex 3).

Regarding the general video, we form part of several work networks in which interest is shared to disseminate the zero garbage concept, for which the video will be useful. In Santa Fe province and in relation to the Zero Garbage law there is a group of civil society organizations that integrate the Santa Fe Socio-Environmental Agenda and who are interested in promoting zero garbage plans in the province. We anticipate carrying out dissemination activities in 2011 with several of them, possibly in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment of the province.

At the national level, the organizations that integrate the Anti-Incineration Citizen Coalition are interested in promoting zero garbage plans in their localities, as are the Spanish-speaking organizations that form part of the GAIA.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

See annex.

NGO Recommendations for next steps:

We believe it is indispensable to carry out dissemination activities on the waste management topic and alternatives based on the zero garbage concept, both in Rosario and in the rest of Argentina. The videos will most certainly be a relevant input for this purpose, disseminated in coordination with the organizations that form part of networks such as the Anti-Incineration Citizen Coalition and GAIA.

The SAICM National Application Plan in Argentina should promote the adoption of zero garbage plans in the municipalities and promote normative changes that facilitate modification of product designs to eliminate toxic substances and to manufacture products with longer life spans and that are safely reusable, recyclable, or compostable. This last goal may be implemented in particular through legislation based on Extended Producer Responsibility.

ANNEX:

“Zero Waste in Rosario” video media coverage:

Estrenan ‘Basura Cero en Rosario’

<http://www.elciudadanoweb.com/?p=138524>

Documental "Basura Cero en Rosario"

La basura: un problema de todos/as

http://www.enredando.org.ar/noticias_desarrollo.shtml?x=62724

Greenpeace en el estreno de "Basura Cero en Rosario"

<http://www.greenpeace.org.ar/blog/greenpeace-en-el-estreno-de-%E2%80%9Cbasura-cero-en-rosario%E2%80%9D/2876/>

Otras voces. Ecología

<http://www.pagina12.com.ar/diario/suplementos/rosario/15-2010-12-21.html>

Este martes 21/12 se estrena "Basura Cero en Rosario"

<http://www.cadenamarianomoreno.com.ar/?p=2627>

Estreno de "Basura Cero en Rosario"

http://infomovieshow.blogspot.com/2010_12_22_archive.html

Other media, not available on the internet:

Media	Date	Interviewed	Issue
Canal 5 "Bien Temprano"	17/12/2010	Vladimir Moskat	Estreno "Basura Cero en Rosario" y contrato con Ricardone
Radio TL "El Gen del ruido"	19/12/2010	Vladimir Moskat	Estreno "Basura Cero en Rosario"
Canal 4	21/12/2010	Vladimir Moskat	Estreno "Basura Cero en Rosario"
La Capital	21/12/2010	Vladimir Moskat	Estreno "Basura Cero en Rosario"