

DENR-EMB IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JUNK NOT! REVIVES THE ART OF UPCYCLING IN COMMUNITIES

In celebration of the Philippine Environment Month, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) revives the art of upcycling through a community livelihood training in Barangay San Agustin, Novaliches, Quezon City last June 8, June 15, and June 16, 2021. Hosted in Zoom, “For the Love of Junk: Community Livelihood Training.”

EMB Assistant Director, Engr. Vizminda A. Osorio, highlighted the importance of upcycling in reducing the amount of trash disposed of in landfills.

“Upcycling is the art of reusing and repurposing old products into something new, doubling its original value. *Talagang may pera sa basura*. We just need to be more aware of what we can do, be more creative and learn new skills to be able to maximize the benefits of upcycling,” Osorio said.

This virtual training aims to empower communities through strengthened information campaign on solid waste management, livelihood opportunities, and reducing landfill waste. Idr. Wilhelmina “Willie” S. Garcia, artist and founder of Junk Not shared her expertise and experience in transforming junk into pieces of art. “The philosophy of Junk Not is designing for good; it is to balance the importance of our environment and the needs of its citizens.” Idr. Willie also highlighted the importance of strengthening the implementation of RA 9003 in the communities.

The activity which was made possible with the assistance of Councilor Abi Millar, also believes that proper waste management also helps in addressing health concerns. “It is also important for the women of this community to learn the craft of upcycling in terms of income generation,” Councilor Millar added.

Asst. Dir Osorio hoped that virtual training will provide everyone and their communities with new opportunities to explore. She added that, “no matter what we are going through these days, we won't stop being productive and keep striving to improve in whatever we do.”

The DENR-EMB is open to community collaboration and virtual training. Send your proposals and invitation through the EMB Facebook Page @DENREnviBureau. You may also visit our website www.emb.gov.ph for more information on Solid Waste Management.

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