Waste Management – The Role of the Public Sector

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Municipal Waste Europe is a non-profit association which represents European municipalities and their waste management companies, in their responsibility to ensure the management of municipal waste.

Throughout Europe, municipalities are responsible for the recovery of material resources from European households.
MWE members: national public waste associations

EU Municipalities and their public waste management companies

17 Members
15 Member States
Serving 60% - 100% of the national population
Municipal Waste Management

• Dispersed Value
• Need:

SYSTEM → ORGANISATION → COOPERATION → COORDINATION
Confusing Definitions in EU Law

• Existing Waste Framework Directive – no definition of Municipal Waste
• Daughter Directives – some have definition of Municipal Waste but different
• Some Member States define as: household waste and similar waste from other sources
• Some define only as household waste
• First **PROBLEM** in comparing statistics at EU level
WASTE REVIEW

First Task

CLARIFICATION

Second Task

SIMPLIFICATION
WASTE REVIEW

• **ONE DEFINITION** of Municipal Waste in the Waste Framework Directive

• Commission agreed that **only** the WFD should have **all definitions** and Daughter Directives should refer to WFD

• Includes definition of re-use, recycling...

• Tidying up to fill in the gaps and hopefully leave no loop-holes
WASTE REVIEW

CALCULATION METHOD FOR RECYCLING:

• Now 4 different methods
  – EU statistics not comparable
  – EU statistics not reliable

• Revision:

• ONE calculation method
  – Measuring weight of recyclables minus residues AFTER SORTING
  – If only 2% residues, can include in total
WASTE REVIEW

• Recycling Targets in WFD:
  – Minimum 50% by 1 January 2020
  – And 70% by 1 January 2030

• At the same time, increased overall recycling rate for packaging waste:
  – 80% by 2030
  – interim targets of 60% by 2020 and 70% by 2025
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

• Producer Responsibility and the relevant compliance schemes play a key role in the achievement of recycling targets

• For these to achieve their full potential, the Commission proposes to set minimum requirements for producer responsibility schemes at EU level

• To help cut costs and eliminate barriers faced by producers having to respect several national schemes in the EU and provide transparency.
WASTE REVIEW

• Ban on landfilling of:
  – recyclable plastics, metals, glass, paper and cardboard and biodegradable waste by 2025
  – requires Member States to virtually eliminate landfilling by 2030
The Role of the Public Sector
THE BRIDGE

MUNICIPALITIES

PRODUCER

resources

CONSUMER / CITIZEN

DISPERSED

resources

resources

ASSEMBLED

PRODUCER

resources

resources
THE ENABLER

• Municipalities
  – responsibility
  – ensure that systems are in place
  – In-house or contracted out

• Choice of best locally adapted waste management solutions
  – To assemble dispersed materials
  – Cooperation with neighbouring municipalities
  – Cooperation with business and industry
THE ENABLER

- First point of Contact for the Citizen
- Network/Access to the public

Responsibilities:
- Communication, Training, Motivation
- Inspection
- Data gathering and reporting to Nation and EU
- Communication of results back to citizens

Results:
- Job creation, raw materials, energy, clean environment…and many more
OPPORTUNITY?

• Waste Management in the 35 EU Member States and wider EU area:
  – 19 still landfill 50% or over
  – 3 landfill around 40%
  – 8 incinerate around 50%

• The average recycling rate in the EU28 was 40% in 2011, and is proposed to reach 70% by 2030
SOCIO-ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Implementation of current Waste legislation can create 400 000 jobs
- Around 180 000 more could be created through the proposed revision
- Increased material recovery and use of materials in European industrial processes will create more jobs
- Europe must re-industrialise to survive economically
SOCIO-ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

• Europe currently imports 2 thirds more than it exports
  – Trade deficit
  – 2 thirds eventually makes it to the waste stream

• Increased material recovery
  – Local source of raw materials
  – Increased profitability of European manufacturers
  – Creation of employment
WHAT MATERIALS?

From these products:

• Packaging
  – paper and card, plastic, glass, metals
• Electrical and Electronic Equipment
  – Critical raw materials (CRM), rubber, plastics…
• Batteries… metals, heavy metals, CRMs…
• Cars
  • Metals, rubber, plastics, CRMs…

INNOVATION
EUROPEAN SOLUTION

• Moving from no waste management (illegal landfills) to prevention, recycling and a circular economy will not happen overnight

• Building **realism** into the equation, widely accepted that during transition, there should be shipments of residual waste to better treatment options in other EU Member States

• It is the better environmental option while recycling systems are being put in place

• Commission promotes data exchange on available capacities throughout the EU, e.g. in Waste to Energy
The Public Sectors Role in Closing the Loop

• The oft criticized Waste Hierarchy
  – 1 Prevention  2 re-use  3 recycling
     4 recovery  5 disposal
• Integrated solution adapted to local needs (materials/heat/organic matter/fuel…)
• A focus on retrieving materials is a focus on closing the materials loop and achieving self-sufficiency for Europe
ACHIEVING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

• Self-sufficiency in raw materials goes hand in hand with increased energy independence to strengthen an economy = resource efficiency

• Europe’s goal is to achieve 20% of its energy needs from renewable energies by 2020 – only 5 years left

• Anaerobic Digestion is a significant part of closing the loop in a circular economy
  – particularly in Southern Europe (40 to 60% organic waste fraction in municipal waste)
ACHIEVING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- If applied across European industry, it is estimated that such a circular economy could reduce raw material needs by:
  - 17%-24% by 2030
  - and save approximately €630 billion per annum
WASTE TARGETS REVIEW - TIMING

- Communication on a Circular Economy with waste review package:
  - Published on 2 July 2014
  - Entered into co-decision officially in autumn 2014
  - Rapporteurs in CoR, EESC, European Parliament have been nominated
  - Adoption can be expected by 2016

- Targets are set up until 2030, however this legislation is revised every 5 years
WASTE TARGETS REVIEW
Adoption Process & Implementation

• Autumn 2014 – co-decision begins:
  – Debate, conciliation and adoption by vote occurs in the European Parliament and Council, informed and facilitated by the European Commission
  – This process takes a minimum of 12 months for such a complex file and easily longer
  – The final step is adoption in Council (the Member States) followed by publication in the European Official Journal
WASTE TARGETS REVIEW
Adoption Process & Implementation

• Following publication in the Official Journal of the EU:
  – Member States usually have 12 months to transpose the Directive into their national legislation
  – Once transposed, the new procedures and targets must be implemented in practice, which can take much longer
  – The Commission began a follow-up procedure in 2012, whereby struggling Members’ progress is monitored and guided

  » Now embedded in the revision of the waste framework directive
OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

• Strategic Implementation Plan on Raw Materials
  – promotes re-use, recycling, ecodesign

• Resource Productivity Target of 30% by 2030
  – would naturally reach 15% by 2030
  – the target doubles this
Municipalities play a key role in:

- Coordinating and enabling access to the raw materials in the waste stream
- Collecting and reporting data
- Inspecting and controlling illegal shipments
- Delivering more, cleaner materials for recycling to the market
ACHIEVING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

• To get from the relatively low average EU recycling rates today, to higher recycling rates by 2025/30:
  – Municipalities are a key
  – Business is a key
  – Coordination

• Challenging but achievable
Thank you for your Attention

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