

# Recycling Center, Bwa Nèf



Department: West

The recycling center of Bwa Nef is one out of six recycling centers in Cite Soleil set up by Samaritans Purse. It is undoubtedly a successful market-based solution to the cumbersome sanitation problem in Cite Soleil.



**What can other communities learn from the recycling center in Bwa Nef?**

\* Making recycling into a business





The recycling centers are open from 6m-7pm from Monday-Saturday. They have a scale and equipment to compress plastic bottles. When plastic bottles are collected, they are washed and pressed until flat and then weighed. The recycling center pays 4 gourdes per pound and then resells them for 6 gourdes a pound. On average the recycling center can purchase more than 1000 pounds a day. When the rain falls, they can buy up to 1500 pounds a day, because trash from other neighborhoods in Port au Prince comes flowing down the canals into Cite Soleil. It has recently begun buying Jumex bottles (which are melted down to make stoves and spoons) for 12 gourdes and then reselling them for 15 gourdes.

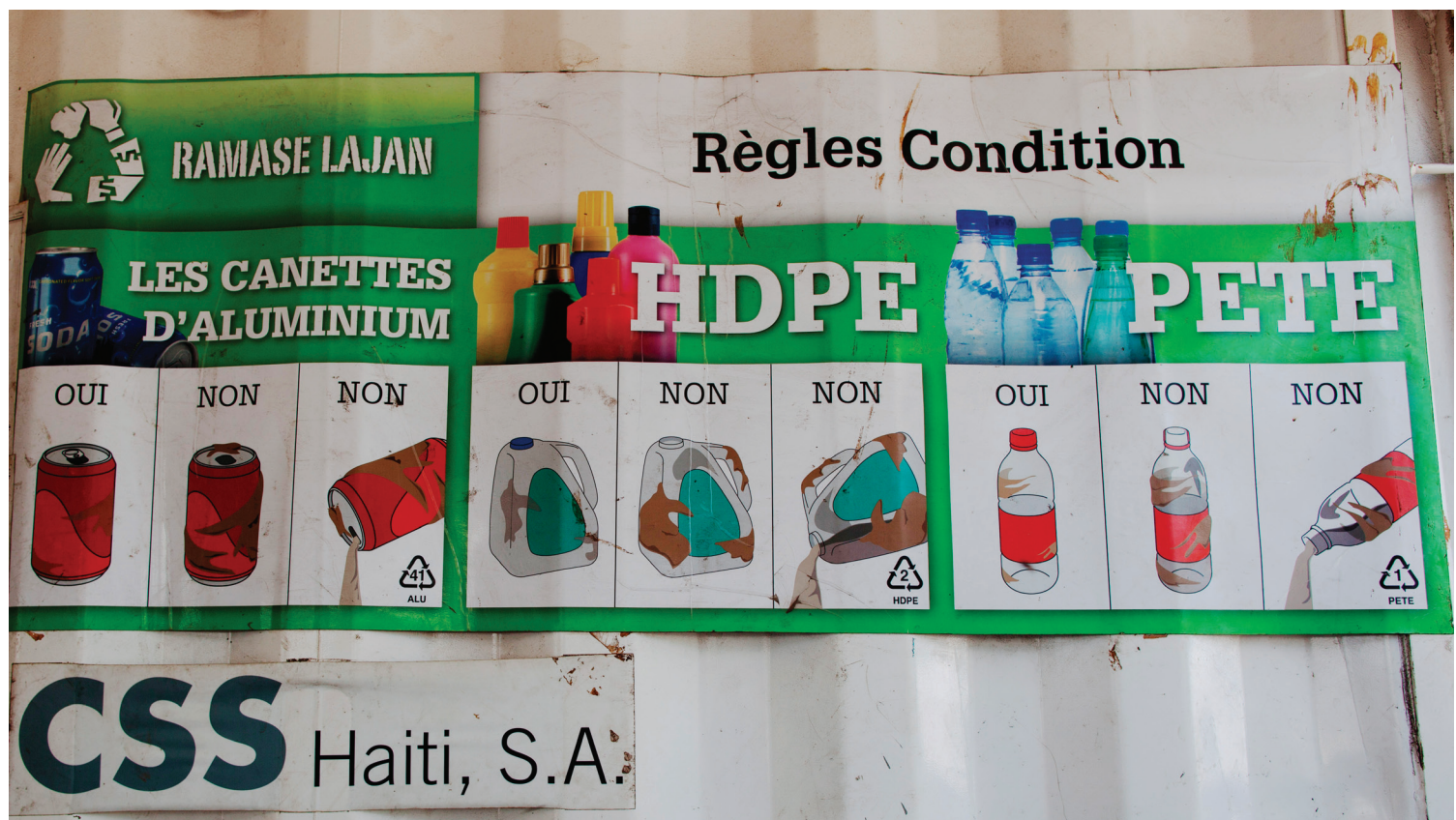
The recycling centers have expanded the market for recycling goods, and created a notable incentive for making Cite Soleil cleaner. In addition to the 5 people employed by Mr. Laguerre's center, there are countless people who have increased their income while at the same time ridding Cite Soleil of the plastic bottles that would otherwise be clogging up its streets and canals.





## What can other communities learn from Bwa Nef's Recycling Center?

This is a good example of a market-based approach to solving environmental challenges, and could be a good model for other urban areas suffering from trash problems. Other communities could learn the principles of recycling and about the recycling business as a whole, and could be inspired to start recycling enterprises of their own. Mr. Laguerre also can teach basic principles of small business management, as he has been one of the most successful recycling center operators, which can be credited to his management skills.



### Contact Information:

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