

SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

Research-2-Practice Symposium on Renewable Energy, Water and Climate Security in Africa 16 - 18.04.2018, Tlemcen, Algeria

Category: Practice and Non-Scientific Contributions

Within the broad themes of water, energy, climate change and the nexus within these themes, forum organisers encourage non-scientific participants/stakeholders interested or involved in practice and applied oriented initiatives to send a submission. These participants may be seeking knowledge, strategic partnerships, funding strategies or merely an opportunity to showcase their work based on real-life scenarios and practice within the priority areas of this call (energy, water, climate change and the nexus between energy, water and climate change).

General Guidelines:

Project should be directly and indirectly contributing to AU's vision 2063 and operating in the priority sectors of this call. Project submissions shall be written in Calibri font, single line spacing and 10 font size. Submissions can contain figures, tables and/or images. Page format should be A4 page size with margins 2.5 cm wide from the right, left, top and bottom. **Submissions should not exceed 4 pages (including images)** and pages should not be numbered.

Projects (in PDF format) shall be submitted via <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=res2prac>

For submission of projects, registration on easychair.org is required. The conference name on easychair.org is "Res2Prac 2018". **Guidelines for abstracts submissions at easychair.org are provided in the Call for Abstracts.** For more information on the Research2practice Conference on Energy, Water and Climate Security in Africa, visit <http://www.pauwes.com/Res2Prac2018>

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eTrash2Cash

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Project Summary

eTrash2Cash is a social enterprise that helps low income people in Nigeria exchange all their wastes for cash incentives, through that, it raises grassroot awareness on environmental sustainability and climate change. All wastes collected are reprocessed and recycled into reusable materials, that are environmentally-friendly and sustainable. For instance, food wastes are recycled into an organic compost for use by smallholder farmers, and the recycling of plastic wastes into plastic lumber, which reduces deforestation, and mitigates the effects of greenhouse gasses, which causes climate change.

Website link for the project: www.etrash2cash.com

1. Background

Research has indicated that each major city in Nigeria generates more than 10, 000 metric tons of wastes on a daily basis. While about 84% of the wastes is potentially reusable, less than 34% is currently used for this purpose. The rest, in its mass quantities is uncollected, are pose great environmental risks and hazards, including, air, land and water pollution, diseases and flooding in local communities, deforestation, desertification and produces greenhouse gas effects, which cause climate change and global warming. eTrash2Cash empowers people at the bottom of the pyramid and create massive awareness from the grassroots.

2. Beneficiary profile

eTrash2Cash empowers low income communities at the bottom of the pyramid, especially low-income girls and women. Cash incentives they receive in exchange for every kilogram unit of the wastes they provide, could be redeemed and used towards payment of medical bills in hospitals, and college fees for their children. Low income people provide their wastes directly to social micro-entrepreneurs, who eTrash2Cash works with. Age range 17-56, are located in cities like Kano, Kaduna and Bauchi States of the northern part of Nigeria.

So far, more than 1, 000 low income people have provided their wastes and earned cash incentives. Through such work, more than 11, 000 metric tons of wastes has been diverted from the landfill, reduced environmental pollution, flooding, desertification, and mitigated effects of greenhouse gasses and climate change.

3. Achievements and challenges

From inception to date, eTrash2Cash has employed the services of 14 social micro-entrepreneurs, who have interfaced directly with more than 1, 000 low income people in Kano State of Nigeria, and incentivised them with cash in exchange for cash. The cash incentives they earned has helped increased their income and helped them better their standards of living, for instance, improved their healthcare access or qualitative education, which they have in limitation because of their socio-economic status.

Through this work, eTrash2Cash has raised primary awareness at the grassroots on environmental sustainability and climate change. Low income communities producing majority of the wastes generated are being sensitised on the effects of improper wastes disposal and the need to segregate wastes at source and adopt the reuse, reduce and recycle strategy to advance environmental sustainability.

This work has so far diverted more than 11, 000 metric tons of wastes from the landfill, which otherwise would have been dumped on a landfill, water bodies and burnt to produce harmful greenhouse gasses, that will cause climate change. All wastes collected have been reprocessed into reusable and environmentally-friendly materials, e.g organic compost from food wastes. Challenges so far are lack of steady power supply or electricity.

4. Project support and sustainability

The eTrash2Cash project has secured partnership from interested stakeholders, like Microsoft Corp, Sahaas Zero Wastes, India and Afrinic in Mauritius. Local external partnership includes the State Ministry of the Environment in Kano State, the second most commercial city in Nigeria, through the Refuse Management and Sanitation Board.

All partners are interested in the concept of collecting wastes through incentivisation from primary local sources and educating them on improper wastes disposal, and how they could participate to reduce various forms of pollution and mitigate effects of climate change.

Further support needed would include technical and funding support to enable the expansion of the project by setting up hundreds of other local collection centres and micro-entrepreneurs to the collect other wastes streams and educate more low-income communities at the bottom of the pyramid. Other funding support to establish recycling hubs that transforms many other wastes into environmentally-friendly valuables, for instance, the production or generation of renewable electricity or energy from wastes for off-grid communities.

5. Future plans

eTrash2Cash envisions to create a zero wastes society in Nigeria, through education and collection of the wastes from low income communities, and transforming them into environmentally-friendly valuables.

In the long run, eTrash2Cash would transition to the full use of technology (web, mobile app and SMS) to reach out to the low-income communities in the wastes collection and education on waste management and environmental sustainability. Being a Hausa language-dominated society in northern part of Nigeria, language will be used as a tool to reach more people in the language they best understand. One of the challenges there is internet costs, but innovative ways would be employed to make them access those services for free, for instance, incorporating the site in the Facebook Free basics platform. Another innovative way is the use of technology sensors on the dust bins or trash cans in households and low-income communities, which automatically signals if the dust bin is full or close to being full.

More innovative local wastes collection centres would be created, more wastes collected, and more people would be educated on climate change. Therefore, more innovative ways and technology would need to be employed to recycle and transform those wastes into environmentally-friendly materials.