

## **REPORT ON RCE EXCURSION AT MR. GREEN, VINTS PLASTICS AND WEEE CENTRE**

A team of about **30** RCE participants including NEMA board chair, two board members, Deputy vice-chancellor University of Eldoret , Kenya Forest Research Institute KEFRI Director and Ag. Deputy director EEAT visited the above facilities to familiarize themselves on the green technologies that are geared towards circular economy.

At Mr. Green plastic waste recycling facility, the visitors were given a brief talk by facility's head of operations where she introduced her team and took members through the journey the company has been through since inception up to where they are now. She informed the visitors that the company now has branches in Kisumu, Nairobi, Mombasa and Somalia. Members were then given tour of the facility beginning from raw materials selection/sorting area, bailing, cold and hot washing areas and finally the pelleting as the end product for commercial use. The tour was indeed very educative and there was a suggestion of it being replicated in every county to ease on solid waste management.

The visitors then Proceeded to Vintz Plastics, a Material recovery facility. Members were informed that the facility receives about 6-7 tonnes of waste daily and that only 10% of waste generated in Kenya is recycled. The board chair encouraged the facility management to consider forming partnerships with institutions of higher learning and offer internships to enhance technology transfer. He also noted that indeed waste is wealth and can offer income to many unemployed youths in the country. He emphasized the need to replicate the technology used at the facility in each county by forming linkages with county governors. NEMA board chair further emphasized on the need to educate the public on solid waste segregation. The visitors were taken through the operations at the waste handling facility and shown some of the products that are made from the recycled waste that included: fencing poles, plastic water containers, roofing materials, plastic chairs, waste bins among others. The board chair and his members were presented with gifts from the management of the facility.

The final facility the team visited was WEEE Centre, a facility that deals with E-waste management. Mr. Arthur Mwangi took members through the history of the facility. He informed

members that the Curriculum for E-waste technicians has been spearheaded by WEEE center in collaboration with GIZ for the country. The curriculum is for training Level 2 craft course. There are also open partnerships with universities and they are currently partnering with Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. He informed members that about 5000 tonnes of e-waste is generated in the country annually and that E-waste can indeed create wealth for the country if people moved away from linear to circular economy models. A point to note is that the facility also liaises with other recyclers nationally and overseas in e-waste management. This facility is the only one licensed in Kenya to handle E-waste and hence a major challenge in management of such waste. The facility also issues certificate of disposal to corporates who are the main source of e-waste materials. This certificate helps these corporates to showcase how they contribute to carbon footprint. The facility has also played a key role in the development of National e-waste guidelines and are in the process of setting up circular economic hubs in partnership with the youth in the country. Members were taken through various section of the operations of the facility including the computer dismantling area where a decision is made to either reuse/refurbish/or recycle e-waste product and the battery recycling section etc. The board chair commended the management of the good job the facility is doing in ensuring a clean environment and a better health for everyone. Members had an opportunity to sample a number of recycled batteries and solar applications. The facility however, still faces challenges of recycling e-waste from solar panels.