

## “RECICLA-BIO”: SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT AT THE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA - UNB

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Nowadays, the correct destination of trash is one of the worst problems that humanity has to fight against. Therefore, the concept of sustainable development has arisen, and its main guideline is the rational consumption, without losses or accumulation of wastes harmful to the environment. In spite of the popularity of these concepts, studies have shown that these ideas are not often applied. Thus, the PET-Bio group held in 2007 a survey of solid waste management at the Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Brasilia, where there was a lack of sustainable practices. In 2009, the group created the project “Recicla-Bio”, which aimed to bring the waste sorting culture at the Institute and the proper disposal of generated waste with consequent mitigation of impacts to the environment.

In the first phase of the project, which has been already completed, the awareness of community of the Institute was prioritized: informative posters and leaflets were distributed and a series of lectures on topics related to waste management were promoted, among other necessary actions.

The step in progress is the establishment of a paper management system: cardboard boxes for the disposal of paper are being distributed to the laboratories, offices and other rooms of the Institute. Fortnightly, these discarded materials are collected, taken to a Cooperative member and recycled. Some partnerships were performed in order to achieve this phase of the project: “Escola Classe 13 de Sobradinho” (an elementary school whose students painted the boxes to be distributed), and “Sapiens - Biological Consulting”, responsible for the collection of papers deposited in the boxes and for sending them to the Cooperative. It should be emphasized the partnership with the School “Escola Classe 13 de Sobradinho”, which brought the added benefit of promoting awareness of sustainable practices to elementary school students.

Although that system has been recently implemented, it shows very promising. It is believed that after improving the dissemination of the project and forming more partnerships, other types of solid waste (such as metal, plastic, batteries, etc.) generated at the Institute may have an appropriate destination.