

Apply Home Composting in your municipality



By applying Home Composting, the municipality and public utility can make savings in the operations and reduce quantities of communal waste ending up on the landfill and thus contribute to overall positive impact to the environment.

The challenge

More than 80% of the household waste in the Western Balkans is disposed on the sanitary or so-called controlled landfills. The bio-waste accounts for the largest percentage of the household waste. In the Western Balkans region, that percentage ranges from 40-60%. In addition, primary separation of household waste is also on a very low level.

Home composting or backyard composting refers to the self-composting of the bio-waste as well as the use of the compost in a garden belonging to citizens and private parties.

In the scope of EU accession process Western Balkan countries will have to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that they landfill to 35% of 2008 levels until the moment they join the Union or by the specific negotiated date.

Possible solution – how to overcome challenge?

With appropriate support, home composting can be integrated and socially accepted efficiently. In this regard home composting represent low cost solution that have potential to contribute biodegradable waste diversion and in the same time lower the cost of systematic centralized waste treatments. Introduction of home composting in municipalities can quickly support efficiency of biodegradable waste management and provide incomes to municipal utilities through savings in waste collection, transport and centralized local or regional treatment of generated biodegradable waste from individual households. This low-cost solution is a unique waste management option because the waste producer is also the processor and end-user of the product.

The Project has therefore developed a **methodology** for Local Self-governments and their Public Utility Companies for application of home composting process in households.

This methodology can be implemented either by the local self-governments and their public utility companies if sufficient internal expertise is present or by outsourcing of external advisory services for implementation of the methodology.

Benefit:

- Reduced quantities of bio degradable waste that are collected and disposed on landfills
- Free of charge natural soil fertilizer for gardens, flowers or lawns
- Reduced emissions of methane from landfills caused by landfilling bio waste

Facts and figures obtained throughout the piloting of the methodology

Municipality of Backi Petrovac, Serbia

- **170 home composters distributed** to interested citizens
- **85t of compost produced** in less than year
- **Costs for waste collection and disposal could be reduced for cca 18.000 EUR** if home composting will be introduced to entire territory of the municipality

What should be done in your Municipality and Utility Company?

THE STEPS FOR INTRODUCTION HOME COMPOSTING

STEP 1. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

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| 1.1. Meeting with the municipal administration and the Public Utility Company | Decision makers and technical teams understand the advisory process, steps and activities to be taken. |
| 1.2. Establishment of Working Group | Municipal Working Group is in place. The Group will organise the process, monitor the implementation and report on the results. |
| 1.3. Development of an Action Plan | The Action Plan will define objectives, activities, monitoring indicators, responsibilities, budget, timeframe and coordination between different stakeholders. |

STEP 2. DATA COLLECTION OF EXISTING COMPOSTING PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES

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| 2.1. Data collection and defining of baseline |
| 2.2. Review of the existing programs which support home composting and definition of most appropriate local policy |
| 2.3. Defining the area and households for introduction of home composting |

STEP 3. COMMUNICATION WITH THE CITIZENS AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

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| – Promotional activities should be developed by working group, with active involvement of Municipality and PUC |
| – Campaign should include open workshops for public participations, flyers, discussion with PUC representatives, promo posters in municipality centres, announcement of home composting initiatives through local media |

STEP 4. PROVISION OF THE EQUIPMENT FOR HOME COMPOSTING

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| – Development of detailed specification for equipment necessary for home composting |
| – Tender procedures for home composters |
| – Purchase of the equipment |

STEP 5. INTRODUCTION OF HOME COMPOSTING TO SELECTED HOUSEHOLDS

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| 5.1. Delivery of the equipment |
| 5.2. Trainings for end users of home composters |
| 5.3. Organization of on-site support to households |

The **Methodology for Local Self-governments and their Public Utility Companies (Terms of Reference) for application of home composting process in households** is available at NALAS web site www.nalas.eu and web site of SeSWA.

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