

Success stories for recycling of MSW at municipal level: A review

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Waste management is increasingly considered one of the most critical environmental challenges on a worldwide basis. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and packaging waste in specific is an important and growing waste stream. It has been widely recognized that recycling practices and in specific separation at source schemes should be adopted in order to achieve sustainable management of municipal solid waste and resource efficiency. Separation at source provides a promising option with environmental and economic benefits. It contributes to the recovery of high quality materials with low cost for the waste management authorities.

This work has been elaborated in the context of the European LIFE+ project with the acronym Recycling@Home (LIFE11 ENV/GR/000950). It provides information regarding existing waste management schemes including information regarding waste generation (categorization of municipal solid waste, packaging waste etc.), collection/transportation and treatment. More than five case studies will be presented and assessed. Special emphasis was given in those schemes that follow the hierarchical approach stated in the WFD (Directive 2008/98/EC), namely prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery (e.g. energy recovery), disposal. Additionally, local policies that encourage separate collection at source of at least four waste streams (paper, metal, plastic, glass) were taken under consideration. In the case studies the following piece of information was also examined: (a) site description and location; (b) scheme duration; (c) aims of the scheme; (d) technical description (d) scheme assessment/reasons for scheme success.

The examination of these case studies aims to constitute a guide for successful practices which have been applied on a European and international level.