

CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

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On February 25, Winnie, Ching, China, Lily and Susan, members of the Environmental Study Group, met up with Mrs. Nina Del Rosario, who is one of the founders of Clean Technology. Clean Technology is a waste processing facility located in Imus, Cavite. During our drive from Alabang, Nina explained to us how it began.

Clean Technology was first involved in the distribution of odour control products for garbage. The deodorant encapsulates an ingredient that neutralizes unpleasant smells from garbage and importantly is environmentally friendly, non-toxic and hypoallergenic.

Later, Clean Technology addressed the garbage problem itself, hoping to end the use of open dump sites and landfills in the Philippines. Through the use of simple technology, recognized by the Environmental Department and the Department of Science and Technology, they used methods such as shredding or pulverizing, mixing and moulding.

Once we were in Imus, we first saw where biodegradable garbage was processed into compost. The process takes a week for the garbage to be converted into fertilizer. It is done in a clean and organized manner, with no stench at all. Sacks and sacks of fertilizer quickly filled Winnie's van!

The ultimate goal of clean technology is zero waste, through the transformation of solid waste into useful things. The bricks Nina showed are an example of this. These bricks are used for either pathways or sidewalks. Here shredded plastic is mixed with cement to form cement bricks, which are similar, but more environmentally conscious and less expensive, compared to those sold for 7 pesos more in home depot stores. Aside from that, toys, paper charcoal and bags are among Clean Technologies items made from garbage.

Nina hopes to raise the awareness of society through social mobilization, at the grassroot level. Currently, Clean Technology is promoting the segregation of garbage in barangays and schools. They teach school children that paper charcoal is ideal for grilling food, that way they can save money and the environment. Imus sets an example for others, in that the Barangays, with a population of around 300,000, process 100 to 120 tons of garbage into something useful daily. This is fantastic progress and we hope Nina and her barangay continue to inspire others.