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«National Solid Waste Management Plan and Waste and Food Waste»

Foodwaste! The English word «waste» has two meanings: wastage and waste. Food wastage reduction is part of the Waste Prevention Programme. The management of food waste is regulated through the National Waste Management Plan.

The general policies of Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) are the following:

- Ensure high level of human health and environmental protection.
- Integrated planning for all waste streams at national or regional level.
- Design, through the national prevention program, specific prevention measures and action in the following priority streams: food, paper, packaging, electrical and electronic equipment.
- Promote recycling, as a priority.

Food waste together with “green waste” are classified as “biowaste”. Biowaste with paper are considered the biodegradable fraction of municipal waste. The diversion of biodegradable from sanitary landfill is mandatory under the provisions of Directive 99/31 and JMD 29407/2002.

The program for the diversion of Biodegradable Waste from landfill includes the establishment of **separate collection networks** and the full development of processing mixed MSW network to meet the needs of the country by the end of 2020. **Especially for biowaste it is foreseen the development of networks of separate collection.**

The institutional framework for biowaste management is the Law 4042/2012 (Article 41). By 2015, the biowaste separate collection rate must rise up to a minimum of 5% of the total weight of biowaste produced and 2020, to a minimum, 10% of their total weight.

The biowaste management policy specializes in the following basic directions:

- Promote separate collection and recycling of biowaste.
- Home composting must be counted as recycling and not as prevention.
- Responsible to implement the objectives of the biowaste separate collection are Municipalities and the Solid Waste Management Authorities.

To encourage the biowaste separate collection to facilitate adequate treatment and recycling, in order to achieve the national objectives of Law 4042/2012, is one of the key strategic actions to implement the policy of the new SWMP.

Based on the recent facts of the Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change, the biowaste percentage, which is the organic fraction of MSW, is 44,3% and includes: the biodegradable wastes of gardens and parks, food and kitchen waste from households, restaurants, caterers and retail premises and comparable waste from food processing plants. The quantities of biowaste (based on percentage composition) estimated 2,610,009 tonnes in 2010 and 2,469,617 tonnes in 2011.

The new Solid Waste Management Plan regarding biowaste foresees the promotion and the implementation of the following separate collection and recycling systems:

- **Home composting** with emphasis on households of rural areas and semi-urban areas and site engineering composting in public parks or specific areas of urban areas, schools, residential complexes, hotels, camps, etc
- **Diversion of biowaste** from households in rural areas for animal feed
- **Diversion of waste** edible fats and oils with emphasis on the major producers, such as foodservice units, camps, hospitals, hotels ect
- **Separate collection of biowaste and recovery in treatment units of presorting organic waste**, focusing on urban areas, the island country and large producers of biowaste (green areas, foodservice units, catering, hotels, camps, hospitals, vegetable markets, farmers' markets, etc.).

The implementation of the above systems changes the MSW collection patterns. The collection networks should be redesigned by responsible parties to integrate separate collection programs of specific waste streams. **The new collection networks will require the separate collection of biowaste.** As a time limit, **for the qualitative upgrading of collection networks raise the second half of 2018.**

The management of biowaste, and all other waste streams should follow the **waste hierarchy**. The biological treatment of biowaste (aerobic or anaerobic) is characterized as **recycling** when the product is used as a soil conditioner or fertilizer. Otherwise is characterized as a pretreatment before landfilling, incineration or for backfilling operations. The anaerobic digestion (to produce energy) is considered as **energy recovery**.

Prerequisite for successful implementation of recycling and biowaste recovery programs is the market formation in order to ensure the absorption of the produced secondary products (compost, fertilizer, and biogas).

Therefore, the new SWMP network management of bio-waste is divided into four sub-networks, which are following:

- Regarding the local/home composting network the following actions are foreseen: Organization and gradual promotion of targeted actions of home composting and field engineering composting nationwide, setting a minimum 3% biowaste diversion by 2020.

- Regarding biowaste diversion network from households in rural areas are foreseen the following: Maintain the local diversion of organic waste from households in the same level as in 2011 for direct use as an animal feed.
- Regarding the diversion of waste edible fats and oils network are foreseen the following: Maximize diversion levels of “available for collection” of edible fats and oils Waste, aiming at 75% of produced waste by 2020.
- Regarding the separate collection and biowaste recovery network that goes to treatment plants of pre-sorted organic waste are foreseen the following:
 1. Full utilization of under construction and planned units of pre-sorted organic waste
 2. Promoting municipal composting in conjunction with the planned central units authorized by Regional Solid Waste Plans.
 3. Consideration of the possibility of transforming or adding lines for pre-sorted organic waste to prior mixed MSW plants.

Specifically for 2015, with the implementation of household and municipal composting is expected to double the separate collection target of 5% of the produced biowaste.

Similarly in 2020, where 55% of the pre-sorted biowaste works are foreseen to be completed, is expected to double the existing objectives to 10% biowaste separate collection. In any case recovery rates of pre-sorted biowaste must be increased.

Collection and transport Networks of MSW currently cover 100% of the country. However the biggest part of MSW is collected in the main stream of mixed waste and separate collection programs of special streams are not sufficiently developed.

The collection networks should be redesigned by responsible parties to integrate programs separate collection of specific streams. The integration will affect the frequency of collection of MSW and the produced volumes per bucket.

The new collection networks will mandatory require biowaste separate collection. The responsible parties that choose separate collection of presorted organic waste should proceed to site studies of collection bins, depending on the level of promotion system. In any case the biowaste household bins are not placed at different points of the remaining bins of mixed MSW and waste packaging, and should be made particularly bulky waste collection points for garden waste per region. Collection Points of presorted organic waste and garden waste can operate in green points which are organized under the responsibility of local authorities or Solid Waste Management Authorities.

In “big waste producers”, such as hospitals, camps, Public Utility Organization (airports, ports, railway stations and bus stations etc.), schools, universities, local authorities, ministries, hotels, foodservices and food manufacturing units etc., the responsible parties should adopt an exclusive collection bins system

for organic, edible fats and oils and for each recyclables group (paper, glass and bucket for metal, wooden, plastic packaging).

The green points finally organized under the responsibility of Solid Waste Management Authorities and Local Authorities. At these points can be collected packaging waste, printed paper and other MSW (sizeable plastics, metal objects produced from households and commercial units in separate collection bins (paper, plastic, metal, glass and wood), organic waste , edible fats and oils, garden and park wastes, bulky waste (furniture , mattresses etc.) C&D waste arising from minor repairs (eg rubble, tiles, ceramic, bricks, etc. resulting from renovations or repairs), WEEE, Batteries etc. The green points can vary in size, with or without special infrastructure and can organized by individuals after approval of Solid Waste Management Authorities and Local Authorities. These points should be connected with any current Producers Responsibility Organizations, and other management bodies. Alongside the Green points can act as reuse items collection stations (Appliances, Clothes ect).

As a time limit, for the qualitative upgrading of collection networks raise the second half of 2018.

The amounts collected will be recorded by the municipalities, the Recyclable Material Sorting Centers and other responsible parties and sent to the competent Solid Waste Management Authorities (SWMA). SWMA is required to verify the accuracy of the data and report the quantities in the Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change and to Hellenic Recycling Agency.