**REWMOS Workshop Minutes**

*Nuru Maishani*



Workshop Venue: Golf Hotel Kakamega

8th August 2019

**Solibrium Limited**
**Tel:** +254709753104
**P.O Box:** 1348-50100

**Email:** info@solibrium-solar.com

**Website:** [www.solibrium-solar.com](http://www.solibrium-solar.com/)

# REWMOS Workshop Minutes

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## Mark Lung

* Transition from linear to circular economy
* Steps include
	+ Design out waste
	+ Practice reuse, maintenance, repair, remanufacture, and recycle.
	+ Government should create an environment to support entrepreneurs on E-Waste.
	+ Continue using products for as long as possible
		- Eg: solar batteries rebooted in postal service vehicles in Switzerland
	+ Government creates environment that supports circular economy
		- Instead of increasing taxes, give opportunity for innovation and support entrepreneurs
* E-waste is not a menace, it’s an opportunity

## Mr. Palapala: CGK

* E-waste is a problem but what are the solutions?
* Encourage thinking more about E-waste from an individual point of view.
* People as individuals can/are contributing
* Teach in schools how to handle e-waste
* Due to the large following, we should use churches & pastors to preach negativity from e-waste.
* Consider sensitizing schools on cheap and low-quality products and wastes being damped in schools as donations.

## Essau: Solibrium Operations Manager

* Solibrium distributes solar home systems, but also has negative impact on environment
* Want to involve community to conservation, introduce ideas and involve them in decision making

## Hardley Malema: Resource efficiency & waste management of solar products

* Aim to work together with other companies to tackle issues of e-waste
* Lithium ion: hazardous material
* Things done:
	+ Understand usage patterns
	+ Educate users
	+ Create awareness
	+ High level engagement
	+ Life cycle analysis
* Most solar kits are pay-as-you-go with deposit then small payments

## Edwin Kipruto: Best practices used by Solibrium

* To extend lifespan of products
	+ Battery lasts for only 3 years because of lack of maintenance
* Best practices include:
1. Provision of user manuals with graphics
2. Firmware and software updates.
3. Biodegradable packaging materials.
4. Genuine spare parts.
5. Provision of warranty for products through manufacturers
6. Right tools for technicians
7. Continuous training to remain competitive and updated on new designs
8. Establish regional repair centre (in Nairobi) or partner with other people to repair
* D-light refurbishes solar equipment

## Chris: What Next?

1. Continued research on aspects of solar e-waste in Western Kenya. How?
	* Scale and number of picosolar and SHS users
	* Distribution and pattern of use of solar products to identify reasons for failure
	* Understand the volume of e-waste and methods people use to discard it
2. Develop a database of solar users & solar e-waste
	* Map availability and distribution of e-waste including pricing, accessibility and component type
3. Develop a database of formal and informal sector in Western Kenya to repair and recycle
	* Map availability and distribution of fundis
* Goal: to generate Private Public Partnership (PPP)
	+ Work with formal and informal sector so move forward as a block
	+ See commitment and roadmap of how will finalize partnership

Questions from audience:

* Create collection points through partnering
* Some counties charge for transportation of e-waste
* Talk to county governors so come up with agreement
* Would classifying e-waste as raw material aid to avoid charges

## Partnership Discussion

1. Thuo:
	* Awareness to local communities, schools & churches
	* Hybrid business model where companies complement each other to reduce waste.
	* Exchange household items for electronics
	* Incentivize people to give own e-waste so they don’t feel cheated
2. Mark:
	* People are lazy in the US; for recycling, people have to pay so use online platforms and e-waste businesses come and collect from home
3. Dlight
	* Take product at a fee and send person to verify problem (retention manager)
4. Chris:
	* Dlight is a solar retainer; what should Solibrium do to develop partnership?
* Book an appointment to discuss terms.
* Partnership agreement.
* Share Solibrium’s client base with Dlight to give to their retention officers to help collect wastes.
1. Dlight:
	* Dlight has spare parts of batteries and lights
	* Partnered with Light Africa
	* Partner in life expansion
	* Need to know client database of Solibrium and come to agreement
	* Share information with retention officers
2. Vihiga County: create package deal of solar to help with the pending electricity bill
3. Radio: Lubao FM
	* Train “our” personnel
	* Looking at future, county government has bigger part to play; invest as county government to have new curriculum because solar is taking over society
	* Train youths on solar
	* Company training is extra cost, so government should take responsibility to have people fully developed and trained
	* Tell us what you want people to know
	* Public awareness: how to target audience?
		+ Everyone is a part of target audience with different ways of advertising
		+ Sales team should be part of the conversation
4. Chris:
	* As Solibrium, power in collecting information
	* How do we come together to collect information?
5. Dlight:
	* Wafundis and GIZ have very good structure to make sure solar products reach end user
	* Generation Kenya trains every sales person and look for where to attach people that they have been training
	* Lots of e-waste has been stored in national government offices and classify it as raw material
	* We are seeking your direct involvement in our work
		+ Develop collection centers, which would make it easier to work from there on
6. Gilfine:
	* Government to incentivize people, but there are gaps in information; is there any platform that we can access?
7. Thuo:
	* Use avenues of schools and churches

## Aceleron

* Based in Birmingham with 2 solar home systems (B-box)
* Lithium ion batteries; not welding but compression
* Batteries don’t die, they just degrade, so can be re-used for up to 2- 2 ½ years
* Also have power-wall like Tesla’s (35% of cost is inverter)