



BUILDING A GREEN CITY THROUGH WOMEN-LED PLASTIC RECYCLING

Waste recycling is a key focus for the coastal city of Da Nang, Vietnam's fifth largest city with a population of over 1.2 million. City authorities and residents have committed to making Da Nang a "green city," as outlined in the city's solid waste management strategy "Towards 2030." To achieve this goal, Da Nang needs to involve all stakeholders to strengthen and expand its existing small-scale waste management systems.

SCALING UP WOMEN-LED PLASTIC RECYCLING

The Oceans Without Plastic project works with grassroots women's organizations to support the city's ambitious waste management and recycling targets. Following a highly successful pilot, the project is expanding a community-based recycling model in residential areas across two districts—Son Tra (population 205,000) and Thanh Khe (population 185,000)—in partnership with key waste management stakeholders, including the citywide Women's Union and Da Nang River Watch.

A NEW MODEL

The model centers on the collection of plastics and other recyclable materials donated by households and businesses in the community, which are then sorted and sold by committees of the Women's Union. These committees cooperate at all stages of the process, from formulating work plans and drafting household commitment agreements, to monitoring project activities. The approach motivates more than 21,000 households, 1,500 fishing boat crews, 300 market vendors, 31 schools, and 200 hotel and restaurant owners to segregate recyclables at source and commit to plastic recycling. The plastic collection system developed through the project also provides steady income to waste collectors, handlers, dealers, and community members.

PROJECT: Oceans Without Plastic: Plastic Recycling in Strong Communities in a Green City

DURATION: October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019 | **IMPLEMENTER:** Center for Environment & Community Research (CECR)

LOCATION: Da Nang, Vietnam | **BUDGET:** \$249,932

HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE

- City and district-level authorities have started **replicating the project approach in other parts of the city** based on the **success of the MWRP methodology**.
- **Waste transportation and landfill costs decreased in the target districts** through increased household-level waste segregation and recycling.
- Leaders from other coastal provinces including **Khanh Hoa** (population 1.3 million) have expressed interest in **replicating the project model**.
- Project experts on community-based solid waste management **helped design a national-level consultative workshop for the National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Debris Management** in December 2018.
- Project leadership presented successes and challenges of the Da Nang City project at the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Marine Debris Stakeholder Meeting** in Bali, Indonesia.