

## Battery recycling dominican republic nico

In 2002, at the invitation of the Environment Ministry of the Dominican Republic, the ILA conducted an environmental assessment of the closed Metaloxa secondary lead plant in the Dominican Republic. The plant was a participant of a used lead battery recycling project implemented by the Basel Secretariat and the Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico (BCRC-CAM).

The new secondary lead facility complete with all the necessary ancillary environmental control equipment and a mechanical battery breaker began battery recycling operations under a new name, Meteoro, in 2011. The new facility has a lead production capacity of 18,000 tons per annum.

According to a German company Statista, which specializes in market and consumer data, by 2019, the Dominican Republic was the tenth largest generator of electronic waste in Latin America and the Caribbean, rolling 67,000 metric tons, representing an increase of about 22% compared to 2015.

Electronic and electrical wastes are components or equipment incapable of fulfilling the task for which they were created; they are known under the concept of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment).

The inadequate treatment of WEEE can cause several types of damage to human health. They affect the brain, the nervous system, and the circulatory system due to heavy metals such as chromium, mercury, cadmium, and lead found in these wastes.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in its report ‘Children and Electronic Waste Dumps,’ indicated that urgent measures must be taken to protect millions of children, pregnant women, and adolescents around the world who are at risk as a result of irresponsible recycling of electrical and electronic devices.

The Dominican Republic is a signatory to the Basel Convention, and Law 225-20 on Integral Management and Co-processing of Solid Waste provides for managing these wastes. However, to date, no effective policies have been implemented to dispose of such waste properly.

One of the first actions carried out was the workshop ‘Governmental Sector Consultation for the Integral Management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE),’ held in June of this year to identify the key actors that would help to improve the management of such waste.

The workshop was in charge of the Dominican Telecommunications Institute (INDOTEL). The participating entities were: the Vice-Minister of Environmental Management, the Directorate of Environmental Quality, the Vice-Minister of International Cooperation, the Directorate of Environmental Quality and the Program for the Integral Management of Solid Waste (PROGIRS), among others.



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A number of organizations conducted a range of interventions at the site focused on reducing blood lead levels in children through community education and nutritional supplements. Most notably New York-based Friends of Lead Free Children working jointly with the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) engaged in a number of activities through the early 2000s.

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