From Waste to Wealth –Recycling as an Agent of Change for Developing Countries, using Sierra Leone as a Case Study.

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The increasing awareness in the Freetown Municipality about the need to save and protect our environment in relation with the disposal of the wastes generated is a very positive step in the right direction because Waste Management is one of the major environmental concerns in the world and Sierra Leone in particular. With the scarcity of space for land field and due to its ever-increasing cost, waste utilization has become an attractive alternative to disposal.

Several Research has been carried out on the utilization of waste products in several areas. Such waste products among other's including discarded tires and plastic which can be reused and converted into something else. Reuse of bulky wastes (Plastic) is considered the best environmental alternative for solving the problem of disposal taking into consideration that it has several applications.

A mixed method research approach was used to determine a number of parameters in the recycling industry in Sierra Leone taking into consideration the fact that the concept of recycling is still a very new one here and as such most people do not actually understand it benefits or its applications so far.

A number of positive results came out of this research which indicates that in Sierra Leone over 60% of the waste generated is not been disposed of properly which creates the need for it to be recycled, and in the process create jobs for unemployed youths in the communities. Another interesting discovery that came out is that among the various recycling application that are applicable to the Sierra Leone context one of them which has to do with converting plastic to recycled pavement tiles stands out more considering it's cheap and can easily be implemented.

From the above the concept of transforming waste into wealth is very much in place in Sierra Leone because of the huge economic benefits i.e. job creation for the unemployed youths, not to mention the other associated health benefits it also has because with this new initiative waste generated will now be a valuable commodity and will no longer be disposed of irresponsible.