

# **Report on Zero Waste Initiatives in Argentina**

**Prepared by BCRC Argentina within the framework  
of the International Zero-Waste City Network**

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## **Introduction**

The concept of “zero waste city” includes a 100 percent recycling rate and the recovery of all resources from waste materials. There are strategies based on tools, systems and technologies that can help cities in their transformation towards “zero-waste cities”; however, they must also be affordable, practicable and effective within your local regulatory framework. Next, a survey was carried out on the initiatives present in the Argentine Republic, considering the private sector, the public sector and the initiatives carried out by non-governmental organizations.

## **About BCRC Argentina**

The Basel Regional Center for South America for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRC Argentina) has been located at the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) since 1999. It is the technological reference for the South American region, whose objective is the training and strengthening of the control and productive structures of the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay) to execute the objectives of the Basel Convention, acting as a link through the focal points and the competent authorities of these countries. The center's activities are:

Development of training programs, workshops, seminars and projects in the field of environmentally sound management of hazardous waste,

Strengthening mechanisms for the transfer of environmentally sound technology and the minimization of hazardous waste generation in the region,

Training of instructors; and promotion of the ratification and application of the Convention and its instruments,

Collection, evaluation and dissemination of information on new or proven environmentally sound technologies and knowledge.

## **Report Structure**

1. Private sector initiatives
  - a) Entrepreneur Networks
  - b) Circular fashion ventures
  - c) Sale of products without packaging/with returnable packaging
  - d) Gastronomic Sector
  - e) Sustainable neighborhoods
  - f) Composting products
  - g) Companies seeking to reduce plastic pollution
  - h) Handcrafted products with recycled materials/sustainable materials
  - i) Companies that work with the issue of chemical contamination
2. Non-governmental initiatives
  - a) Civil associations
3. Public sector initiatives
  - a) National Initiatives
  - b) Case: Municipality of Balcarce

### **1. Private sector initiatives**

a) Entrepreneur Networks

***“Hacelo circular”***

Detail: This is a project that connects people from all over the country with a "multi-R mentality", in which everything is recovered, repaired, restored, recycled and reused in a constant cycle. The network promotes a circular economy in Argentina so that new products are made with intentionality and circularity from the beginning. It has information about producers who receive waste to give it a new useful life and create new products.

Website: <https://hacelocircular.com/somos/>

b) Circular fashion ventures

***“Galpón de Ropa”***

Detail: it is an Argentine circular fashion brand that buys and sells new and used clothing. They seek to ensure that the life cycle of each garment begins, ends and begins again. In addition, they have a donation program to circular neighborhoods.

Location: Buenos Aires.

Website: <https://sostenibilidad.galponderopa.com/>

***“Urban “Luxury”***

Urban 's mission Luxury Circular Fashion is to extend the useful life of garments from recognized brands, allowing a greater number of people to enjoy their quality and value over time. They seek to promote more conscious and responsible consumption.

Location: Buenos Aires

Website: <https://urbanluxurymarcas.com/compra-marcas-con-poco-uso/>

c) Sale of products without packaging/with returnable packaging

***“Refill lab”***

Detail: Sale of natural cosmetic products without animal cruelty and with returnable packaging.

Location: It has several points in the country

Website: <https://refill-lab.com.ar/>

d) Gastronomic Sector

***“Mujeres de la Cañada”***

Detail: Women's gastronomic enterprise that makes prickly pear jam in its organic plant with the BCorp seal in Las Heras, which has recycling of water and energy from solar panels; and it does not generate waste because it takes advantage of the entire fruit component.

Location: La Cañada, Santiago del Estero

Journalistic link (no website): <https://buenosaires.gob.ar/noticias/la-ciudad-otorgo-distinciones-mujeres-productoras-en-mappa-2023>

***“Amasijo”***

Detail: Regenerative cuisine restaurant. If there is leftover food, customers can take it with them in a compostable tray. The organic waste is composted or dumped into a biodigester that produces gas to power the kitchen and fertilizer for the garden.

Location: Santiago del Estero.

Journalistic link (no website): <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/lifestyle/gastronomia-el-restaurant-revoluciona-escena-santiago-del-nid2415162/>

e) Sustainable neighborhoods

***“Prados del Sol”***

Detail: 70-hectare neighborhood managed by neighbors that is supplied with renewable energy. The houses seek to be self-sufficient with organic agriculture and energy efficiency through the use of renewable energy, as well as taking advantage of water and managing their own waste. Each home has its gardens or fruit trees and compost. Some were made by the families who live there and others by enterprises that are dedicated to bioconstruction to make the most of the climatic conditions of the area.

Location: Tornquist, Province of Buenos Aires

Journalistic link (no website): <https://elpais.com/america-futura/2023-11-09/un-barrio-sustentable-en-buenos-aires-desafia-a-la-crisis-climatica.html>

#### ***“Laguna de las Pampas”***

Detail: The neighborhood has a biodynamic and community garden, bike paths, common docks and a lagoon for non-motorized sports, as well as a grove that provides protection from the heat in summer. The project highlights its nationally manufactured modular houses. They contemplate the responsible use of energy, the reduction of pollution, the reduction of waste and the carbon footprint. Biodigesters are also used. Regarding sustainable energy, the proposal is designed to cover all the electricity needs that a home requires without being connected to the electrical grid, using solar energy, with practically no carbon footprint.

Location: San Andrés de Giles, Province of Buenos Aires

Journalistic link (no website): [https://www.lanacion.com.ar/propiedades/construccion-y-diseno/con-impronta-rural-y-sustentables-los-nuevos-barrios-verdes-atraen-a-young-and-adult-families-nid12042022/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc\\_verticales&utm\\_campaign=properties&utm\\_content=dsa&gad\\_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwIzixBhCoARIsAIC745DIQSdqLFushKEkj576SFn1oZzkk-RLb8v4FdI5Psg1PkK404DjdXsaAroBEALw\\_wcB](https://www.lanacion.com.ar/propiedades/construccion-y-diseno/con-impronta-rural-y-sustentables-los-nuevos-barrios-verdes-atraen-a-young-and-adult-families-nid12042022/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc_verticales&utm_campaign=properties&utm_content=dsa&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwIzixBhCoARIsAIC745DIQSdqLFushKEkj576SFn1oZzkk-RLb8v4FdI5Psg1PkK404DjdXsaAroBEALw_wcB)

#### ***“Barrio Verde Las Moras”***

Detail: 28,000 m<sup>2</sup> neighborhood intended to protect the stream and the biodiversity of the area, while offering residents a large space equipped with native plants that are growing in a community greenhouse.

It has a sustainable design: minimal footprint on the ground, adequate orientation that optimizes energy capture, materials with great thermal and sound insulation, openings with double glass and wooden shutters and a cross ventilation system. In addition, it is equipped with individual solar water heaters and responsible treatment of tributaries through a biodigester and wetlands. There will be workshops on permaculture, gardening, among other related topics.

Location: Ponedvedra- Municipality of Merlo, Province of Buenos Aires

Journalistic link (no website): <https://comunidad sustentable.com.ar/barrio-las-moras/>

#### f) Composting products

##### ***“Kompost”***

Detail: Entrepreneurship to sell sustainable/ zero products waste )- Location:

Capital Federal, Buenos Aires

Website: <https://www.kompost.com.ar/>

#### g) Companies seeking to reduce plastic pollution

##### ***“Unplastify”***

Detail: Company that seeks to minimize the use of disposable packaging, accelerate systemic deplasticization processes for individuals, organizations, companies and governments)

Location: Buenos Aires

Website: <https://www.unplastify.com/>

**“Desarrollos Sostenibles S.R.L.”**

Detail: Plastic recycling and industrial and commercial waste recovery company. They recycle polyethylene and PET film for different applications of our clients. They integrate all types of plastics and other common waste such as metals, paper and cardboard, and complex elements such as conveyor belts, pipes, etc. into the process. In addition, they promote Circular Economy initiatives, the recovery and reuse of waste and scrap, providing a comprehensive service to companies and communities, minimizing the quantities destined for incineration and burial.

Location: Las Quintas, Córdoba.

Website: <https://reciclarplastico.com.ar/>

- h) Handcrafted products with recycled materials/sustainable materials

**“Rasgatto ”**

Detail: Handmade cat scratchers with recovered corrugated cardboard

Website: <https://www.rasgatto.com.ar/>

**“Mutina Handcrafted ”**

Detail: Botanical dyeing service based on organic waste and raw materials collected from the environment, zero-waste molding, free of animal raw materials, respecting the times of each process, promoting the “slow fashion” philosophy, fair work and conscious communication.

Website: <https://linktr.ee/mutinahandcrafted>

**“Akina ”**

Detail: Products made with recovered leather. Tanneries make your discards easier for you and you can create new products from your waste.

Website: <https://www.akinabsas.com.ar/>

**“Arte Pi Espejos”**

Detail: Sale of venecitas mirrors made from glass recovered for disposal.

Website: <https://www.instagram.com/artepiespejos/>

**“Radicheta ecojuguetes ”**

Detail: Entrepreneurship to sell toys for children from the recovery of textile waste.

Website: <https://radicheta.com.ar/>

**“Volsa ”**

Detail: Brand that seeks to reduce the waste of materials that occurs in both the Textile and Agricultural sectors. Their job is to recover leftover textile cuts and look for discard bags, clean and condition them. Then, new containers are designed with this raw material.

Website: <https://linktr.ee/volsa>

- i) Companies that work with the issue of chemical contamination

**“Unblock ”**

Detail: Company that manages projects to eliminate flaring (Mitigation of Vents) and reduce emissions.

Website: <https://www.unblock.global/es/contact>

**“Bioetuectics ”**

Detail: Company that manufactures “biosolvents”, biodegradable solvents to replace petroleum-based solvents.

Website: <https://www.bioeutectics.com/about-us#institutional>

## 2. Non-governmental initiatives

### a) Associations civilians

#### **“Zero Waste Argentina 2024”**

Detail: This is a movement of organizations, groups and people who assume the commitment to promote Zero Waste and the Global Principles for Zero Waste Communities of the Zero Waste International Alliance in Argentina; and to influence public, private and civil society organizations to adopt good waste management practices under the principles of Zero Waste and to the States (Governments, Legislatures and Courts of Justice), National, Provincial and Municipal to adopt the Zero Waste philosophy as a principle of public policies, laws and sentences.

Website: <https://basurazoargentina.org/>

## 3. Public sector initiatives

### a) National Initiatives

#### **“GIRSU Plan”**

The GIRSU Plan is carried out by THE Undersecretary of the National Environment, a transversal strategy, in coordination with provinces and municipalities, that promotes environmental sanitation and the optimization of resources to guarantee modern and efficient management of urban solid waste, under the paradigm of the circular economy.

Website: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/ambiente/erradicacion-de-basurales>

#### **“Sustainable Public Buildings”**

Detail: National public policy that establishes that National Public Sector (SPN) organizations must sustainably manage their resources through the implementation of good sustainable consumption and habitability practices, which must guarantee the efficient management of: energy electrical; Water; natural gas; waste; public purchases; accessibility; sustainable mobility; and green surfaces and spaces.

Website: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/edificios-publicos-sostenibles>

#### **“Composting at the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI)”**

Detail: Delivery of webinars to standardize and harmonize the knowledge and skills of staff regarding the institution's organic waste management. In addition, tools and methodologies on food waste reduction and organic waste composting are disseminated.

### b) Municipal Initiatives (public and private):

#### **Case: Municipality of Balcarce**

- Urban Solid Waste (MSW) classification and separation plant: Plant operated by a cooperative made up of men and women of different ages from our city. It seeks to promote a triple social, economic and environmental impact as well as equality of opportunity and gender.
- Municipal Inventory of Greenhouse Gases (GHG): Carried out with the technical support of the Argentine Network of Municipalities Against Climate Change (RAMCC).

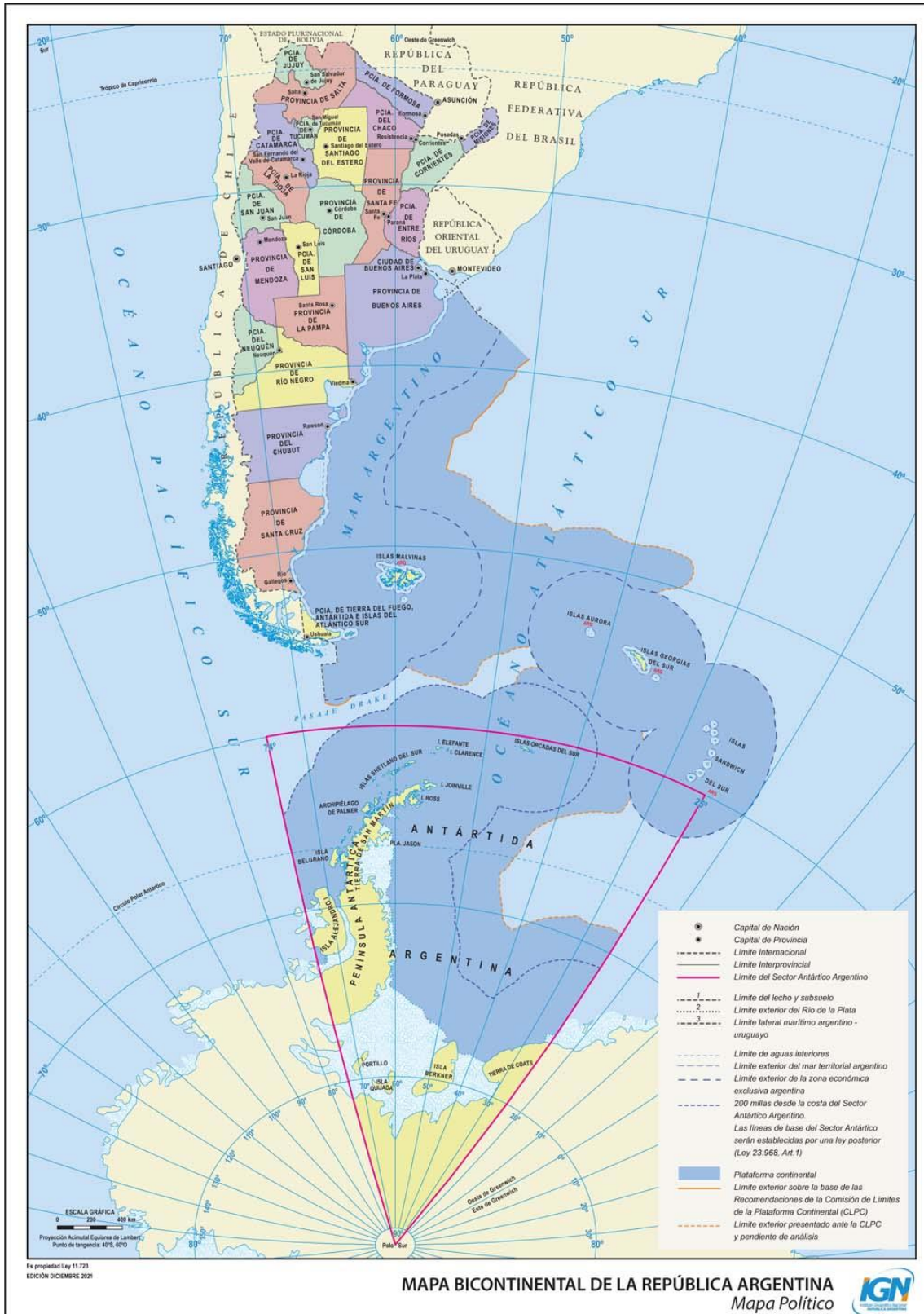
- Installation of Eco Points: Spaces created for the separation of waste obtained from inter-institutional work with the Mc Cain company and with the Adult Primary School No. 701.
- “Antü” Geo Park: This is an extension project of the National University of Mar del Plata in conjunction with the Municipality of Balcarce. The aim is to preserve and value the geological, paleontological and cultural heritage in different settings of the city. This route has seven geosites, suitable for carrying out multiple activities.
- Municipal Nursery garden (production and multiplication of species): The mission of the nursery is to promote knowledge and appreciation of flora, its importance and value, thus contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use, as well as the production, planting and care of various seedlings that are then used in the different public spaces and boulevards of our city. This program will coordinate visits with schools and neighbors in general so that they know how the trees and plants produced by the nursery are produced and cared for .
- Industrial Establishment and Certificate of Environmental Aptitude: The analysis of the establishment of industries in the district is carried out taking into account their level of environmental complexity and compliance with the environmental regulations in force in them is verified based on industrial inspection tasks. Depending on the industrial category determined by the Ministry of Environment of the Province of Buenos Aires, the environmental evaluation of the industries is carried out for the granting of the corresponding Certificate of Environmental Aptitude (CAA), necessary for their municipal authorization.
- Micro-garbage Cleaning: Carrying out cleaning and eradication tasks of micro-garbage in different parts of the city through specific campaigns and with the collaboration of different areas of the municipality (Secretariat of Urban Works and Directorate of Public Spaces), environmental volunteers and environmental promoters within the urban and rural areas.
- Collection of used vegetable oil (AVU): The objective is the generation of economic resources for the participating social organizations. It is used as raw material for the production of Biodiesel. They will be in charge of the collection and collection of the AVU. It is coordinated with the Undersecretary of Production and Employment.
- “Los Pinos” Bio digester: Based on the problem of fly invasion, the installation of this technology was proposed, which allows the production of biogas. This has caused members of the municipality to get involved by forming a cooperative. Waste from livestock production in the Los Pinos livestock sector is processed
- “Procens” Company: This is a company based on a circular economy whose production process is based on the breeding of flies, valorizing food waste by generating protein for livestock feeding. It is done through an innovative process where a protein meal is generated from the larvae for the animals.

## Conclusion

- Argentina has several initiatives and tools for the recycling and recovery of waste.
- It is a challenge to integrate these initiatives that allow municipalities to achieve the category of Zero Waste Cities.
- Coordination among stakeholders (private sector, public sector, civil associations, NGOs) is necessary to achieve a successful result that implies a higher percentage of recycling rate and the recovery of all resources from waste materials.

Annex

1. Map of Argentina



2. Map of Buenos Aires Province (Balcarce Municipality marked)



Es propiedad Ley 11.723  
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### 3. Photographs from Municipality of Balcarce



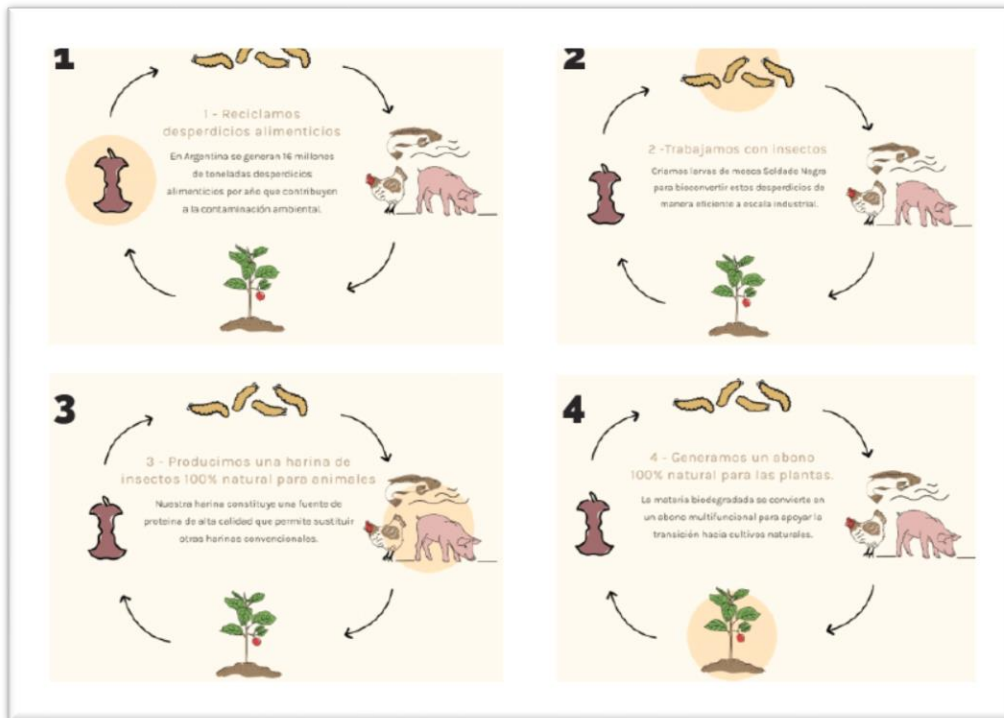
3.1: *Electronic waste collection campaign.*



3.2: *Waste separation and classification plant.*



3.3: Eco points (waste separation at origin).



3.4: Graphic about the production process of the company Procens.