



Organization of
American States

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES' EXPERIENCE

TITLE:

CLOSED LOOPED CYCLE PRODUCTION IN THE AMERICAS PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Country: Colombia, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago

Coordinating Institution: Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States

Other institutions involved: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC); the National Cleaner Production Center of Colombia (CNPML); the Cradle-to-Cradle Expo Lab of the Netherlands (C2C Expo Lab); the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism of Colombia (MINCIT); the National Association of Industrialists of Colombia (ANDI); the Program for Productive Transformation of Colombia (PTP); the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development of Trinidad and Tobago; the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturing Association (TTMA); the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Panama (MICI); the Union of Industrialist of Panama (SIP); and the National Environmental Authority of Panama (ANAM).

Duration of the experience: November 2013 – October 31, 2015

Webpage: <http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/Energy/CLCP.asp>



Closed Looped
Cycle Production
in the Americas

1) Objectives

Introduce and showcase the viability and applicability of Closed Looped Cycle Production design and manufacturing methodologies in the production sector of nations in the Americas as an innovative business development tool to mainly improve energy efficiency and environmental performance in the industrial sector and increase the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of businesses. Closed Looped Cycle Production (CLCP) is inspired and derived from the innovative design and manufacturing concept known as “Cradle to Cradle” (McDonough and Braungart, 2002). This sustainable design philosophy is focused on the development of products in which the materials utilized for creating a product become valuable nutrients upon reaching the end of their useful life. CLCP does not only seek to rationalize the use of materials and resources but involves a fundamental focus on the sustainable design of products and services based on the Cradle to Cradle principles to leap frog towards a closed-looped cycle sustainable manufacturing industry and system that will be able to deliver high-quality environmental-friendly products to its customers. This sustainable production development on its turn incentivizes nations to achieve closed looped cycle consumption patterns or circular economies.

2) Relevance

The program contributes to increased competitiveness of the industrial sectors of participating countries through the introduction and application of innovative and creative eco-effective design and manufacturing methods under the umbrella of Closed Looped Cycle Production methods. The current focus is on:

- (1) **Awareness Raising** - Increase awareness, knowledge, and collaboration among critical stakeholders (public, and private sector, academia, and the civil society) about Closed Looped Cycle Production.
- (2) **Analysis and Policy Advice** - Prepare and present position papers to stakeholders to facilitate high-level policy dialogue on economic and socio-environmental benefits of sustainable design and closed looped cycle production methods necessary for incentivizing and supporting the transition toward circular economies.
- (3) **Promote Application** - Promote the application or adoption of Closed Looped Cycle Production methods (incl. Cradle-to-Cradle, Cleaner Production, Sustainable Materials Management, or similar certifications and methods) by companies, in particular SMEs in participating countries.

3) Concrete activities and actions

The CLCP team and consortium have delivered training on the Closed Looped Cycle production methodologies to policy makers, companies, and other critical stakeholders in the three project countries. In Trinidad and Tobago, the CLCP team and Consortium is performing a study with the aim to find a sustainable alternative packaging to replace the Styrofoam containers produced within the Printing and Packaging Industry of Trinidad and Tobago. In Colombia, the

collaboration is focused on the promotion of the CLCP methodology and philosophy among the government, MSMEs and companies in general as a new business model that will facilitate the transition towards a circular economy. In Panama the CLCP team and Consortium is advising the Union de Industrialists of Panama (SIP) and the Consejo Nacional de Empresas Privadas (Conep) in the development of a green seal for companies based on CLCP philosophy.

4) Achievements and results

In the first phase of the CLCP program (2010-2013), the CLCP team, together with the Ministry of Coordination of Production, Employment and Competitiveness in Ecuador, and consortium partners, were able to demonstrate the feasibility of this methodology, by creating a national program on Closed Looped Cycle Production and successfully certifying an Ecuadorian product Cradle to Cradle (C2C). Ecuador thus became the first Latin American country with a certified product in C2C. In this new phase of the program (2013-2015), the most tangible results include the number of people trained on the CLCP methodologies. Up to now 200+ people including, public officers, entrepreneurs, and students have been trained in the topic of Closed Loop Cycle Production.

5) Sustainability

This initiative is highly sustainable through (1) the established public-private-partnerships in each project country where there is a clear commitment and ownership of the CLCP approach by national authorities, and (2) where through the introduction and application of the concept of 'Closed Looped Cycle Production' in the productive sector of participating nations, industrial or manufacturing processes are improved to achieve closed looped cycle consumption patterns or circular economies that will contribute to reducing dependency on continuous extraction of increasingly scarce and expensive commodities, improve energy efficiency as well as increased environmental performance while simultaneously improving the productivity, competitiveness, and sustainability of businesses.

6) Lessons learned

Based on past experience in Ecuador, for this phase of the initiative specific attention was placed on the early awareness raising and involvement of key counterpart ministries in the collective determination of the specific objectives to be achieved. The proper design of the work plan and securing early its official endorsement creates clarity among implementing partners and secures the proper commitment of the partners to address a diversity of needs in each project country. Having a committed counterpart ministry as a voice and proponent of the CLCP program has led to significant buy-in from other national institutions leading to access to a wider audience and broader impacts of the implementation activities.

7) Capacity for the exchange of this experience

Cooperation modality	Cooperation modalities the institution can provide to others	The institution may be able to provide this cooperation to others by
Information Sharing	X	Between July 2014 to October 2015
Conference Calls	x	Between July 2014 to October 2015
Videoconferences	x	Between July 2014 to October 2015
Workshops	x	Between July 2014 to October 2015
Technical and Experts Visits	x	Between July 2014 to October 2015

8) Author of this story

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The Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report 2014 is a product developed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago as RIAC Chair Pro Tempore 2014 and the OAS as RIAC Technical Secretariat with contributions received by the countries in the region, multilateral and academic institutions, and world-renowned experts.

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