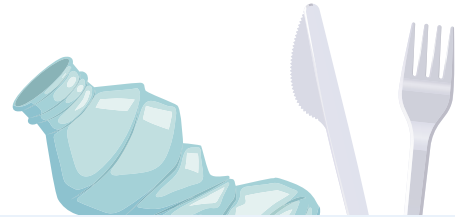


“Plastic Free”

/ Sicily



Description of the good practice

The “plastic” problem is an emergency, in particular the island ecosystems are the most sensitive and damaged by plastic pollution.

In Sicily this issue is added to the difficulties related to separate collection and recycling of waste, in every single city. In the summer period and the high tourist season, especially in the main tourist cities, the problem has taken on great importance.

For this reason, dozens of local mayors signed municipal ordinances to prohibit the use of disposable objects. A bottom-up initiative that involved several cities all over the island: Lampedusa and Malfa first, Avola and Noto then, Augusta, Alcamo, Acireale, Pietraperzia, Pantelleria, Siracusa, Favignana, Linosa, Capo d’Orlando, Augusta, Pachino, Capaci, etc.

These new regulations are imposing a ban on sales and use disposable tableware (cutlery, plates, straws, glasses, bags and any disposable container that is not biodegradable), suggesting the use of compostable plastic objects (easily deposited in the wet fraction). Shoppers will also need to be replaced by paper or canvas bags.

After a year, this local initiative of the municipalities was shared by the Sicilian Parliament with a regional draft law called “Plastic Free” bill. The proposal has been prepared by the Environment Commission of ARS (Re-

gional Sicilian Assembly) in order to limit the use of plastic products. The bill aims to encourage the industrial reconversion of Sicilian producers of disposable plastic towards biodegradable materials, to radically reduce the use of disposable plastic, to finance start-ups searching for new non-polluting materials, to promote Sicilian green beaches and create an advertising campaign. The spirit of the law wants to be more incentive than sanctioning.

The regional proposal will now pass under the Budget Committee and then it will arrive in the Chamber for the final approval.

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Results

Ban on the sale and distribution of plastic bags.

Ban plastic from all the administrations belonging to the Region and replace it with biodegradable and therefore non-polluting materials.

Promote virtuous behaviors providing incentives for virtuous institutions and citizens (ex. reduction of the tax on waste, encouraging separate collection).

Introduce deterrent measures and sanctions in order to discourage negative behaviors.

Type of waste

Non biodegradable disposable containers and crockery.

Location

Tourist cities, sites and historical centers
Public canteens, “venues” under public competence and responsibility, machines in loan, internal bars and restaurants of regional offices.

Volume treated

Environmentalists estimate the use of 120,000 tons of disposable tableware in Italy per year.

Further information

<http://www.comune.noto.sr.it/files/noto/images/stories/comune/ordinanze/2018/236.pdf>

<http://www.comune.noto.sr.it/news/ultimenews/2018/07/22/plastica-un-ordinanza-per-dire-usaeggitanograzie--3604/>

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<https://www.siracusatimes.it/siracusa-plastic-free-dal-1-aprile-eliminazione-scorte-plastica-monouso-per-i-commercianti/>

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