

2025

MID YEAR NEWSLETTER

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Stories of change from Nigeria's
Recycling Frontlines.

MID-
YEAR
IMPACT
REPORT
2025

Recycling For Prosperity: Creating Jobs, Growing Economies

2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

RAN & TechnoServe Drive Impact at 2025 Southwest Regional Workshop

Catch up on the latest industry happenings and
major collaborations

INTRODUCING OUR NEW
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

MEET THE NEW
FACES OF RAN
LEADERSHIP



DRIVING SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRACTICES IN NIGERIA



MID YEAR

2025

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WELCOME MESSAGE

National President's Speech

Dear Esteemed Members,

It is with deep pride and renewed commitment that I welcome you to the very first edition of the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) Newsletter. This marks the beginning of a new chapter, one fueled by purpose, unity, and shared ambition.

We are building more than just an association; we are building a movement. A movement that will empower every recycler with the knowledge, tools, and support needed to run thriving, future-ready businesses. In the coming months, we will launch training initiatives tailored to strengthen your operations and improve profitability because your success is the heartbeat of our sector.

We are also extending our hands in partnership to sister associations, MDAs, and other key stakeholders. Together, we can speak with one strong voice and drive lasting change. Our advocacy will be bold, relentless, and backed by data, as we build a national database that accurately reflects the scale and impact of our work.

And we're not stopping there. To deliver real, tangible value, we're taking steps to acquire a CNG-powered truck that will enable members to transport materials to off-takers at discounted rates, directly reducing operational costs and improving margins.

The road ahead is filled with opportunity. Let's rise to meet it together. Thank you for your continued belief in RAN, and for the incredible work you do every single day. The future of recycling in Nigeria is being written by us, and it starts now.

With determination and solidarity,

Harold Okonoboh
President, Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN)

EDITOR'S NOTE

A New Chapter for Sustainable Progress



Welcome to the inaugural edition of our association's newsletter, a milestone that reflects the strides we've made and the urgent work still ahead. From grassroots innovations to large-scale systemic reforms, Nigeria's recycling industry has already rewritten expectations. Now, we consolidate those gains and push further. This publication is more than a record of progress; it's a blueprint for what happens when vision meets execution.

In this debut issue, we spotlight transformative waste management initiatives, where policy, technology, and community engagement converge to set a new standard. You'll also find hard-won insights from those who've turned obstacles into opportunities and a deep dive into how resilience is being redefined in our sector.

Behind every achievement highlighted here are the people who made it possible and as Editor-in-Chief, my role is to ensure these stories don't just inform but propel us forward. The data, the breakthroughs, and even the setbacks are all part of building an industry that doesn't just grow but endures.

To our contributors and readers: this is your platform. The milestones we celebrate today were once just ideas debated in rooms like the ones where you're now shaping what comes next. Let's move with the same clarity and conviction that brought us this far. The next chapter won't write itself.

Editor in Chief

Otubelu Precious

2nd Annual

CONFERENCE

AND EXHIBITION

MAY 2025

“

*Unleashing Potential,
Transforming Futures*

RECYCLING FOR PROSPERITY: CREATING JOBS, GROWING ECONOMIES

Held on May 1, 2025, White Jade Event Centre, Port Harcourt, Rivers State

The Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) successfully convened its 2nd Annual Conference and Exhibition, bringing together private sector leaders, government agencies, international development partners, and recyclers from across the country. The event served as a powerful platform for collaboration, innovation, and action across Nigeria's recycling value chain.



15

EXHIBITORS

The exhibition featured forward-thinking businesses showcasing a wide range of innovations, from plastic upcycling and recycling-focused publications to technologies designed to improve waste collection at the source. Notably, Ecobarter's reverse vending machine drew attention for its potential to incentivize recycling.



Awards Ceremony: Honoring Excellence

The conference culminated in a celebratory award ceremony, recognizing trailblazers and changemakers across Nigeria's recycling value chain.

- South East- Cajetan Okeke Alamonk Recyclers Ltd
- South South- Blue Water Eco - Chijioke Iloabuchi
- North Central- Idrate Recycling- Soji
- South West- Recycledge Victor Oyejide
- North East- Hafsat Sali- Adamawa Waste to Wealth
- North West- Antrophilia Recycling Alhaji Ali Yakasai
- Overall Recycling Champion - Wecyclers
- Industry Enabler award - FBRA

UNLOCKING THE ECONOMIC POWER OF RECYCLING

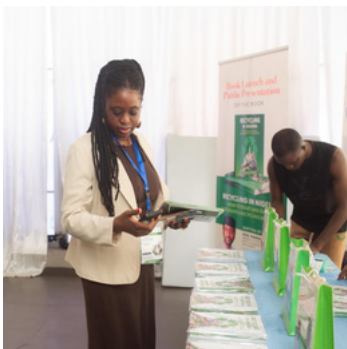
Stakeholders reaffirmed that recycling is more than an environmental necessity—it's a major economic opportunity. With over 22 million tonnes of waste generated annually in Nigeria and less than half of it currently recycled, the potential for job creation, enterprise growth, and resource efficiency is immense. Industry experts estimate that the sector could generate over ₦100 billion and create 4,000+ jobs annually, if supported with the right policy, finance, and infrastructure.

DRIVING REFORMS, INCLUSION, AND INNOVATION

The conference shed light on key challenges, including weak enforcement of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy, limited access to finance for MSMEs, and the need to formalize informal waste pickers. The lack of reliable data, slow technology adoption, and fragmented regulatory oversight were also noted as barriers to progress.

2nd ANNUAL
**CONFERENCE
& EXHIBITION**

Exhibition Gallery



Sponsors & Partners



Annual General Meeting and Inauguration of New Executive

The Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) successfully held its 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 2nd at the Golden Tulip Garden City Hotel, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The event brought together over 85 participants, including association members, media representatives, and interested members from across the country.

Outgoing President Rita Idehai delivered a reflective report on the association's achievements, which included increased national visibility, strengthened partnerships, and membership growth, while also addressing challenges such as limited funding, data collection gaps, and government engagement.

A key highlight of the day was the swearing-in of a new executive committee, conducted by Habib Ahmed, the electoral committee chairman. The newly inaugurated team is led by Harold Okonoboh as President, with Victor Okunola as Vice President and Cajetan Okeke as General Secretary, among others. The new President expressed his appreciation and pledged to advance RAN's mission by strengthening advocacy, expanding state chapters, and deepening stakeholder collaboration.

The association also confirmed Habib Ahmed as the newest member of the Board of Trustees and unanimously adopted an updated version of the RAN constitution. Among the key revisions, the mission and vision statements were updated to reflect a stronger commitment to the 4Rs—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Repurpose—with Repurpose now officially recognized as the fourth pillar. The membership structure was expanded from three to six categories, with clear definitions of voting rights for each.

As the new leadership steps into office, the 2025 AGM marks a renewed chapter for RAN, with a clear vision and commitment to transforming waste into opportunity for communities and the environment across Nigeria.



Meet Your New EXCOS

May 2025 - May 2027



Harold Okonoboh
President



Victor Okunola
Vice President



Cajetan Okeke
General Secretary



Rita Idehai
Immediate Past
President



Oluwatobi Adebayo
Assistant General
Secretary



**Olatunbosun
Oluwaseyi**
Treasurer



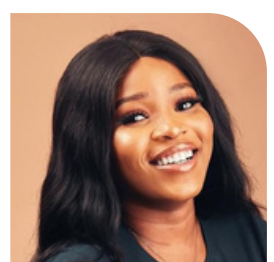
Idu Okeahialam
Public & Social
Relations Officer



Taofeek Lateef
Provost & Membership
Registration Officer



Bethel Philip
Legal
Counsel



**Anuoluwapo
Oloniyo**
Executive Secretary



Florence Feyikemi Egbeyemi
South-West
Regional Coordinator



Ali Sabo Yakasa
North West
Regional Coordinator



Daniel Ntia
South-South
Regional Coordinator



Owoeye Femi
North-Central
Regional Coordinator



Hapsat Sali
North-East
Regional Coordinator



Amunnadi Obinna
South-East
Regional Coordinator

RAN STRENGTHENS TIES WITH GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS RMRDC, AND FME

In a strategic move to deepen collaboration and unlock national opportunities for recyclers, the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) recently held high-level engagements with three key government institutions: the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), and the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME).

The meetings, held in Abuja on the 18th and 19th of June 2025, respectively, focused on strengthening policy alignment, data sharing, and operational support for Nigeria's recycling sector. Discussions with RMRDC highlighted the need to improve material recovery systems and support local innovation in recycling machinery. The council also pledged a closer cooperation on enforcement and standardization with the association.



while the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME) emphasized the importance of structured data reporting, formalizing the informal sector, and fostering community-level education, it also acknowledged the essential role of associations like RAN in bridging the gap between policy and practice. By facilitating regular stakeholder engagements and providing sector-specific insights, RAN can contribute meaningfully to the design and implementation of inclusive, evidence-based environmental frameworks.

These renewed partnerships ensure recyclers are represented at the highest levels of environmental decision-making..

With momentum building, RAN remains committed to strengthening institutional relationships that support its members and the nation's environmental goals.



RETHINKING RECOVERY MODELS: SONNEX AND RAN ADDRESS PET FEEDSTOCK ISSUES

Sonnex Packaging, a subsidiary of the Mohinani Group, operates one of Nigeria's largest food-grade rPET facilities in Ikorodu. The plant converts post-consumer PET bottles into high-quality resin that meets stringent specifications for new beverage containers.

"The value of PET lies not just in collection, but in quality"

Yet the supply chain feeding this factory struggles with inconsistent feedstock quality. Recoveries arriving from informal pickers and collection hubs are often dirty, mixed with coloured bottles, or contaminated with labels, caps, and residue. Each impurity matters: optical sorters reject contaminated flakes, washing lines consume extra energy and chemicals, yields drop, and perfectly usable bottles end up as waste. These inefficiencies push up production costs, limit local rPET capacity, and ultimately weaken Nigeria's ability to close the recycling loop.

In recent talks with the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN), Sonnex outlined a three-pronged solution:



Upstream sorting and education: Train collectors and households to remove caps, rinse bottles, and separate clear PET from coloured variants before sale.



Community reward models: Introduce buy-back kiosks or digital coupons that offer premium prices for sorted, clean PET, nudging behaviour where it matters most.



Policy alignment: Work with NESREA, FBRA, and state agencies to restrict the export of unsorted PET bales, keeping higher-value material in the domestic loop.

If these measures take hold, Nigeria stands to boost rPET output, slash processing costs, and create a cleaner, more dependable pipeline for every recycler in the chain.

RAN STRENGTHENS INDUSTRY TIES THROUGH STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND INDUSTRY PARTNER

In a bid to deepen collaboration, drive policy engagement, and create new opportunities for its members, the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) recently embarked on a series of strategic courtesy visits to major industry players, manufacturers, and civil society organizations in the recycling and circular economy space. Kicking off on May 22nd, the RAN leadership, led by President Harold Okonoboh, visited Sonnex Packaging, a key offtaker and active member of the Association.



» RAN team at CEIP

Discussions centered around how RAN can work with offtakers to improve member productivity and recovery outcomes through effective policy frameworks. On June 9th, the delegation continued its engagement with a courtesy visit to the Circular Economy Innovation Partnership (CEIP). The meeting served as both an appreciation of CEIP's support during previous conferences and a forward-looking discussion on potential collaboration in advocacy, research, and circular economy

focused on enhancing the quality of recyclable products and promoting transparency in investment dealings with recyclers across the country. On July 1st, RAN paid a strategic visit to Lafarge. The team explored Lafarge's innovative approach to using difficult-to-recycle plastics—such as brown, black, and heavily soiled PET—to generate thermal energy in cement production. This model presents a critical downstream solution, ensuring that even non-recyclable waste is diverted from landfills



» RAN Team at Lafarge



» RAN Team at FBRA

and responsibly used, effectively closing the loop in the recycling chain. RAN applauded this effort and explored ways recyclers could plug into Lafarge's recovery supply chain.



» RAN team at Polysmart & Alef

innovation. Both organizations explored synergies that could benefit RAN members through knowledge-sharing and development programs. In the following week, RAN visited Alef Recycling Ltd and Polysmart Group two frontline manufacturers and recyclers. These conversations

The engagement series concluded with a strategic visit to the Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance (FBRA), where RAN met with Executive Director Arese Onaghise. The discussion focused on the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies and expanding access to FBRA-supported programs that benefit grassroots recyclers. RAN emphasized its readiness to work more closely with FBRA to implement actionable plans and enhance sustainability outcomes.

This series of meetings signals a new phase of strategic alignment, trust-building, and advocacy by RAN, ensuring that its members' voices are heard and their businesses are positioned for success in a rapidly evolving recycling landscape.

○ ○ ○ ○ ————— **SOUTH WEST** **REGIONAL WORKSHOP**



Unlocking Value Across the Chain: Insights from the 2025 RAN–TechnoServe South West Workshop

On May 20, 2025, TechnoServe in partnership with the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN), convened a pivotal workshop in Lagos to strengthen the capacity of recyclers across the South West region. Held at Amber Residence, the event brought together collectors, aggregators, and processors for an in-depth dialogue on enhancing operational efficiency and sustainability in Nigeria's recycling sector.

The workshop featured a lineup of expert speakers and thought leaders. Sunday Edache of Alef Recycling highlighted the critical role of food-grade PET collection, noting that post-consumer bottles are still largely lost to dumpsites due to fragmented collection systems.

The conversation soon turned to logistics, an area that many recyclers struggle with daily.



Adeleye Odebunmi from Pakam painted a vivid picture of how fragmented coordination, scattered aggregation points, and cash-only transactions make the business harder than it needs to be. But he didn't just point out the problems; he offered digital solutions. With the help of Pakam's POS system and micro-financing tools, small collectors could soon operate like well-oiled enterprises.

Banks Want to Lend, But You Need a Blueprint



Ogochukwu Okoyeuzu of Zenith Bank grounded the conversation in financial reality. He shared what banks look for in recycling businesses: clarity of purpose, structured operations, and good governance. He also acknowledged that the sector needs tailor-made financial products and that partnerships with institutions like RAN could pave the way.

The Red Ocean is Overcrowded. Time to Go Blue.

In the final session, Adesuw Akinboro challenged participants to stop competing in saturated markets and find their own "blue oceans." Whether it's organic waste, under-served regions, or youth-focused solutions, the future belongs to innovators.

From practical tips on improving PET collection shared by Sunday Edache of Alef Recycling, to Pakam's Adeleye Odebunmi unveiling smart POS and microfinancing solutions, the sessions tackled real-world challenges head-on—fragmented logistics, low household participation, and limited access to finance. One key message rang clear: "Through collaboration and innovation, we can build a stronger ecosystem."

CirculaHQ was founded in January 2025 by sustainability and technology experts committed to transforming Africa's informal waste sector. Our mission is to create a sustainable, waste-free future by providing tools, platforms, and services that optimize resource management across Africa.

CirculaOps: Work Smarter, Not Harder

CirculaOps is our all-in-one digital platform built by and for the recycling community. Whether you're managing a network of collection agents or running your own recycling hub, CirculaOps helps you cut costs, track materials, and stay on top of your finances—all from your phone.

With CirculaOps, you can:

- Save up to 30% on operating costs
- Track materials and by-products in real time and with ease
- Get reminders for due payments—no more surprise debts or debit alerts
- Generate clean, downloadable receipts and invoices in seconds
- Customize inventory and material types for your business needs

CirculaOps officially launched on World Recycling Day (March 18) and was showcased live at the RAN Conference 2025. Hon. Terseer Ugbor (House of Reps, Environment Committee) gave it a big thumbs-up, calling it a game-changer for recyclers across the country.

Curious? Book a free demo [here](#) today to see it for yourself.

Not Just Tools—We're Building Knowledge Too

We know tools alone aren't enough. If we want a stronger circular economy, we all need to be informed and connected. That's why CirculaHQ is also focused on industry education and thought leadership. We believe that informed recyclers and ecosystem players are better positioned to create lasting impact—so we're investing in thought leadership and shared learning.

#CirculaWednesday Webinar:

Launched April 16, our monthly live sessions bring together key voices to unpack circular economy issues. The maiden edition, "Sustainable Business Practices," featured Ayobodun Ajepe and Debo Adeniyi, highlighting ESG integration, digital traceability, and overcoming resistance to change.

Next up (July 18): "From Collection to Capital," exploring how recyclers can access funding and grow impact.

Deep Dives:

Complementary written or video interviews, and publications that explore product design decisions, policy shifts, and user experiences giving recyclers and stakeholders context, clarity, and actionable insights.

CirculaHQ

Pioneering Digital Solutions for Africa's Circular Economy

Bolaji Akinola-Alli



Looking Ahead

As we move into the second half of 2025, Circula is doubling down on engagement: more client-site visits, more product enhancements, and more opportunities for recyclers to operate smarter, tell their impact story, and unlock capital.

Whether you're a recycler seeking digital tools, a policymaker shaping policy, or a finance partner exploring impact, Circula wants to connect with you. Together, let's make recycling work in Nigeria—for business, for the environment, and for the people—one solution at a time.

RAN at Coca-Cola's Mega PET Recycling Hub Launch

On January 31, 2025, Coca-Cola Nigeria unveiled its state-of-the-art Packaging Collection Hub in Apapa, Lagos, a facility designed to sort and process up to 13,000 metric tonnes of PET bottles annually. Equipped to clean and bale PET for rPET production, this hub supports Coca-Cola's goal of sourcing 35–40% recycled content in its packaging and contributes to the company's broader circular economy commitment.

RAN President Harold Okonoboh attended the launch alongside key industry stakeholders. At the event, RAN welcomed Coca-Cola's investment in collection infrastructure and emphasized the need for continued collaboration with recyclers to boost job creation, reduce plastic pollution, and drive sustainability.



Coca-Cola Mega PET Hub



Ibadan Residents Win Big for Recycling Right

The Project PWE (Plastic Waste Exchange) initiative, powered by 1win in partnership with Recycledge, is transforming waste recovery into community empowerment in Ibadan. In a major milestone, over 5,000 kilograms of plastic were collected from more than 500 households through a door-to-door drive led by community volunteers including renowned actor Femi Adebayo.



● Plastic is the New Currency in Ibadan

The program incentivized residents by offering household vouchers, points, and cash prizes in exchange for sorted PET waste. This grassroots recycling model not only rewards participation but also raises awareness about environmental stewardship and strengthens the supply chain for recyclers.

A highlight of the campaign was the ₦300,000 grand prize awarded to the top waste contributor, sparking friendly competition and sustained interest. To ensure lasting impact, permanent PWE drop-off stations have been installed at strategic community locations, encouraging continuous engagement and cleaner neighborhoods.

WASTE BOX SERVICES: OLAOLUWA OLAWÉ

PHYSICOCHEMICAL ASSESSMENT OF DISCHARGED WASTEWATER ON A RIVER ALONG A BATTERY RECYCLING FACILITY IN THE SOUTHEAST OF NIGERIA.

Department of Environmental Management and Toxicology, Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun Delta State, Nigeria.

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*Sample
collection
in this
study*



WASTEWATER POLLUTION ALERT: BATTERY RECYCLING FACILITY CONTAMINATES IDEMILI RIVER

A recent study conducted by environmental scientists from the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, has raised serious concerns over wastewater discharge from a battery recycling facility in Onitsha, Anambra State. The research focused on the Idemili River, which receives effluent from the facility, revealing high levels of contamination that pose significant risks to the environment and public health.

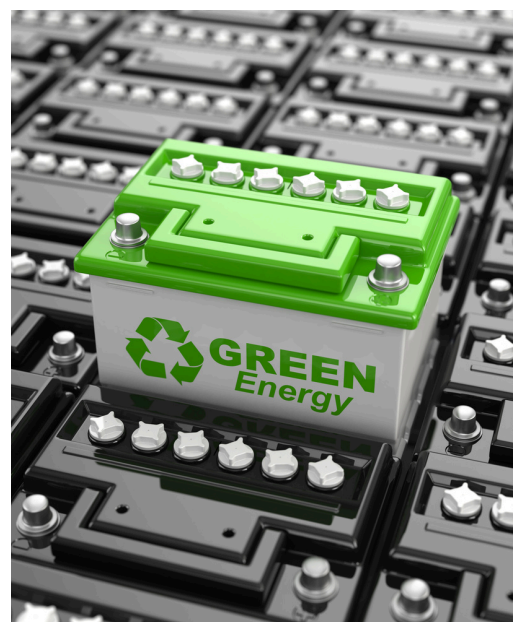
Using samples collected upstream, downstream, and at the point of discharge during both wet and dry seasons, the study analyzed critical physicochemical parameters such as pH, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), and Dissolved Oxygen (DO). Results showed dangerously low pH levels (as low as 1.95) and elevated BOD (up to 38.8 mg/L), both well above World Health Organization (WHO) acceptable limits.

The researchers found higher pollutant levels during the wet season, likely due to increased surface runoff. Strong correlation between wet and dry season data suggests that the pollution is consistent and persistent, highlighting the facility as a year-round source of contamination.

Improperly treated wastewater from the recycling of spent lead-acid batteries, which contain toxic substances like lead and acid, was identified as the primary cause. These contaminants can severely harm aquatic life, disrupt ecosystems, and pose serious health risks to communities that rely on the river for water.

The study calls for stricter regulatory oversight by local and state authorities to ensure the facility complies with wastewater treatment standards. Formal enforcement and regular monitoring are crucial to protect both environmental and public health in the region.

This research highlights the urgent need for sustainable recycling practices and stronger institutional frameworks to safeguard Nigeria's waterways from industrial pollution.





The Unfiltered Struggle of Recycling in Abuja

In Abuja, behind the polished estates and busy intersections, a quiet recycling revolution is unfolding, driven by visionaries who believe waste can be wealth. UpwardEco Ltd is part of that movement, advocating for source segregation and building community behavior change one household at a time.

But it hasn't been easy.

We cover all the operational costs—paying aggregators, cleaning, and transporting materials—only to face unpredictable price drops and unclear deductions at processing points.

One painful instance was a planned shipment of over 3 tons of PET bottles. Hours before dispatch, the price dropped from ₦420 to ₦350 per kg—wiping out our 2% profit margin and leaving us with a loss.

This is the reality for small players in Abuja's recycling ecosystem. Yet we persist.

- **We've launched SendWaste.com a digital solution to the sector's chaos:**

1. Environmental Effort Tracker: helps users monitor and showcase their green impact.
2. Real-Time Price Dashboard: promotes transparency and eliminates surprise losses.
3. GreenBridge Learning: a free 6-module crash course on circular economy and climate action.
4. Decentralized Collection Management: enables NGOs, private collectors, and community projects to manage collections using our platform.

But we can't do it alone.

We call on processors to partner with us on fair pricing and honest dealings. Regulators must foster price standardization and SME-friendly policies. Funders and collaborators are welcome to support proven grassroots innovations.

We're struggling—but we're not giving up.

Join the Green Movement!

We believe a transparent, sustainable recycling ecosystem is within reach. Let's build it together.

Muhammed Sanusi - UpwardEco Ltd

www.sendwaste.com | www.upwardeco.com | +2347034536719

Fueling Nigeria's Future: The Transformative Potential of Biogas from Food Waste

BY: OPEYEMI OLALEYE
+234 80-3218-2446
THE M.O.T. ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS
LIMITED

Nigeria grapples with a dual challenge: significant energy deficits and a staggering amount of organic waste. Annually, Nigeria loses an estimated 40% of its total food production, these waste decomposes in landfills, releasing methane – a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide – and contaminating soil and water. However, within this challenge lies a powerful solution: biogas.

Biogas, produced through anaerobic digestion of organic matter like food waste, animal manure, and crop residues, offers a compelling, sustainable, and economically viable alternative to traditional energy sources and simultaneously tackling waste management issues.

ADVANTAGES OF BIOGAS OVER CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES:

1. Environmental Stewardship:

Biogas reduces greenhouse gas emissions by capturing methane before it escapes into the atmosphere. Its by-product, digestate, is a nutrient-rich organic fertilizer. This dual benefit supports both climate goals and soil regeneration.

2. Decentralized Energy Access:

Only about 30% of rural Nigerians have access to electricity. Biogas systems, such as small-scale digesters installed in farms or homes, can provide reliable cooking gas and lighting off-grid.

3. Economic Viability & Jobs:

Biogas units are cost-effective over time. With raw materials like food waste and animal dung freely and readily available. The biogas industry itself creates jobs in the construction, operation, and maintenance of digesters, as well as in the collection and processing of organic feedstock.

4. Waste Management & Sanitation:

With an estimated 187 kg of food wasted per person annually in Nigeria, comprehensive waste management solutions are critical. Biogas systems offer an effective method to manage organic waste, diverting it from overflowing landfills.



Nigeria possesses vast biomass resources, including large quantities of agricultural waste, animal manure (with over 57 million animals, capable of producing millions of cubic meters of biogas daily), and household food waste. Harnessing this potential through widespread adoption of biogas technology presents a tangible pathway towards a greener, more prosperous, and energy-secure Nigeria. It's an investment in a sustainable future, aligning economic growth with environmental responsibility.



The Crude Reality: How Global Oil Prices Shape Nigeria's Plastic Recycling Landscape

By: Opeyemi Olaleye
+234 80-3218-2446

The M.O.T. Environmental Solutions Limited

Nigeria's burgeoning recycling sector holds immense potential for job creation, waste reduction, and economic diversification. Yet, this vital industry operates under the shadow of global crude oil prices. As a petroleum-dependent nation, fluctuations in oil markets profoundly impact the cost and demand for recycled plastics, a dynamic brought sharply into focus by recent geopolitical events like the Israel-Iran faceoff.

The relationship is fundamentally inverse. Plastic, at its core, is a petroleum product; virgin plastic resins are derived directly from crude oil. When global oil prices are high, the cost of producing virgin plastic increases, making recycled plastics, or "regrind," a more attractive and cost-effective alternative for manufacturers. Conversely, a drop in crude oil prices lowers the production cost of virgin plastic, making it cheaper and often more appealing to manufacturers, which in turn dampens demand for recycled materials.

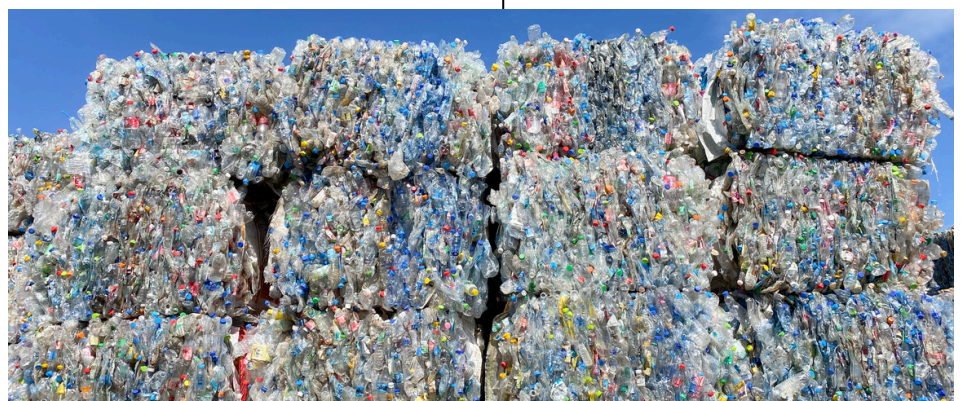


The recent Israel-Iran faceoff serves as a stark reminder of this volatility. While initial reports indicated a surge in crude oil prices due to heightened geopolitical tensions and concerns about supply disruptions, the market response has been mixed. Brent crude saw an initial jump but has also experienced periods of stabilization or slight drops as tensions ebb and flow. Such rapid and unpredictable shifts create a challenging environment for Nigerian recyclers, who rely on stable market conditions for planning and profitability.

Impact on Nigerian Recyclers

The direct consequences of these oil price swings are significant for local recycling businesses:

- **Cost Competitiveness:** When oil prices are low, Nigerian recyclers compete with cheaper virgin plastic. Manufacturers, driven by profit margins, may opt for virgin materials, leading to reduced orders and significant pressure on the prices of recycled flakes and pellets. This can severely shrink profit margins.
- **Inventory Management:** Recyclers who process large volumes of waste into recycled resins might find the value of their stock plummet if oil prices suddenly drop, leading to substantial financial losses. Planning raw material purchases and sales becomes highly speculative.
- **Investment and Growth:** Sustained periods of low oil prices can stifle growth across the Nigerian recycling industry. If demand for recycled plastics is consistently low, investment in critical areas may slow down. This significantly hinders the sector's ability to scale up and tackle Nigeria's enormous plastic waste challenge effectively.



The dance between global oil prices and Nigeria's plastic recycling industry is complex. While geopolitical events can certainly send ripples through the market, the long-term trajectory for recycled plastics remains positive, driven by a growing imperative for sustainability. By understanding these dynamics and adapting with strategic foresight, Nigerian recyclers can continue to transform waste into valuable resources, contributing significantly to a greener and more diversified economy.

Navigating the Volatility

Despite these challenges, the Nigerian plastic recycling sector shows resilience. The growing global emphasis on sustainability acts as a crucial counterweight to oil price volatility. Manufacturers are increasingly facing pressure from consumers, regulators, and their own corporate social responsibility goals to incorporate recycled content.

For Nigerian recyclers, strategic approaches to mitigate the impact of oil price fluctuations include:

- **Diversification of Products:** Exploring the production of recycled materials for niche markets or specialized applications where performance or sustainability attributes are prioritized over pure cost.
- **Technological Advancement:** Investing in more efficient processing technologies that reduce production costs, making recycled plastics more competitive even against cheaper virgin alternatives. Higher quality recycled products can also command better prices.
- **Advocacy for Policy Support:** Working proactively with the government to implement policies that incentivize the use of recycled content, such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, tax breaks, or subsidies for manufacturers using recycled materials.

BUILDING RESILIENT RECYCLING BUSINESSES: PREP EMPOWERS PLASTIC WASTE AGGREGATORS IN: ANAMBRA AND LAGOS

The Plastics Recycling Program (PReP) in Southern Nigeria is a game-changing initiative funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation and implemented by TechnoServe. Originally conceptualized under the Nigeria Plastic Solutions Activity (NPSA) with support from USAID, the program has grown into a powerful force for circular economy advancement, especially among aggregators and collectors in various local governments. In 2025, PReP took bold steps to improve the technical and business capabilities of 51 plastic waste aggregators 11 of which where RAN members in Anambra and Lagos States. The objective was to equip recyclers with the knowledge and tools to formalize operations, enhance environmental compliance, and ultimately contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable Nigeria.

With Nigeria generating over 2.5 million tons of plastic waste annually, the urgency to act cannot be overstated. The country's recycling market is projected to grow by 70% between 2020 and 2030, reaching over 3.4 million tons in value.



Since its inception, and including ongoing interventions, the PReP initiative is estimated to have diverted more than 20,000 metric tons of plastic waste from the environment into productive recycling streams. With the 2025 target of 30,000 metric tons set between March and September, this figure is expected to rise significantly as trained aggregators scale operations and strengthen compliance. PReP's approach acknowledges that informal aggregators and waste collectors are the lifeblood of this industry. However, their businesses often struggle due to weak financial structures, minimal regulatory awareness, and poor access to technology. Through targeted training and hands-on mentorship, PReP seeks to bridge this gap.

In May 2025, intensive two-day training workshops were held in Golden Tulip Hotel, Awka (Anambra) and Amber Residence, Ikeja (Lagos). A total of 51 participants representing onboarded aggregator businesses attended the sessions. The training covered core areas such as:

- Business planning and formalization
- Financial literacy and budgeting
- Branding and digital visibility
- Health, Safety & Environmental (HSE) best practices
- Environmental regulatory compliance and ESG integration





the Participants reported tangible shifts in their businesses. “This training opened my eyes to the importance of record keeping and staff welfare,” shared a female aggregator from Awka. “Understanding ESG made me realize how much more investors value sustainability,” another Lagos participant noted. These testimonies point to the transformation already taking root among small-scale aggregators. Despite its success, the program faced notable challenges such as Environmental knowledge gaps, particularly around ESM principles and EMP timelines. Participants in both states highlighted persistent regulatory friction, including harassment from local enforcement agents despite being registered with state waste management bodies like LAWMA and ASWAMA. These issues reflect broader systemic weaknesses in Nigeria’s waste ecosystem. However, PReP’s responsive training model, blending theory, real-world application, and interactive simulations, shows promise in overcoming them.

To address this, the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) has commenced strategic engagements with key agencies, advocating for:

- A unified recognition system for registered aggregators
- Streamlined dues and permits
- Clearer channels for dispute resolution

With growing national attention on the circular economy, programs like PReP are not just timely they are essential. Through capacity building, environmental education, and institutional alignment, PReP is unlocking the true potential of Nigeria’s informal recycling workforce. We extend our profound appreciation to USAID, The Coca-Cola Foundation, and TechnoServe for their vision, funding, and implementation leadership. Their commitment is helping to build not only businesses, but a better future for Nigeria’s environment, economy, and people.

By: Cajetan Okeke
General Secretary of RAN
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Beneficiaries Overview

Green Axis

Pecana
Resources Ltd

Green Republic

Rheelcyclers

Grace Recycling

Sweep
Foundation

JDSL Recycling

KIC Cleaners

Westman
Recycle

Ecoflow Nig. Ltd

Street Waste
Company

Tech Meets Trash

**ECOBARTER BUILT
NIGERIA'S / WEST
AFRICA'S 1ST REVERSE
VENDING MACHINES**

Ecobarter is an integrated platform to use your waste as a currency. We develop innovative & functional products that make recycling convenient

Beyond recovery, we give new life to waste using low-energy techniques and a cluster of local community women to transform flexible plastics into fabrics for long-lasting, high-value lifestyle products like bags, shoes, and clothing.

Plastic wastes like PET, HDPE, and LDPE can be crushed, melted, and formed back into new products ready for the consumer or industrial market. However, it all starts with a decent post-consumer waste recovery infrastructure like Ecobarter's reverse vending machines aka ATM for plastics and cans.

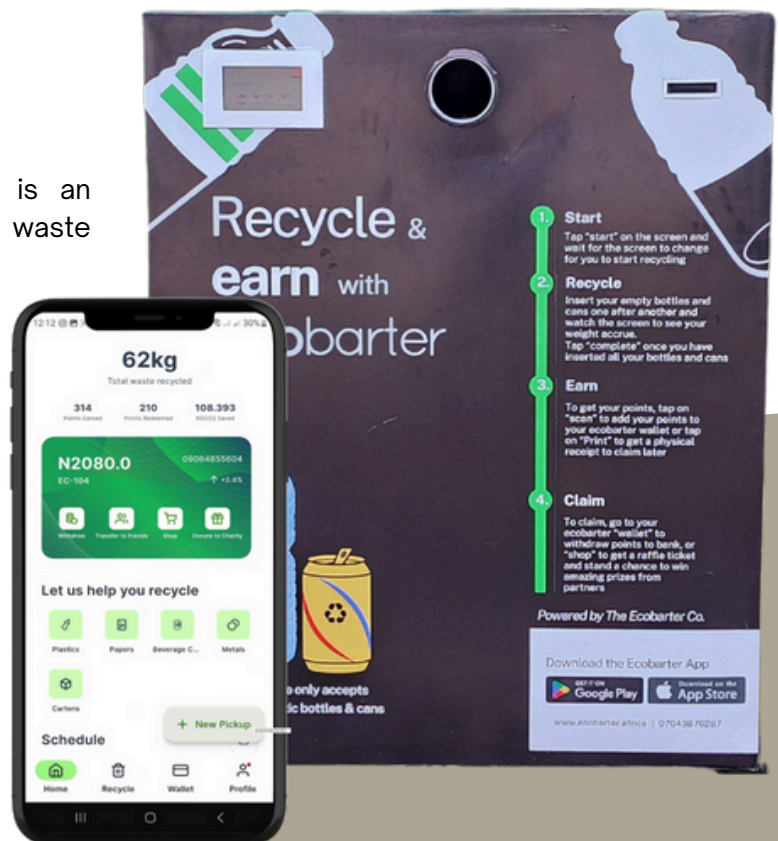
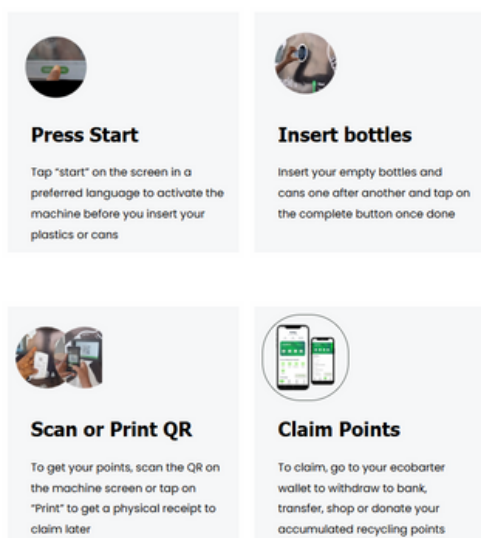
The Ecobarter RVM is proudly designed and manufactured in Nigeria. It allows consumers to return used packaging waste materials like plastics and beverage cans in exchange for cash or coupon rewards. The RVM requires minimal technological know-how, low maintenance, and is enabled with local language functionality. This ensures that the machine is fit for Nigeria's unique infrastructure challenges and easy to deploy in different regions.

Since its launch in 2024, over 30,000 bottles have been returned across 5 locations where the machine has been installed.

It features five key systems that work in tandem to ensure an efficient, user-friendly experience:

- Collection System
- Identification and sorting System:
- Counting System
- Crushing System
- Tokenization and Reward System

The Ecobarter Reverse Vending Machine is an exciting and impactful addition to Nigeria's waste management landscape.



LAGOS STATE BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

WHY A JUST TRANSITION IS ESSENTIAL TO AVOID ECONOMIC SHOCKWAVES

Effective July 1, 2025, the Lagos State Government began full enforcement of its long-anticipated ban on single-use plastics (SUPs). The ban covers Styrofoam food packs, plastic straws, disposable cups, cutlery, and carrier bags below 40 microns. Exempted for now are water sachets, PET bottles, and thicker nylon bags. While the policy marks a progressive shift in environmental governance, it raises urgent questions about preparedness and economic impact. This move aligns with Nigeria's National Policy on Plastic Waste Management (2020), and the National Environmental (Plastic Waste) Regulations 2023, which emphasizes the need to phase out problematic plastic products in favor of more sustainable alternatives. The environmental rationale is clear: some plastics are a persistent pollutant, clogging drains, fueling urban flooding, and contaminating waterways. In a coastal megacity like Lagos, where plastic waste contributes heavily to environmental degradation, decisive action is necessary.

However, this environmental urgency must be balanced against the socio-economic realities on ground. Lagos alone hosts thousands of micro-businesses and informal actors that rely heavily on the SUP economy – from street food vendors and plastic manufacturers to informal waste pickers and aggregators. For many, these plastics are not just materials, they are a source of daily income. A ban, though not sudden, risks unleashing economic disruptions, especially for vulnerable groups. This is where the principle of a just transition becomes vital. As outlined by the International Labour Organization, a just transition seeks to “ensure that the benefits of a green economy are widely shared, and that those who stand to lose economically are supported.”



WHAT WOULD A JUST TRANSITION LOOK LIKE IN LAGOS?

- Retraining and financial support for small plastic manufacturers and vendors to shift to eco-friendly packaging.
- Targeted investments in circular economy solutions like refill stations, reusable containers, and local compostable material innovations.
- Stronger EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) frameworks to ensure producers bear more responsibility for post-consumer waste.
- Community engagement to co-design practical and affordable alternatives for both consumers and retailers.

It's not enough to ban; we must build. The transition from harmful plastics to sustainable systems must be inclusive, equitable, and phased to allow adjustment. If done right, this shift could spark a wave of green entrepreneurship and innovation across Lagos and beyond. The Lagos ban should be seen not only as an environmental directive, but also as a test of how Nigeria manages change in a complex, interconnected economy. Let's ensure we are not just phasing out plastics but also phasing in prosperity for all.

Lagos State Ban on Plastic Waste

- ☒ Ban on Single-Use Plastics Below 40 Microns
- ☒ Applies to Public Institutions First
- ☒ Zero Tolerance Enforcement Approach
- ☒ Call for Stakeholder Collaboration and Alternatives

Plastic Waste items Banned



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RAN Members Benefiting from FBRA Support

In the first half of 2025, RAN members across Nigeria received infrastructure support, equipment, subsidies, and product buy-back schemes to scale their impact. These interventions include tricycles and balers, reflecting FBRA's commitment to strengthening Nigeria's recycling value chain.

Bohia Environmental Services Collection Centre in Delta state



Ecoplastic and Aluminum Recycle Services and Trash Monger

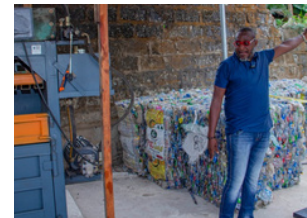
Tricycle support in Lagos and Abuja



Green Axis Collection Centre Ebonyi state

UKARO Concept

Collection center and Baling Machine - Abia state



Environmental Expressions Limited Collection Centre in FCT and Nassarawa State



Orange Strategy

20 Giant Bins for Ogun State Sports Festival, collection center and Buy-back support



Member Spotlight

Celebrating Outstanding
Contributions to Our Association



Boluwatito Aiyepoola

- Company: BASF Africa
- Contribution: Ensured the organization and effective delivery of RAN 2025 Election as the committee secretary

Boluwatito Aiyepoola has been an integral part of our association's growth, demonstrating unwavering commitment and dedication. Her contributions have not only enhanced our association's visibility but also fostered meaningful collaborations with her organization.

She is a chemical engineer and circular economy advocate currently working as a Sustainability Specialist at BASF, where she focuses on designing and implementing innovative waste-to-value solutions. Boluwatito has led projects that transform difficult-to-recycle materials, like polystyrene takeaway food containers, plastic mosquito-net straps, and soft plastics, into new products and scalable value streams, all while uplifting waste workers and women in local communities

The Recycling Association would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to Boluwatito Aiyepoola for her tireless efforts and commitment to our shared goals. Your contributions have made a tangible difference, and we look forward to continuing our work together.

As we continue to grow and thrive as a leading recycling association, we want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our members. Today, we shine the spotlight on one of our esteemed members who has made significant impacts to the promotion of our association's growth and mission.

BOTTLES FOR BOOKS



yamayamarecycle@gmail.com

YAMAYAMA

Guardians of Sustainability – The Deep Call

An Afro-futuristic comic series that blends vibrant storytelling with urgent environmental themes. Set in the fictional marine world of “Eko Prime Atlantis,” the comic follows underwater heroes as they fight to protect Earth’s biodiversity through technology, recycling, and community-led action. At its core, **YamaYama** champions climate stewardship, waste recovery, and the power of collective responsibility.

Now, in a time where youth engagement is more critical than ever, YamaYama Recycling Co. Ltd is taking this vision further with the **Bottles for Books** initiative, a simple but powerful exchange model where young people trade 20kg of PET bottles for a **Guardians of Sustainability** comic book. Already embraced by Chanja Datti Recycling, the program directly links PET recovery with climate education, sparking environmental

awareness in the next generation.

The comic is not just a story; it's a tool. A tool for recyclers, educators, and community leaders to integrate advocacy into recovery, build climate literacy, and drive participation in the circular economy.

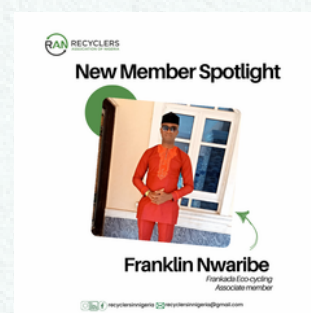
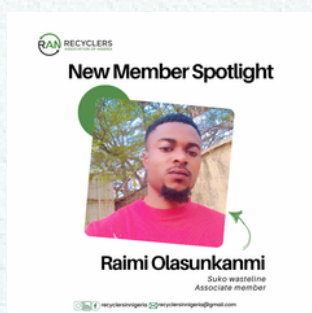
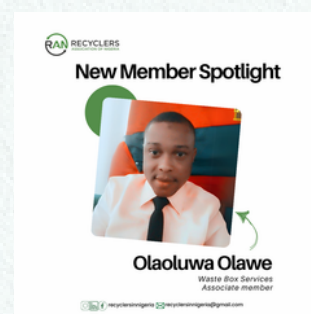
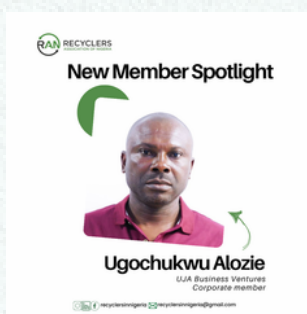
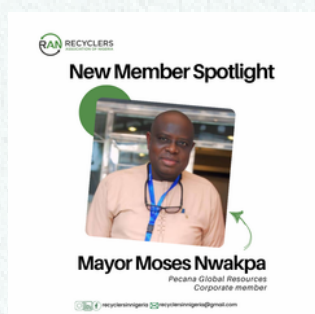
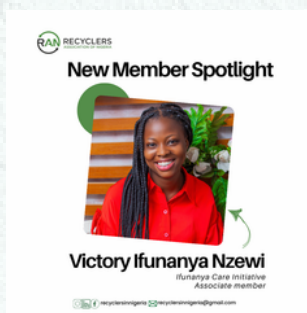
Join the movement: order starter bundles of comics (branded with your logo), distribute them in exchange for PET, and amplify your impact with reporting templates and national recognition.


Let **YamaYama** remind us all, the call to protect our planet runs deep. And together, we can answer it; one bottle, one book, and one young champion at a time.

To request your starter bundle, contact us dir
✉ yamayamarecycle@gmail.com

New Members' Spotlight

May to June 2025





Baling as a Service


Introducing Our New Service: **PET Plastic Export!**

Are you interested in exporting PET plastic but lack the necessary equipment?

Our Baling as a Service streamlines the process! With your delivery of 20-24 ton, we'll:

- Expertly bale it to export standards
- Load it into your container
- Certify the weight with our government-approved weighbridge.

Save time, money, and hassle – we handle everything for a smooth PET plastic export experience.



Ts: PET materials must meet buyer requirements before getting to our factory.

for inquiries:

☎ +234 818 614 2499
✉ info@chanjadatti.com



@Pakamnigeria

Pakam InstantBuy is Live!

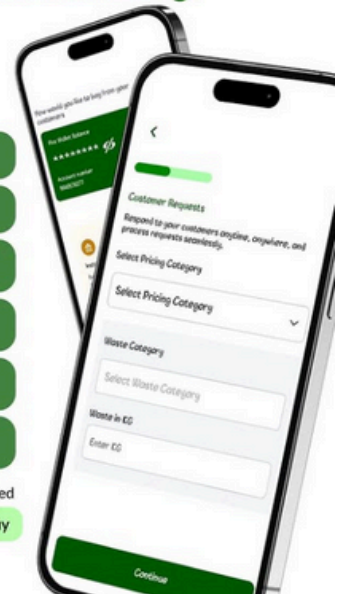
The future of waste trading, in your hands.

- ✓ Buy recyclables from anyone
- ✓ Pay sellers instantly
- ✓ Track all transactions
- ✓ Generate instant receipts
- ✓ Access low-interest loans
- ✓ Access carbon & plastic credit markets

Trade smart
Scale fast

Click to get started

bit.ly/Instantbuy





The Switch Recycling App: Where Technology Meets Sustainability for Financial Empowerment!

At **Switch Recycling Innovations**, we are unlocking the power of change with our innovative waste collection app reshaping the landscape of sustainability, and financial inclusion.

Key Features:

- Earn as You Recycle
- Seamless Transactions
- Instant Fund Access
- Bank Transfers Made Easy
- Utility Payments at Your Fingertips
- Donation to charity
- Switch Debit Card

Why Switch Recycling App?

- Empowerment
- Sustainability
- Financial Inclusion



Manage funds from
your wallet



Download Today!



Join the revolution – Download the Switch Recycling App now on the App Store or Google Play



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

upto €40,000 in funding

Are you a changemaker with a bold idea to tackle marine plastic pollution?

The PROTEGO Marine Litter Innovation Challenge is calling NGOs, companies, research institutions, or community organisations to pitch sustainable solutions that address marine litter in PROTEGO hotspot locations.

- Winners will receive upto €40,000 in funding, expert mentorship, technical support, and access to global networks to scale their ideas.
- Deadline: July 21, 2025
- Apply now: bit.ly/ProtegoChallenge







CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

THANK YOU TO OUR Sponsors & Partners

The success of the 2nd Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) would not have been possible without the generous support and collaboration of our sponsors and partners.

Your commitment to advancing circular economy solutions, empowering recyclers, and promoting sustainability in Nigeria is truly invaluable.

Sponsors & Partners



OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

July to December 2025



AUGUST 2025

Stakeholder Forum & Policy Roundtable



SEPTEMBER 2025

World cleanup Day project



SEPTEMBER 2025

Advocacy Programs



Exclusive to RAN Members

Northern Regional Workshops – November 2025

General Members meeting

South-East regional workshop

South-South regional workshop



Thank you

For more Information



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