

Filipinos turn volcano's ash, plastic trash into bricks

January 18 2020



Officials are combining ash with sand, cement and discarded plastic to form about 5,000 bricks per day

Ash spewed by a Philippine volcano is being mixed with plastic waste to make bricks in an inventive response to the country's persistent problems

of pollution and frequent natural disasters.

The Taal volcano burst into life nearly a week ago, sending towering dust columns into the sky and leaving nearby Binan city coated in fine grey powder.

Environment officials did not just clean up the mess but decided to combine the ash with sand, cement and discarded plastic to form about 5,000 bricks per day for local building projects.

"Instead of just piling up the ashfall somewhere, we are able to turn it into something useful. And it includes plastics, too," said city environmental officer Rodelio Lee.

The Philippines faces a waste crisis, with a report last year saying it uses a "shocking" amount of single-use plastic, including nearly 60 billion throwaway sachets per year.

It is also plagued by some 20 major storms annually and regular, powerful earthquakes which together kill hundreds of people each year.

Due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" zone of seismic activity, it also has periodic volcanic eruptions.

Taal's jets of lava and 15-kilometer (nine-mile) walls of ash have sent more than 70,000 people into evacuation centres and prompted warnings that a far bigger eruption could happen at any time.



The Taal volcano burst into life nearly a week ago



The Philippines faces a waste crisis, with a report last year saying it uses a 'shocking' amount of single-use plastic



With volcanic ash and plastic both in plentiful supply, the officials in Binan see their project as a silver lining

With [volcanic ash](#) and [plastic](#) both in plentiful supply, the officials in Binan see their project as a silver lining.

"During these times, our creativity becomes apparent," said the mayor of Binan, Arman Dimaguila.

© 2020 AFP

Citation: Filipinos turn volcano's ash, plastic trash into bricks (2020, January 18) retrieved 3 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2020-01-filipinos-volcano-ash-plastic-trash.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.