

June 2013 visit to Bo by the Waste Management team

In June of this year Derek Greedy and I had a further opportunity to visit Bo for a week to evaluate the usage of the council present landfill sites. We had been asked to look at the two sites that are presently used and have the potential for disposing of Bo City's waste. The UK Government are paying for this project and are using an NGO called Welt Hungerhilfe who are working in the country and we are supporting them.

The council has started using an unofficial site immediately adjacent to the Bo/Kenema highway. We understand that the owner wants to see the land in-filled to bring it up to the surrounding ground levels for possible development in the long term.

The reason for the Council's interest in this site is due to a number of key factors. The site is close to a good road network, very close to the centre of Bo, resulting in good turnaround times, reduced fuel costs and reduced wear and tear on the vehicles compared to the council owned site on the Bo/Makeni road.

If any of you have been out to BO and used the Bo/Makeni road leading to the official site it is in a very poor condition and is understood to have been constructed in the 1930's therefore the damage that could happen to vehicles could end up being very expensive. I am sure no maintenance has ever taken place since it was built.

Another part to the project is supporting small business develop in using recyclable materials. A number businesses applied for support. The support covered small amount for tools, but mainly skills base learning in Marketing and Developing the business. The photograph shows you one of the winning business that make bags out of water bags, that keep the inter bag dry.

At the end of the visit a technical report was produced to advise on a way forward.

On a different note, I have been very lucky to be part of the Solid Waste project since 2007 and what has struck me is how the Country and Bo City is steadily improving. The first time I visited the hovercraft sunk when entering Freetown and I was rowed ashore in a very sustainable wooden canoe, now it is the new fast taxi boats.

There was not really any tarmac road, but thanks to the Chinese you can now drive from Bo to Kenema in around 45 mins, to have a very nice meal with Bishop Patrick and in Bo they now have 900 solar powered street lights that have really changed the outlook of the city, and finally, we could not believe our eyes when we saw a new supermarket had

opened that sell nearly everything that our supermarkets sell, including legs of lamb, Mars bars and Cornflakes.

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Sustainable Communities
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