



# Implementation of PCB Management Programs for Electric Cooperatives and Safe E-wastes Management

## INAUGURATION & COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONIES, FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE MRF/E WASTE FACILITY FOR BARANGAY BAKAKENG, BAGUIO CITY

25 September 2023 | Barangay Bakakeng Central, Baguio City



In September 2023, the project entitled “Implementation of PCB Management Programs for Electric Cooperatives and Safe e waste Management (PCB WEEE)”, implemented by the DENR and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with funding by the Global



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Environment Facility (GEF), in partnership with the local government of Baguio City and PLDT & Smart Communications Inc inaugurated the country's 3<sup>rd</sup> community-led e-waste facility in Barangay Bakakeng Central and the project partners signed a Cooperation Agreement supporting establishment and operations of the e waste facility in Baguio City.

Barangay Bakakeng's Punong Barangay Dan Daniel welcomed Mayor Benjamin Magalong and City Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda and DENR Central Office and CAR officials to the newly upgraded Materials Recovery Facility. In his message Mayor Magalong said that the MRF/e waste facility is part of the world climate change action plan of the city of Baguio and shared that Baguio is focusing on becoming a Smart City."

Undersecretary Jonas Leones, who chairs the Project Steering Committee of the project and Undersecretary Analiza Teh, the GEF operational focal point lead the DENR delegation. Undersecretary Leones lauded the Baguio City, UNIDO, DENR CAR and the project partners, including Integrated Recycling Industries, Inc., EcoWaste Coalition and the new partner from the private sector, SMART/PLDT for working on another e waste facility for household e wastes. He said "we at the denr will continue to work to protect the environment from POPs or from other harmful chemicals, as this is one of our commitments to the Stockholm Convention on POPs". Dr. Carmela Centeno from UNIDO Headquarters said that, "Over the years of implementation, we see the importance of the local government involvement. I am proud because the project as earned the accolades of the donor. The project has become an example for best practice for multistakeholder engagement and gender equity."

Ms. Vergel De Dios, the Chief Sustainability officer of PLDT & Smart Communications Inc. announced that some of their Smart Branches in the country has been designated as key collection points of e-waste. Smart/PLDT is supporting the establishment of the e waste facility in Baguio City.

Undersecretary Teh highlighted the importance of the involvement of women to be engaged in the GEF funded project as they are the one who are at risk. Usec. Teh recently attended a GEF Assembly meeting in Vancouver, Canada wherein the best practices on Gender of the PCB/WEEE project was showcased. The UNIDO/DENR/GEF project established 2 other e waste facilities in Metro Manila, the facilities in Barangay Bagong Silang, Caloocan City and Barangay Dampalit, Malabon City has already collected 50,000 cathode ray tubes from households, which contain 500 kg of polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE). The project has already initiated through EMB Regional Offices, EcoWaste Coalition and IRI several e waste collection events, which lead to the collection of at least 10 tons of e waste from households and at least 431 tons of recyclable materials were collected.

In May 2023, Barangay Bakakeng, Baguio City issued a resolution supporting the use of their existing Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) as an e waste facility. In August 2023, after appropriate



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clearances were issued by the DENR/EMB CAR, the upgrading of the MRF was initiated. Appropriate pneumatic tools and equipment were installed and training was provided to workers of the Barangay who will be operating the e waste facility.