

Paper Gains a New Life: A Sustainable Cycle

Planning Phase

Our innovative paper recycling program in Praia was designed to address Cabo Verde's environmental challenges. Through a closed-loop system, we transform paper waste into valuable products, contributing to local sustainability and economic growth.

Collection Network

Our extensive collection network targets the largest sources of paper waste in the community.

Businesses

- **Weekly collection service** for offices.
- **Secure collection** of confidential documents.
- **Special containers** for cardboard packaging.
- **Training** for office staff on proper separation.

Government Agencies

- **Specialized collection points** in government buildings.
- **Support for file cleanup** and archiving.
- **Policies for sustainable paper use.**
- **Digitization** of paper-based processes.

Schools

- **Educational collection programs.**
- **Monthly collection competitions** between classes.
- **Workshops on paper recycling.**
- **Supply of recycled paper** for school use.

Central Collection Points

- **Accessible locations** in commercial centers.
- **Clear instructions** for separation.
- **Reward system** for regular users.

Processing Workflow

Our small but efficient processing facility follows these steps:

1. **Separation:** Manual and mechanical segregation of different paper grades.

2. **Shredding:** Industrial paper shredders reduce the material.
3. **Disintegration:** Conversion into paper pulp with minimal water consumption.
4. **Forming:** Production of new paper products or exportable pulp.
5. **Drying:** Use of solar energy in the drying process.

Products and Applications

We have developed various end products to maximize value.

Local Production

- **School notebooks and office supplies.**
- **Cardboard packaging** for local products.
- **Insulation material** for the construction sector.
- **Paper crafts and artworks.**

Exports

- **High-quality paper pulp** for international markets.
- **Recycled cardboard fibers** for the packaging industry.

Environmental Impact

Our program provides significant environmental benefits:

- **Water savings:** Our process uses 70% less water than conventional paper production.
- **Energy savings:** Solar power drives most of our operations.
- **CO₂ reduction:** Reduced emissions due to less waste in landfills.
- **Forest protection:** Each ton of recycled paper saves approximately 17 trees.

Economic Benefits

We create local economic opportunities through:

- **Direct employment:** 12 full-time positions in collection and processing.
- **Indirect jobs:** Support for local artisans and paper artists.
- **Cost savings:** Lower waste management costs for businesses and government.
- **New skills:** Training in recycling technology and sustainable entrepreneurship.

Education and Awareness

Our educational program reaches thousands of people annually:

- **School visits:** Interactive workshops on the paper cycle.
- **Business training:** Seminars on paper economy and recycling.
- **Community events:** Paper recycling demonstrations.
- **Digital campaign:** Online awareness about the importance of paper recycling.

Planning and Implementation

Our program will be implemented in phases:

Phase 1 (Q3 2026)

- Establishment of collection points in large offices and government buildings.
- Installation of basic processing equipment.
- Initiation of the educational program in pilot schools.

Phase 2 (Q1 2027)

- Expansion of the collection network to include schools and small businesses.
- Increased processing capacity and introduction of new recycling technologies.
- Launch of large-scale public awareness campaigns.

Phase 3 (Q4 2027)

- Integration of advanced technologies to optimize renewable energy use.
- Establishment of partnerships with industries for the use of recycled products.
- Continuous evaluation and adjustment of the program based on community feedback.

Long-Term Vision

Our goal is to create a replicable model that can be adopted by other regions of Cabo Verde and beyond. By fostering a culture of recycling and reuse, we hope to contribute significantly to environmental preservation and inspire future generations to adopt sustainable practices.