Names: Mary Stephanie Dijkhoff and Juan Esteban D.

Subject: Environmental Science

Interviewee: Mr. Roberto Croes, CEO of Antraco

Antraco Report

E-waste is considered and recognized as being bad for the environment and it being very difficult to decompose making it more harmful for the environment. It is an issue that needs to have more attention being paid. The goal does not need to be only on recycling but also on lowering the usage. Antraco emphasizes that we need to be part of the solutions. Changing our lifestyle and being aware of the environment can bring big positive changes.

Antraco cares for the environment. They have implemented two different softwares that help save paper and lower costs of office. Some of the banks and hotels have these softwares being already implemented which checks daily on resource consumption and management to prevent overuse and consumption beyond limits. Antraco has also a recycling program being taken place within the company for example; air conditioner water, pallet wood and glass bottles. A lot of people and businesses are a lot more aware of the environment now and want to make a difference, it just needs to be encouraged.

Antraco recognizes two solutions pro e-waste sustainable management; refill-reuse or convert into other materials like synthetic wood; a very long lasting solution. Antraco does not recycle the toners of ink from printers anymore. But in the future they would like to continue recycling and if possible buy a machine to recycle here in Aruba instead of shipping it somewhere else; reducing costs and improving results from this process. Implementing different restrictions. This is what a lot of companies and people are doing with these 2 softwares. The first is (digital workflow) that all the bills would go to everyone digitally first instead that on paper for lower of office costs. And the second (straight access controls) is mostly in banks and the government, that for 3 months everyone can imprint whatever they want, by the end of the 3 months they would have a report. This shows the costs per printer, per print, how much is printed, what is printed, who printed it. And then the restrictions can be set for each department. This is very popular with the hotels because the report also shows how many paper is saved and how many trees are saved because of it.

Antraco stated: “When we used to ship toners and other materials outside of Aruba to be recycled; the companies that received it; only covered almost enough for the shipping fees”. Which it would not be well retributed as compared with high effort that must be done in that process”. Another obstacle is the shortage of space which was caused by the past fire that affected Antraco’s premises; this shortage of space causes a decrease in the capacity of materials destined to be recycled. In the future they would like to buy a machine to recycle here in Aruba instead of shipping it somewhere else so as to make synthetic wood but this is a very expensive process. Making it a big obstacle to reach this goal.

Toners take at least 400 years to decompose. Antraco used to have a program of collecting toners; which used to have before their physical properties fell victim of a fire; lamentably this program is no longer in action; and even though it is planned to be executed in the future it currently is not going to restart soon.

They used to collect the toners; and with them fill a container and then ship it outside of Aruba for it to be recycled. In the future Antraco would want to recycle this here on the island itself. They have been recycling other waste.

Antraco recycles pallet wood for many years. They use it, recycled it and then give it to people. It is very difficult to work with the wood because of the way they were made. It could be easily broken.

The air conditioner water they used it for the plants. Antranco began recycling glass bottles to make vase, cups and other souvenirs which are very popular on the tourist sector. The problem was that Antraco did it as a hobby but when another competitor came and did it full time as a his job; reduced prices and Antraco’s production stopped because it was not affordable to continue.

Recycling has its pros and cons but based on how profitable this process is for the company Antraco explained; many hotels on the island belong to Green Globe or other environmental systems that grant awards to those that implement both sustainable and eco-friendly activities; as well as creating customer-loyalty mostly from European countries.

“We need to be part of the Solution” as Antraco has stated.

**EDU points:**

* **Personal and professional impressions of waste management in Aruba**

Personal: It is very bad for the environment. It is an issue that needs to have more attention. The focus should not only be on recycling but to lower the usage. We need to be part of the solution.

There are a lot of programs that are being implemented in different companies that could help with the environment and waste management in Aruba.

* **Obstacles seen in getting to this desired future scenario**

This would cost a lot of money and land. There may be some permits that can be an obstacle.

* **Market for improved waste management in Aruba (who would pay for better waste management in Aruba? (e.g. recycling))**

The hotels are registered to an organizations that works to better the environment and this helps to have something more in their portfolio for the tourists. A lot of the hotels and Antraco’s clients are doing it are doing something in that area. By doing it with 2 soft wares. The first is (digital workflow) that all the bills would go to everyone digitally first instead that on paper for lower of office costs. And the second (straight access controls) is mostly in banks and the government, that for 3 months everyone can imprint whatever they want, by the end of the 3 months they would have a report. This shows the costs per printer, per print, how much is printed, what is printed, who printed it. And then the restrictions can be set for each department. This is very popular with the hotels because the report also shows how many paper it saves and how many trees it is save because of it.

Antraco

Interview Questions and Responses

What is your personal opinion based on the topic e-waste?

Antraco has showed an understanding of the crucial value of the environment and green solutions; and has recognized it as bad for the environment and it being an issue that needs to be paid more attention. The focus should not only be on recycling but also on lowering the usage. We need to be part of the solution.

What is your professional point of view concerning e-waste?

Antraco cares for the environment and are deeply concerned with e-waste management. They have implemented 2 different softwares that helps save paper and lower costs of office. Some of the banks and hotel have these softwares being already implemented. Antraco also recycle various thing for example; air conditioner water, pallet wood and glass bottles. A lot of people and business are a lot more aware of the environment now and want to make a difference, it just needs to be encourage.

What would be the future concerning e-waste which you consider as ideal?

Antraco recognizes two solutions pro e-waste sustainable management; refill-reuse or convert into other materials like synthetic wood which is a very long lasting. Antranco does not recycle the toners of ink from printers anymore. But in the future they would like to continue recycling and if possible buy a machine to recycle here in Aruba instead of shipping it somewhere else; reducing costs and improving results from this process.

What are the obstacles that you encounter which prevents from getting to this desired goal of proper e-waste control?

Antraco stated: “When we used to ship toners and other materials outside of Aruba to be recycled; the companies that received it; only covered almost enough for the shipping fees. Which it would not be well retributed as compared with high effort that must be done in that process. Another obstacle is the shortage of space which was caused by the past fire that affected Antraco’s premises; this shortage of space causes a decrease in the capacity of materials destined to be recycled.

Are you still implementing the effort of recollecting e-waste in your company?

As a stat Toners take at least 400 years to decompose. Antraco used to have a program of collecting toners; which used to have before their physical properties fell victim of a fire; lamentably this program is no longer in action; and even though it is planned to be executed in the future it currently is not going to restart soon. They used to collect the toners; with them fill a container and then ship it outside of Aruba for it to be recycled. In the future Antraco would want to recycle this here on the island itself.

How profitable is recycling?

Recycling has its pros and cons but based on how profitable this process is for the company Antraco explained; many hotels on the island belong to Green Globe or other environmental systems that grant awards to those that implement both sustainable and eco-friendly activities; as well as creating customer-loyalty mostly from European countries.

In a future is it planned to continue recycle?

Antraco is striving to continue with either the process which was being implemented or new efforts for sustainable e-waste management.