

**UNIVERSITY OF ARUBA**

**FACULTY OF  
HOSPITALITY AND  
TOURISM**



# SDG ASSIGNMENT

**Environmental Science**

***Name: Laura A. Molina  
November 26, 2017***

## **Sustainable Development Goal #13**

# **Climate Action**

**“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.”**

According to (GlobalGiving, 2017) , “the world's industrialized nations have changed the balance of the earth's carbon cycle over the last 150 years by burning large amounts of fossil fuels.” Climate change could hinder other efforts toward sustainable development by altering weather patterns that threaten our food production and increasing sea levels which will displace coastal communities. We need to increase awareness and convey urgency to world leaders so we can begin combating climate change before it is too late.

SDG Goal and Target 13.3 for Climate Action are as follows;

- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

The indicators for Goal and Target 13.3 are;

- Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula
- Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

Why is this SDG target and goal important to Aruba?

“Like fellow Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Aruba is on the frontline of climate change and is already experiencing the challenging impacts” (SDG Aruba, 2017). On Aruba, the ocean is directly affected by the consequences of climate change. Several challenges such as sea level rise, water acidification and the disruption of ecosystems are on the rise.

For SIDS, ecosystems play a central part in terms of food security, social cohesion, habitat protection, culture and their economy. In responding to these challenges, Aruba has launched an awareness campaign for energy conservation. The Green ‘S’ Cool project teaches children the importance of recycling and becoming environmentally aware in their communities. Aruba has also introduced incentives for the commercial and private adoption of energy efficient and renewable energy products; it is committed to work on a prosperous and sustainable society.

How does this SDG target and goal relate to waste management in Aruba?

This SDG target and goal does relate to waste management on Aruba, because the waste that we are producing is directly contributing to the global phenomenon we know as Climate Change. According to (ECLAC United Nations, 2014), “Aruba has formulated a National Integrated Strategic Plan 2010-2025 based on twelve developmental priorities. These twelve priorities form the conceptual framework for social, economic, and environmental development with education and governance as the two areas that are cross cutting and are preconditions for a successful achievement of the aspirations stated in this National Integrated Strategic Plan.” Education at all levels will shape the world of tomorrow, by equipping individuals and societies with the necessary skills, perspectives, knowledge and values to live and work in a sustainable manner we are able to minimize the effects of climate change.

If so, who collects it? If possible, include a link or reference to the data.

According to their website, EcoTech offers a complete waste management program consisting of waste collection for commercial, industrial, medical, residential and maritime clients. Ecotech offers a variety of bins, buckets and oil totes which are serviced by a fleet of MACK trucks.

All the collected waste is brought to EcoGas (sister company), a waste separation plant. This facility separates the sand, glass, rocks, as well as organic matter such as food waste, ferrous metals and non-ferrous metals out of the waste stream. The marketable recyclables are exported around the world while the remainder of the waste which is classified as refuse derived fuel is further compacted in to a 5:1 ratio and bagged into enviro bales for further storage.

## **Sustainable Development Goal #14**

# **Life below Water**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

According to (GlobalGiving, 2017) “Our oceans and seas are being threatened and destroyed by human activities like marine pollution, overfishing, and destruction of marine habitats.

Oceans cover three quarters of the earth's surface, and they are home to nearly 200,000 species.

That marine and coastal biodiversity isn't just beautiful; it provides the livelihoods of more than 3 billion people. We can stop and reverse the damage we have done to our world's oceans if we act quickly to conserve and protect our marine resources and habitats.”

SDG Goal and Target 14.1 for Life below Water are as follows;

- By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

SDG Indicator for target 14.1 of Life below Water;

- Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density

Why is this SDG target and goal important to Aruba?

This SDG is very important to Aruba because we are heavily dependent on the ecological services of our marine life and the need for responsible management of species by protecting and preserving the marine life, as well as our coral reefs.

Aruba is proud of its beaches and its clean sea, as virtually all wastewater is treated before being discharged into the sea. Aruba has several protected natural reserves:

- National Park Arikok, which covers nearly 18% of the island
- The Spanish Lagoon, which is listed as protective wetland site
- Bubali Plas and various important bird habitats designated by the Birdlife International organization.

The status of endemic flora and fauna are steadily being monitored and studied on the island, which ensures the preservation of our rich natural habitat. Aruba is proud of its beaches and its clean seawater, as practically all wastewater is treated (e.g. Bubali Plas) before being disposed of in the sea. Aruba recognizes the ecological importance of marine life and the need for its species to be managed responsibly to protect and preserve the marine environment, wildlife and coral reefs.

If so, who collects it? If possible, include a link or reference to the data.

The Directie Natuur & Milieu is in charge of the monitoring of seawater quality on Aruba since 2006. They monitor 12 different locations on South-West coast of Aruba including Eagle Beach, Arashi, Baby Beach etc. The Directie Natuur & Milieu conforms the Blue Flag criteria and the LBS protocol.

## References

ECLAC United Nations. (2014). *Synthesis Report Final Draft*. Retrieved from sids2014:  
<http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/250Synthesis%20Report%20Final%20draft.pdf>

GlobalGiving. (2017). Sustainable Development Goal #13. *GlobalGiving*.

SDG Aruba. (2017, 11 12). *Climate Action*. Retrieved from sdgaruba: <http://sdgaruba.com>

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h9PTqfzU\\_YdBBrcusa2xOJbP6TDV4UOzwRO1Xk5LW4/edit#slide=id.p11](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h9PTqfzU_YdBBrcusa2xOJbP6TDV4UOzwRO1Xk5LW4/edit#slide=id.p11)