



COUNTRY	PROVINCE	POPULATION	WASTE MANAGEMENT TARGET	WASTE GENERATION
ARGENTINA	MENDOZA	1,235,708	100% MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL; 50% RECYCLING (NO DATE MENTIONED)	1,400 TONNES OF WASTE/ DAY IN 2012

Promoting a socially inclusive model of comprehensive waste management in Mendoza

In 2019, the provincial government of Mendoza launched the “Integrated Urban Solid Waste Management Project” ([Proyecto Gestión Integral de Residuos Sólidos Urbanos, PGIRS](#)) to achieve 100% urban solid waste treatment in the metropolitan area of Mendoza and the Uco Valley, with two goals: environmental protection and social inclusion of informal workers in the sector. The seven municipalities of the Mendoza metropolitan area^a generate about **70%** of the waste produced in the province, which is about 1,400 tonnes of waste per day. In 2015, **40%** of waste generated was disposed of in open dumps, where materials were collected informally for recycling by “urban waste workers”. The PGIRS therefore plans to permanently close and clean up all open dumps^b and eventually recycle 50% of this waste.

From collection to processing, formalising waste management

The \$20 million project is based on the construction of two main infrastructures: the Maipú waste separation plant and the [El Borbollón Environmental Centre](#), in the department of Las Heras, around an impermeable sanitary landfill. Still under construction, the centre will be equipped with separation and composting plants, as well as a system to capture the biogas generated by the landfill. Three new transfer stations will manage waste from the more remote towns in the Uco Valley, grouped together in an Inter-Municipal Consortium for Integral Urban Solid Waste Management ([COINCE](#)), at a cost of \$5 million. In 2019, **90%** of urban waste was already disposed of in the El Borbollón landfill. “Green Centres”, or *Centros Verdes*, are to be opened to sort recyclable materials, and will be operated by the informal waste workers who work in the landfills. Eventually, more than **1,000** jobs will be created.

Supporting informal waste workers

In addition to these environmental and health objectives, the PGIRS [‘Social Inclusion Plan’](#) aims to formalise the professional situation of waste workers, restoring their source of income by improving their working conditions and quality of life. The Civil Association of Urban Waste Workers of the province of Mendoza (ACRUM), which brings together six waste workers’ cooperatives, won a **\$1,800,000** grant from a Mendoza trust fund in early 2020, to improve its equipment, technical capacity and work infrastructure. As part of the *Ser Cooperativo* programme, reclaimers can attend training and [literacy](#) workshops.

In 2019, the municipality of Guaymallén inaugurated its *Centro Verde*, la [Planta de Clasificación de Residuos Sólidos Urbanos fracción seca](#) in the Jesús Nazareno district. The centre relies on different collection sites and methods, such as mobile “green points” (to allow the collection of recyclable waste), containers in different neighbourhoods, municipal delegations and the commitment of more than 50 companies to sort solid waste. The project was developed with the support of Danone

(through its Global Ecosystem Fund), the Regional Initiative for Inclusive Recycling of the municipality of Guaymallén and the National Ministry of Social Development. Eventually, more than **100** waste collectors will have their work formalised.

In 2021, the municipality of Luján de Cuyo also inaugurated its *Centro Verde* for collecting the recyclable waste produced in the department (mainly paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, textiles, and metal containers). This is the [first public facility](#) for the segregation, collection, packaging and recycling of municipal solid waste in the department. The centre is managed by the waste collectors of the [“La Fortaleza de Mi Tierra”](#) cooperative, which now has **19** members trained to operate the centre. The municipality has also set up **100** new “green points” on public roads. With the creation of the [“Argentina Recicla”](#) programme in May 2021, the national government is following in Mendoza’s footsteps for the social and economic integration of waste workers.

^a Ciudad de Mendoza, Godoy Cruz, Guaymallén, Las Heras, Lavalle, Luján de Cuyo and Maipú.

^b Those in Campo papa, Puente de Hierro, and Cacheuta.