



NEWSLETTER #9

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 December 2024 (applied). ECOLOGICON GmbH and Umweltcluster Bayern e. V. form the ReSoCart-ED consortium to examine whether and how the recycling of printer cartridges could be an economically sustainable business model in Ghana.

TRIAL COLLECTION COMPLETED

ReSoCart-ED started a trial collection of toner cartridges in April 2024 together with Caritas/MAREDES, which already established e-waste collections in larger cities in Ghana. The main collection point was set up in Accra, while two partners managed the collection points in Kumasi and Tamale. End of October 2024 the collection was finished (see Figure 1).

The trial collection initially wanted to collect up to 40,000 cartridges all over Ghana. In the end the project managed to collect less than 1/10th of the anticipated amount with a total weight of roughly 2,5 metric tonnes. The reasons for that are manifold. A lack of awareness combined with already established reuse and refill structures in the market were one of the main reasons identified during the trial. For future collections more time for initiation of a collection infrastructure need to be planned.

The ReSoCart-team decided to export the collected cartridges to a company in Czech Republic for final sorting and treatment of the non-reusable ones to ensure environmental sound treatment of the waste cartridges and be compliant with international waste management standards.

We thank all partners involved in the trial collection for their support!

WHITE PAPER PREPARATION

One of the final tasks is to compile all the lessons learnt and conclusions drawn from the project into a white paper that addresses the current situation of used printer cartridges in Ghana and possible solutions to the problem. The team is currently finalising the whitepaper and will design the layout with a partner in Ghana. Once finalised, the whitepaper will be published on the ReSoCart-ED website along with a downloadable excel sheet for the business case calculation. We expect the whitepaper to be published by the end of January 2024.



Figure 1: The Caritas Ghana Team loading up the 22 ft container with the collected cartridges (left) and David with Caritas collection partner Patrick from SMIDO in Kumasi (right). (David Aladago 2024)

PROJECT-TREE

Trees absorb CO₂ from the air, helping to combat climate change. The Export Initiative for Environmental Protection (EXI) encourages funded projects to plant a tree in the target. David sent us an update of our ReSoCart-ED tree: They are prospering!



Foto: David Aladago 2024

THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!



The ReSoCart-ED Team wishes everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Have a joyful time with your families and a peaceful Christmas! We wish you a happy new year 2025 at best health and happiness!



IMPRINT



EDITING

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