ACR+ reviews bio-waste prevention practices in Europe

Within the framework of the Miniwaste project, ACR+ has published an inventory report on good practices regarding bio-waste prevention in Europe. This inventory aims at portraying a broad picture of waste prevention strategies and therefore identified the most relevant European cases that could be potentially be duplicated by other local and regional authorities.

Key indicators in each area covered by the inventory (initial situation, targets and results) are highlighted. Indicators are key in order to ease the assessment, the follow-up and the benchmarking of minimisation initiatives.

The well structured and easy readable report provides the reader with detailed up to date information on the latest developments regarding bio-waste prevention.

The following ten factsheets, being the core of the report, provide a wealth of information:

1. **Home composting** - Italy (Piemonte)
2. **Home composting** - UK (Kent)
3. **Home composting** - Portugal (Lipor)
4. **Home composting** - France (Chambery)
5. **Community composting** - Belgium (Flemish Region)
6. **Community composting** - Switzerland (Zürich)
7. **Farm proximity composting** - Austria (Freistadt)
8. **Fight against food waste** - UK (WRAP)
9. **Closed Loop gardening** - Belgium (Flemish Region)
10. **Reuse centres** - Belgium (Flemish Region)

Each single factsheet focuses on the following issues: general characteristics of the project initiator, local context, applied strategy (objectives, approach and methodology), relevant implementation instruments, stakeholders involved, means and actions (including communication), legislative and financial aspects, concrete results, indicators and monitoring tools, as well as challenges encountered and success factors.

Bio-waste prevention is only one of the many prevention activities that can be undertaken by local and/or regional authorities. This inventory report could easily be replicated for other prevention actions such as: fighting excessive packaging, reuse centres, no junk mail campaigns and dematerialisation initiatives.

Mini WASTE

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ASSOCIATION OF CITIES AND REGIONS FOR RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Case study: home composting at Kent Council, UK

A successful and interesting example of a biowaste prevention initiative is the home composting programme established by the Kent Council in 1996. By adopting the first Kent Household Waste Strategy in 2003, each Kent Council municipality established realistic targets regarding home composting.

The initial target for home composting (2005) was for 35 per cent of the homes to be home composting by 2010/11. If half the households participated in home composting, by 2019/2020, four per cent of the total municipal solid waste generated could be diverted from landfilling. In 2008, Kent Waste Partnership published a report showing that 34 per cent of Kent's residents carried out home composting and nearly 70,000 composting bins had been sold.

The aspects that made the Kent scheme a success have been: the propitious environment to promote compost, since 84 per cent of Kent's households have a garden, the exemplary collaboration with national (composting) networks and the fact that, from the beginning of the project, all the stakeholders were involved and brought together in the Kent Waste Open Forum.

Promotional activities were key for the success and included: radio shows, theatrical events in schools and voluntary Master Composters assisting residents on how to compost at home.

To successfully involve the population in home composting, some restrictions in the collection facilities were established and a municipal financing scheme was settled to subsidise compost bins.

The Miniwaste project

The Miniwaste project (2010-2012) is supported by the European Commission and co-financed by the Life+ programme. It aims at demonstrating that it is possible for local and regional authorities to reduce bio-waste in an effective way. Apart from the inventory of good practices, Miniwaste will provide cities and regions with a web tool allowing them to assess and monitor bio-waste initiatives they implement on their territory. It will also deliver methodologies to assess the quantity of bio-waste diverted from the bins and the quality of the compost produced. The partners of this project are the ACR+, Rennes Métropole (France), Lipor (Portugal), Brno (Czech Republic) and the Cemagref (French research centre).