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Machu Picchu Pueblo is the First City in Latin America to Recycle 100% of Solid Waste into Bio-Char

1 month ago · by Amy

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Machu Picchu Pueblo has become the first destination in Latin America to recycle 100% of its solid waste into bio-char, following the implementation of an organic waste treatment plant.

This latest environmental initiative from Inkaterra, Peru's leader in sustainable tourism and hotel development, in partnership with The AJE Group (a Peruvian multinational beverage company) and the Municipality of Machu Picchu Pueblo, has transformed the city into a model for global sustainability.

Using a method known as pyrolysis, the new plant has the capacity to process eight tons of waste every day to generate bio-char, a natural fertiliser that encourages reforestation in the Andean cloud forest and contributes to agricultural productivity in the area. It will also be utilised for an ongoing project to reforest the historic sanctuary of Machu Picchu, which aims to plant quinine trees within the Inca citadel.

Founder and CEO of Inkaterra, José Koechlin, said: "By engaging with the ecological conscience of the local community, our aim for Machu Picchu to become a sustainable destination has been achieved. This innovative technology will continue to contribute towards traditional agriculture and responsible tourism in the cloud forest."

The opening of the new organic waste treatment plant completes the circle of sustainability in Machu Picchu, a three-part initiative delivered by Inkaterra and AJE Group. The project commenced in 2017, with the donation of the first plastic waste compactor plant in the city, which currently processes 14 tons of PET plastic each day. The plant cleans and recycles plastic from the town and surroundings, as well as discarded plastic found on the Inca Trail, and was instrumental in preventing the citadel entering the UNESCO list of Heritage Sites at Risk. In 2018 a biodiesel plant, which recycles used vegetable oil from local homes, hotels, and restaurants, was inaugurated at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. Today, the plant produces 20 gallons of biodiesel fuel on a daily basis, and prevents 6,000 litres of used oil being dumped into the Vilcanota River each month. Following the implementation of the plant, Inkaterra was awarded the 2018 Golden Palme Award, in the 'Responsible Tourism' category, for the continued commitment to improving and creating eco-friendly initiatives in Machu Picchu Pueblo.

With the completion of the initiative, Machu Picchu Pueblo has become an exemplary model for sustainable tourism and echoes Inkaterra's brand values across the group of eco-luxury lodges in Peru.

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Amy

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Floor 2, 1 Livsey Street, Rochdale, Greater
Manchester, OL16 1SS, United Kingdom
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4446
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