

SET UP, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF BIOWASTE SOURCE SEPARATION SCHEME IN ATHENS AND KIFISSIA MUNICIPALITIES, GREECE

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Abstract

The Municipalities of Athens and Kifissia implemented during 2013 for the first time in Greece a biowaste source separation scheme, within the framework of the LIFE+ project ‘ATHENS-BIOWASTE’ (LIFE10/ENV/GR/000605) (www.biowaste.gr). The Municipality of Athens is the largest city in Greece with a population of 664.046 inhabitants, covering an area of 38,96 km². The Municipality of Kifissia is located NE of Athens (suburban area) and has a population of 70.600 inhabitants.

Due to the local characteristics of the two Municipalities a different collection approach was used in each case. Kifissia implemented a door to door collection system and Athens a road container system.

For the initiation of the collection systems different pilot areas covering more than 6.000 inhabitants in the two Municipalities were selected. After the pre-launch information campaign was completed the Municipalities distributed small bio-bins (~10 lt) and biodegradable bags on a voluntarily basis. In the households participating in the door to door system additional external bins with capacities ranging from 40-360 lt were provided. For the road container system 660 lt bins were placed alongside the packaging recycling and refuse bins.

It is estimated that more than 40% of the households in each area received a bio-bin. According to the monitoring results 45% of the served households participated actively in the source separation scheme after one year. The average biowaste yield is 4,00 kg per participating household.

The composition analysis of the biowaste collected showed that the material collected from the door to door system had consistently high quality with more than 90% purity, while in some batches from the road container system impurities had to be removed before the material was composted.

Taking into account the experiences and knowledge acquired during the set up of the systems and the results of the monitoring procedure a “Guide on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of biowaste source separation schemes” for local authorities has been developed. The guide will be distributed through several waste management networks and will be also available in the project website.

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