



NEWSLETTER #6

ABOUT

ReSoCart-ED means "Recycling Solutions for Non-Reusable Printer Cartridges in Emerging and Developing Countries". The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV), started in May 2022 and runs until June 2024. ECOLOGICON GmbH and Umweltcluster Bayern e. V. form the ReSoCart-ED consortium to examine whether the recycling of printer cartridges could be an economically sustainable business model in Ghana.

REPORT FROM WACEE 2023

From October 18th until October 19th, 2023 the 11th edition of the West African Clean Energy & Environment Trade Fair & Conference (WACEE' 23) in Accra took place. Our project manager André Rückert participated with a presentation during the WACEE conference about the approach of the ReSoCart-ED project, its objectives and a sneak peek into the proposed recycling solution. Very exciting!

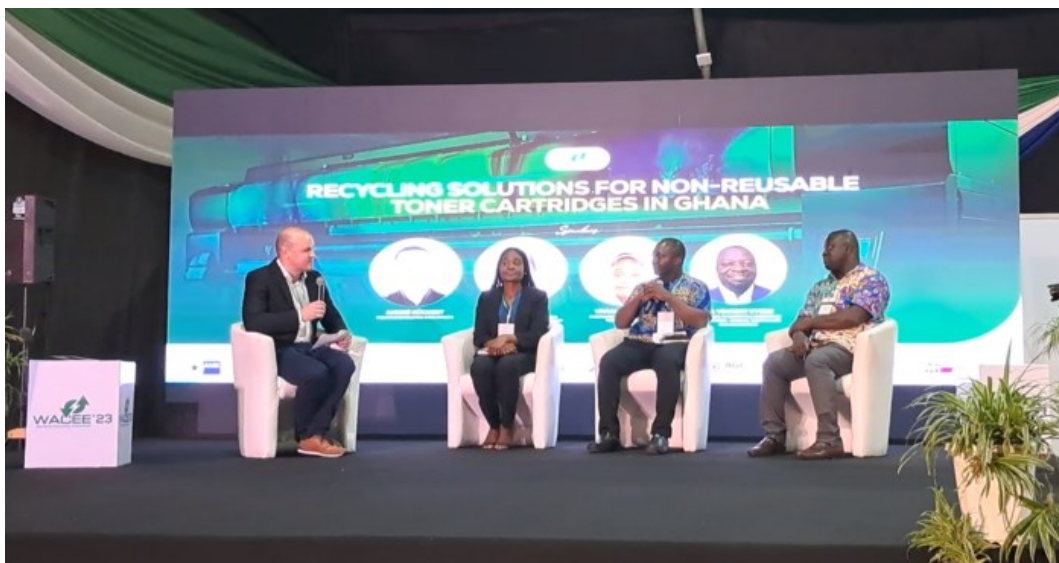


Figure 1: The panel discussion with André Rückert, Vivian Ahiayibor, Larry Kotoe and Dr. Vincent Nartey Kyere (f.l.t.r.; photo by: André Rückert).

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion presenting three participants: Ms. Vivian Ahiayibor (Managing Director of City Waste Recycling Limited), Mr. Larry Kotoe (Engineer and Geoscientist from the Environmental Protection Agency) and Mr. Dr. Vincent Nartey Kyere (Team Lead, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, E-Waste Program Implementation Unit (PIU)). The discussion was used to answer certain questions regarding the presence of cartridges in the day-to-day business of the waste management companies, the role of the informal sector in a collection and recycling scheme



and shone a light on the questions how the eco-levy for imported WEEE and the attached e-waste fund could be utilized to finance the recycling system.

We thank again the panelists for their participation and the organizers of the WACEEE for their effort to set up such a well-organized fair and conference.

TRAVEL REPORT AND ZEAL VISIT

Apart from the presentation André Rückert had the pleasure to meet many interesting people on the WACEE and broaden the network of the ReSoCart-ED project team. We were very happy that the deputy minister of environment of Ghana Hon. Andrew Kofi Egyapa Mercer named ReSoCart-ED in his opening speech as a project that caught his attention.

The days before the WACEE André also had the pleasure to visit the treatment facility for hazardous waste materials of ZEAL in Takoradi. With its rotary kiln, ZEAL could be a downstream solution for the toner dust that is produced during the recycling process for toner cartridges. Due to its hazardousness, high calorific value and small particle size this fraction especially, needs to be discarded safe and securely.

Also in the first week our project manager met up with our local partner and friend David Aladago from Savannah Research Ltd. to experience the Ghanaian cuisine, visit a Ghanaian worship service and improve his skills in eating Ghanaian Food without cutlery. Yummy! Thank you David for supporting André during his stay! Besides improving knowledge and experience in Ghanaian culture, André spent some time in the coworking space "Impacthub Accra" in whose German counterpart ECOLOGICON is a member. There he prepared for the WACEE and got to know the Ghanaian startup scene first hand.



Figure 2: The storage facility for collected WEEE in Accra. Foto by David Aladago.



In the second week André met up with Cornelia Stolzenberg and Markus Spitzbart from GIZ E-Waste Programme Ghana to update them about the current status of the project and discuss issues with our planned trial collection for toner cartridges.

Afterwards André met Dr. Vincent Nartey Kyere to visit the storage facility for collected WEEE on the grounds of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (Figure 2). The WEEE bought back in Agbogbloshie gets transported here for safe storage and waits to be recycled in the future. Very impressive!

The last station of the business trip was a site visit to the newly built handover centre (Figure 3) in the same area. The handover centre should be used by collectors of WEEE as an official trading point and should also house small recycling businesses. Very inspiring! We are looking forward to the success the handover centre will bring to the collection and recycling sector of WEEE in Accra. Maybe it will host a recycling process for toner cartridges one day!



Figure 3: The hall of the new handover centre in Accra. (Photo by David Aladago).

TEST COLLECTION UPDATE

The preparation of a tendering for the data generation by performing a test-collection of waste cartridges is still ongoing. The concept has been elaborated, but some administrative things still need to be clarified in detail. We hope to come back to you soon.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!

The ReSoCart-ED Team wishes everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Have a joyful time with your families and a peaceful Christmas! We are looking forward seeing you in 2024 at best health and happiness! Happy new year!





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