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# Best Practices Database

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## Neighborhood Participation in the District of Santiago de Surco. *Peru*

Best Practice

New for 2002

- Categories:**
- Production and Consumption Patterns:
    - energy efficiency
    - production/consumption cycles
    - resource conservation
    - waste reuse and recycling
    - water use and consumption
  - Environmental Management:
    - environmental remediation
    - monitoring and control
    - pollution reduction
    - resource management
  - Civic Engagement and Cultural Vitality:
    - civic education
    - community participation
    - social and cultural vitality

**Level of Activity:** Neighbourhood

**Ecosystem:** Tropical/Sub-Tropical

## Summary

### Purposes and Achievements

The rehabilitation of our environment is not only a responsibility of developed countries but also our own. The financial crisis in Surco has made us look for ways of maximizing the use of our resources.

In a quest to do so, we have sought to sensitize the inhabitants of Surco on the importance of environment conservation. People have come up with various ideas on how best to achieve this end. These ideas have been incorporated into the district environmental management programme. This has in turn created a close link between the municipality and the Surco community.

Various programmes have been involved in this initiative. These include:

- PARVESUR - Geared towards direct participation of the inhabitants in the improvement of urban infrastructure.
- IN SURCO, THE GARBAGE IS USEFUL - oriented towards the separation of refuse and wastes from their place at.
- BATTERIES ON - oriented towards the collection of batteries solely.
- EIDEA - dedicated to providing education on environmental issues in schools

- REFORESTING SURCO - Geared towards planting more green plants and trees.
- ECOFAIRS IN SURCO - Deals with ecological and environmental issues.
- THE GREEN ROUTE - Deals with the planning of ecological tours for educational purposes.

The involvement of these programmes proves that the local government and the community work together. This has brought about great achievements in this district and has made us stand out from the rest. In other words, our project is a "pioneering district".

## **Narrative**

### SITUATION BEFORE THE INITIATIVE BEGAN

Surco has a population of 250,000 residents. The misuse of resources led to their depletion. Environmental conservation never appeared to be of any importance to anyone. Lack of readily available resources brought about misery in the lives of the people and contributed greatly to the deterioration of the quality of life.

### ESTABLISHMENTS OF PRIORITIES

Services:

Elimination of prevailing mafias, garbage collection, maintaining the cleanliness of the district maintenance of parks and gardens.

Resources Management:

Water: The construction of water recovery plant of rio Surco will produce savings in irrigation of parks.

Solid Residues: Project of utilizing wastes through the construction of a recycling plant.

### FORMULATION OF OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Services

- Elimination of outsourcing services.
- District improvements are done with neighborhood participation;

Resources management

- Making maximum use of our resources, for example, using the river as a source of water in our homes.

Sensitizing the people on environmental issues through:

- Promoting environmental education in schools.
- Promoting tourism and ecological fairs in the district.
- Use of local communications systems

### MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

Services

The savings obtained by eliminating the outsourcing services are used in purchasing garbage collection equipment. Presently, Surco has a complete fleet of garbage collection vehicles and all other garbage collection equipment. It has also employed 300 people. Surco has constructed three green houses, which grows a wide range of plants.

Resources Management

The construction of the Water Recovery Plant of Rio Surco, for irrigation has been done using our own resources.

Economic and human resources are in the garbage collection exercise and in the green houses.

Young university students are being prepared to facilitate workshops on environmental issues. Special didactic material is used, for example brochures on pollution are distributed to the people. Funds are assigned for the organization of ecological fairs in shopping centers.

## PROCESS

### Services

The Municipality, who resorts to outsourcing services for public cleaning and park irrigation, makes itself responsible of these services in order to make them more efficient and eliminate the existing mafias. The savings obtained revert in the improvement of services. Approximately 800 work positions are opened in the Municipality, which furthermore improves the working conditions of its personnel.

### Resources management

#### - Waters

The Water Recovery Plant of Rio Surco allows the redemption of a highly contaminated river. The water is purified and made fit for irrigation and domestic use.

#### - Residues

The selective collection of recyclable materials was initially done once a week, for which Surcan volunteers distributed orange bags among the neighbors. The selection of wastes - organic from inorganic - is fundamental for the recyclable process to be done. At the Residues Exploitation Plant the recyclable materials are segregated, in order to be sold. The organic wastes are either composted or dried for making animal feeds.

In order for wastes to be sorted out at their place of origin, a pilot plant has been set up, whereby wastes are separated according to their different constituents. 90% of the women living in Surco work in this plant. Specific refuse like batteries are collected separately in bins that are placed in various places like schools, shopping centers, roadsides, etc. Separation of wastes is also carried out in schools, whereby students are responsible for sorting their own wastes.

"In Surco the Garbage is Useful" is an educational campaign where the Municipality and a group Surco inhabitants go "door to door" educating people on environmental issues.

### Environmental Education

EIDEA is a municipal environmental education workshop for students of the district, in which volunteer university students teach them about various environmental issues. As a result of these workshops, the Surcan Environmental School Red has been set up.

#### - EcoFairs

They are, are carried out in shopping centers where the inhabitants learn about pollution, energy saving among other things.

#### - The Green Route

Is involved in Ecological Tours within the district, providing transport to those who would like to tour the area, and a tour guide.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

### Services:

- By the year 2001, the district had 1,600,000 m<sup>2</sup> of green areas.
- The inhabitants have formed associations in a bid to protect their parks.

- Surco has is the pioneer of garbage collection in Peru. Today many other districts in Peru have followed suit.
- Surco has been given prizes for being "The Most Clean District in Peru".

#### Refuse collection

After a year of the sensitization campaign:

- Around 26,000 inhabitants (approximately 10%) had heeded our advice on garbage sorting and management.
- 193 tons of recyclable residues were re-inserted to the national production system
- 825kgs of used batteries had been collected. Presently, collection equipment has been placed in schools.
- Mining companies have accepted the enzymatic humus produced, in order to be used in their mining shutting programs.
- According to studies made by the Agrarian University, 2% of the pigs in this area were fed with the foods made from the organic refuse.

#### Water

- The water recovery plant saves the municipality USD 450,000, through the water that it produces for irrigation.

#### Sensitization on environmental issues

During the first year:

- 1517 Sudan's from 15 schools assisted in the environmental education workshops. Several institutions ask for our advice on the subject of environment.
- Children's books on the issue of recycling wastes have been written. These books are distributed to young children who are in the process of learning how to read. This is done in order to inculcate in them an environmental conscience.
- University students, gain oratory skills and public speaking experience through facilitating in workshops and seminars
- During 2001 two ecofairs took place, whereby a total of 500 families participated.

#### SUSTAINABILITY

The inhabitants of Surco through payment of taxes finance these development initiatives. The water recovery plant cost US\$ 520,000, which was recovered during its first 14 months of operation, The recycling program is self-financed owing to the with the commercialization of some of the wastes. The sale of enzymatic humus and organic flour also contributes financially to the sustainability of this initiative.

Community participation has ensured the sustainability of these initiatives. These development initiatives are also sustainable owing to the fact that they aim at creating new resources and making maximum use of the resources

#### LESSONS LEARNED

The most important lessons learned are the following:

- When the public services are assumed directly by the municipality, work efficiency increases.
- The dual system of segregation of solid wastes (recyclable and non-recyclable) is easily applied and presents a high response from the stakeholders, resulting in a fast growth of the project. In schools and other institutions, sorting can be more specific, due to the colored cans that have been provided.
- The environmental management programs only can be successful with the close participation of the community and their clear understanding on the importance of the campaigns. Change of attitudes is very hard; hence, education on environmental issues should start right from day one of schooling.

#### TRANSFERABILITY

Other districts in Peru, according to their culture can emulate the integral environmental sensitization plan of the Municipality of Surco.

For it to be successful, the strategy should be worked out in the following stages.

- Improvement in the quality of the services offered,
- Better management of resources,
- Intensive sensitization,

The advantage of this strategy is that it can be applied according to the needs and priorities of each municipality or kind of local government.

Santiago de Surco is the first district in Lima that implemented the segregation and selective collection of the solid residues. Presently, the Municipality of Lima has issued a supreme decree, by which other municipalities are obliged to start since next July the selective collection, having as their starting point, the example of the work done by the Municipality of Surco.

Presently, the municipality gives technical support and training to the personnel of:

- Miraflores Park Hotel from the chain of hotels Orient Express,
- Municipalidad de Santa Maria del Mar
- Empresa Cementos Lima S.A. (company and neighbors )

## Key Dates

January 1996: Beginning of the programme with the aim of improving the quality of life of Surco's inhabitants. 1.6 km squared was set aside for green areas (parks gardens).

December 1999: Inauguration of the Water Recovery Plant of Rio Surco. Water that cannot be used in irrigation is recoverd

June 2000: Beginning of the Integral Residues Management of Solids (recycleable and specials)

May 2001: Beginning of pilot studies on composting, and how the exercise can apply to Surco.

March 2001: Beginning of the Itinerant Environment Education School with the aim of sensitizing the people on environmental conservation issues with the aid of specially designed educational materials

## References

-Asociacion Peruana de Ingenieria Sanitaria Ambiental (APIS)  
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-Colegio de Ingenieros del Peru  
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**Type of Organization:** Local Authority

## Partners

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**Type of Organization:** International Agency (Multilateral)  
**Type of Partner Support:** Financial Support

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**Type of Organization:** Academic/Research  
**Type of Partner Support:** Technical Support

**Type of Partner Support:** Administrative Support

## Financial Profile

YEAR	TOTAL BUDGET IN US\$	ASSOCIATE 1 (% of the budget)	ASSOCIATE 2 (% of the budget)
1997	97,170	-	-
1998	26,169	-	-
1999	839,890	-	-

2000	379,378	-	-
2001	99,218	1.46%	(*)
2002	250,435	-	(*)



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