

ZAMKANDA

A Zambian Governance Foundation Initiative





Introduction

To combat the negative consequences of climate change and support impoverished communities in peri-urban Lusaka, a group of NGO employees, 'wastepreneurs' and solar energy experts developed a low-cost method to collect and turn food waste into organic compost.

In December 2021, the team started collecting food waste from various locations in Lusaka and turning the food waste into organic compost. Later, they hired individuals who lived off day labor jobs or collected plastic bottles and sold them to recycling companies to earn a living. As part of their commitment to reducing emissions, the team only uses human-powered transport, such as wheelbarrows, hand carts and bicycle trailers.

Why Zamkanda exists

Turning food waste into compost helps prevent food waste from being dumped at the Lusaka City Council landfill, the Chunga Sanitary Landfill, which covers 24 hectares. According to the Manager, 500,000 to 1,200,000 kg of waste is dumped at the landfill daily. Food thrown out in landfills starts to rot and produces methane.

Scientists believe that if we stopped throwing away food, we could prevent the production of 11% of greenhouse gas emissions. Landfills are the third largest source of methane emissions globally.

Zamkanda is a member of a global initiative, the Gigatonne Challenge, a radically decentralized global climate strategy with teams contributing to reducing carbon emissions across the globe.



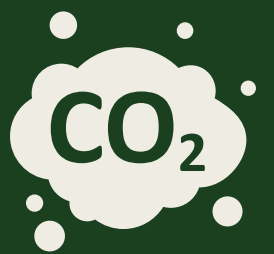
Successes to date



250,000 kg of food waste collected



In the process of signing an MOU with the local authorities (Lusaka City Council)



Abatement of 250 tons of CO₂



Six individuals employed



In the process of getting a recycling license



The process



Collection (using zero-emission transport)

Weighing



Composting

Sieving



Get in touch with us

Contact Ms Eness Mukubekube



+260 97 961 7344/+260 97 154 9054



zamkanda2022@gmail.com



Facebook: /zamkanda2022

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