

NEWSLETTER

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"Nature always has the solutions we need, and by working with natural processes like insect farming, we aim to balance humans and the environment, creating a balanced ecosystem."

Dear friends, supporters and partners, we are excited to share the first quarterly newsletter of Eco Alchemy and for the first quarter of 2025. A lot has happened and we are eager to show you and hope your spirits will be uplifted as you go through it

The Journey After Kanthari

After spending 7 months in Kanthari, I emerged as a transformed person. One thing remained unchanged though, the fire within me, burning brighter than ever, ready to fuel my social venture. I felt fully equipped, yet a wave of mixed emotions washed over me.

Even though I had started my venture before joining Kanthari, returning felt like stepping into a brand-new chapter. So much had changed, within me and in how the venture would operate. It even had a new name: ECO ALCHEMY. Eco stands for sustainability - working in harmony with nature and Alchemy symbolizes transformation -turning something ordinary into something valuable. That's exactly what we do, we protect the environment by transforming organic waste into useful products.

So, what did I do next? I embraced the uncertainty and took the first step, right alongside the community. To my surprise, they welcomed the idea with open arms. Seeing how receptive they were was inspiring, and that even gave me more confidence to push forward.



Beneficiaries Onboarding

We welcomed 19 beneficiaries into our pilot project- **The Waste To Opportunity**. 15 of them were unemployed youth searching for opportunities and 4 were farmer struggling to manage their agricultural waste due to poor post-harvest practices. Each of them had a story a challenge and a desire for change and to create an impact within the community.

At Eco Alchemy we believe that waste is not the end of the line, it's the beginning of something valuable. Our mission is simple but powerful: To transform organic waste into valuable and useful resources through sustainable insect farming.

In doing so we empower communities with skills, create opportunities, and promote environmental responsibility. Every step we take brings us closer to a cleaner, more sustainable future, one where waste becomes a solution and not a problem



participants having tea during the onboarding session

Setting the Foundation

With the incredible help of our community, friends, and family, we took a bold first step and launched the first stage of our training. This is where we laid the foundation and opened the minds of our participants to new ways of thinking.

We introduced them to the world of insect farming, and waste management. Our goal here was to plant a seed of knowledge and spark awareness within them, to see how small actions like insect farming could create a ripple effect leading to a cleaner environment, better livelihoods and a more sustainable future.



Participants during a group discussion on problem tree analysis of poor waste management

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Hands-on Learning in Action



Caren practically showing the participants how insect larvae and devouring organic waste

We completed the hands-on training where our participants practically learned how to turn organic waste into protein-rich animal feed and organic fertilizer.

It was inspiring to see their excitement as they watched the insect larvae transform waste.

In those moments they realized the power of small actions and pledged to always make a difference in their communities and the environment.

Entrepreneurship Training

At Eco Alchemy, we believe insect farming can both tackle pollution and unemployment. With this in mind, we hosted a successful entrepreneurship session joined by business experts from Strathmore Business School.

They guided our participants through the Business Model Canvas and showed them how to turn insect farming into a profitable venture. With hands-on support in developing strong business plans, our participants are now better equipped to start their farms, creating impact while also helping clean the environment.



Samuel, a participant presenting his Business Model Canvas

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Our Founder's Visit to KIRDI-Kisumu



Our Founder paid a visit to KIRDI Kisumu. KIRDI is a government agency that supports research, small businesses, and technology transfer among others.



They work in areas like food processing, value addition, renewable energy, and environmental management all things which align perfectly with what we do at eco alchemy.



She got have discussions on how our participants could get a hands-on training on value addition of different insect-based products.

Our founder Caren, discussing with Dr. Ogutu and Mr. Odhiambo of KIRDI-Kisumu

Organization Registration

We officially registered as a Community Based Organization (CBO) under the official laws of Kenya. We also opened a bank account for the organization which is very instrumental towards receiving donations and grants to support our programs.

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Future Plans for the Next Quarter

Looking forward, we have several exciting plans for the next quarter

1. Leadership training for the waste to opportunity project
2. Our first graduation of the waste to opportunity program
3. Conduct an end line survey on the completion of the waste to opportunity program
4. Buying a piece of land for Eco Alchemy's learnings and physical location where our participants can kick off production from
5. Launch of the Green Schools program in partnership with different organizations like OKiri and Rieko
6. Start the Clean Communities program

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We couldn't have come this far without you! Your support has made a huge difference in the first quarter of 2025, and we're beyond grateful.

A special thank you to **The Tony Elumelu Foundation and our amazing individual sponsors**—your belief in us keeps this journey going. On behalf of our participants and the entire Eco Alchemy team, we send you our heartfelt thanks.

Let's keep the momentum going! Please share this newsletter with your friends and networks—we'd love to reach even more people who care about sustainability and impact.

Welcome to an exciting second quarter!

With gratitude,
Caren & the Eco Alchemy Team

P.S. If you'd like to support our work, you can do so here: <https://ecoalchemy.org/donate/>
Thank you so much! ❤️

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