



BEST PRACTICE Environmentally Concerned Community Self-supporting Community for Clean Neighborhood

Studying community-based solid waste management process



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Products of recycled paper. Used paper is turned into these handicrafts and sold in the market.

CHALLENGE Bojong Buah neighborhood in Bandung District lies to the south of Bandung City. The community members of Bojong Buah neighborhood has been throwing away their garbage at a local temporary disposal site (*Tempat Pembuangan Sementara – TPS*), where the local Sanitation Department has provided a solid waste container to serve two villages in the neighborhood. Once a week, the Sanitation Department had to carry the waste to final disposal site (*Tempat Pembuangan Akhir – TPA*). However, due to irregular schedule of solid waste pick up conducted by the Sanitation Department, the TPS was filled with piling up rubbish. Eventually, the community members threw their household waste into a nearby river or simply placed their bundled garbage bags on an empty yard nearby. After two years of such practice, the nearby Citarum River has been increasingly polluted and the surrounding environment looked unpleasant.

INITIATIVE Soenardhie Yogantara (Pak Yoga) is a local resident who took the initiative to solve the problem. He encouraged his neighbors and local community leaders to create a clean environment and eliminate waste by addressing the community at various gathering events and using every opportunity to discuss the issue with his fellow residents. Pak Yoga was not discouraged by some residents and community leaders who did not fully welcome his efforts. He made a brochure on garbage handling describing the source of garbage, processing and elimination. Finally, some residents responded to Pak Yoga's idea. They were known as "the initiative group" and met frequently to discuss waste burning matters at the TPS. The huge volume of solid waste made perfect incineration process impossible; therefore they needed the local Sanitation Department to carry the remaining waste to the TPA despite the Rp. 7 million cost required to cover 45 trips due to the limited capacity of the dump trucks.

Pak Yoga as the initiator financed the waste transport from his own pocket and bought decorative plants to be planted at the TPS. Viewing such contrast and the change to the TPS, his fellow neighbors started to respect Pak Yoga's efforts. Pak Yoga and his "initiative group" called themselves "Environmentally Concerned Citizens" (*Warga Perduli Lingkungan – WPL*). Using their own funds, they built a solid waste incinerator within the neighborhood. The main problems were carrying the waste from the source to the incinerator, and solid waste processing at the incineration site. Through discussions and support from more community members, they agreed to hire a garbage collector, an incinerator operator and build garbage carts. The two workers collected garbage to around 60 households in the area and

received voluntary fee from the residents. The activity of solid waste pick up and burning lasted for eight months and eventually ceased due to increasing number of squatters living at the incineration site. WPL convened to solve the issue and decided that the waste will be processed through a system of sorting, recycling and composting. WPL launched the new solid waste processing campaign verbally and through brochures, and started to process the waste by sorting it into two categories i.e. organic waste/garbage (food, vegetables, greenery) and non-organic waste (papers, plastics, food packaging). Organic waste is processed into compost and then sold. Non-organic waste is recycled, but only used paper is re-processed to be made into pencil cases, photo frames and such items.

RESULTS WPL's hard work has won support from the local government and the private sector who are non-regular donators to their activities. The local government granted ten garbage carts and chemicals to help the waste-composting process, and renovated the waste-processing site. Within a one year period, despite ongoing struggling to embrace more supports from fellow neighbors, WPL is able to reduce 80 percent of waste volume from the temporary disposal site to the final disposal site. Other WPL achievements are:

- Involved in the preparation of "Draft of Law on Waste Handling" at national level;
- Established solid waste management regulation at community level. This regulation determines that solid waste should be collected twice a week and that household waste may only be taken out at the time of pick up;
- Became an active partner of the Government of Bandung District and is involved in environment activities and at the Annual District Planning Conference;
- Involved in environment activities, among others as a member of "Forum Peduli Citarum" (Citizens Forum for Citarum), a member of "Citarum Bergetar" (Clean, Beautiful, Everlasting Citarum), a member of the parliamentary supervisory on environment, and entered into an agreement with the Bandung District local Sanitation Department and with the Self-Supporting Community for Clean Neighborhood (*Kawasan Bersih Warga Mandiri - KBWM*) on matters related with lowering the fee of waste disposal at the TPA.