

RECOVERING AND RECYCLING MARINE PLASTIC WASTE IN CHILE

The Comberplast company of Chile won the [2019 Latinoamerica Verde Award in the Oceans Category](#) whit its [Atando Cabos](#) project that recovers and recycles tons of marine plastic waste making sustainable products.

Comberplast is a recycling and manufacturing company of plastic products in Chile, with more than 40 years of experience which adopts the Circular Economy approach. The company decided to design the *Atando Cabos* project to help clean the coasts and the ecosystem of the Island of Chiloé, reducing the impact on the environment generated by plastic waste from aquaculture and fishery industries. A study carried out by the company had shown that there were about 4,000 tons of disused marine ends and Comberplast developed a plan to recover and recycle these plastic wastes generating circular economy.

The project collects the plastic waste that ends on beaches, islands and fjords, to transform them back into raw material and return them to the production chain as long-term recyclable products, such as plastic pallets, plastic boxes, garbage containers, useful for the same industries and communities.

Atando Cabos is a project that generates an important economic, social and environmental impact. In 2018 Comberplast set out to reuse 800 tons of discarded plastics in its plant and managed to recycle more than 1,000 tons. In 2019, the company's challenge is to be able to rescue another 2,000 tons of plastic waste from the southern coast.

The project involves all the actors in the production chain to be able to collectively give a second life to the discarded waste. The project has allowed the creation of jobs in the recovery areas, trained artisanal fishermen and worked collaboratively with enterprises and trade organizations.

One main partner of Comberplast is the company Recollect, a pioneer in waste management for the fishing industry in the southern part of Chile. This company removes the different wastes from the aquaculture and fisheries industries that are abandoned on beaches, and also recovers the waste that companies deliver there, such as capes, nets, buoys, among



others. All these materials are deposited in different *Recollect collection centers* on the territory. For the fishing industries, the project represents an interesting alternative to eliminate waste. Artisanal fishermen also participate in the collection activities of waste discarded on the beaches.

Recollect manages the wastes and sends them to the Comberplast plant in Santiago. In the plant the material is crushed and then washed (extracting organic remains, salts and sands), to be filtered and transformed into pellets. Finally, with this new material, high quality and performance products are created.

The [document submitted by Comberplast to the Latinamerica Verde Award](#) shows that the first stage of the project consisted of an intense research activity focused on the development of a technology capable of processing these plastic wastes that until now were not possible to recycle and transform them into resources, giving them a new value. The development of the technology has required, for example, the analysis of the materials to determine percentages of contamination, flow rates, mixing of other polymers. It also required the acquisition of machinery capable of processing the ends, of washers and dehumidifiers specialized, of additives and filters specially developed for this project, to produce a first quality raw material.

However, these highly technological components of the project, manageable by a company like Comberplast, have been articulated in a productive chain that involves a large number of local actors, generating economic benefits, preventing plastic waste contaminating the sea and beaches and returning its beauty to the territory.

The company plans to continue in its work to achieve the goal of 4,000 tons of waste recovered and recycled in Chiloé, and at the same time works to extend its recycling activity of other waste and to extend the initiative to other geographical areas of the region.

To know more

[Atando Cabos website](#)

[Atando Cabos - Premio Latinoamerica Verde 2019](#)

[Atando Cabos - Premio Latinoamerica Verde 2019](#)

[Recollect website](#)

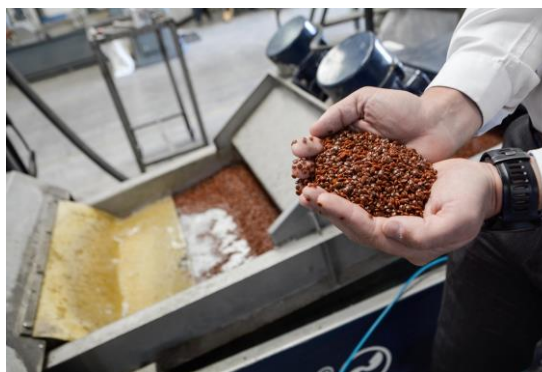
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BIENVENIDO PESQUERA FRIOSUR A
PROGRAMA ATANDO CABOS

