GOOD PRACTICE GREECE:
LANDFILL TAX SCHEME

September 2014

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE GOOD PRACTICE (GP)

1.1 General information

Region	Interregional
Country	Greece
Short name of the good practice	Landfill charging system per tonne
Geographical level of implementation (country, region, municipality…)	Country
Target group	Municipalities
Date of implementation/duration	June 2010
Waste stream (and subcategory)	Mixed waste / Residual
Legal framework	L. 3854
Main local instruments involved	Legal
Scale (pilot/partially roll out /roll out)	Roll out
Initiator/coordinator	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Demography	
Population	10.816.286
Number of households	6.862.591
Area (km²)	131,957 km^2
Population density (number of inhabitants/km²)	82/km^2
General waste data (Not necessarily related to the GP but to give some background information. Data about the GP should be included under 3.1)	
Year of the following waste data	
Sum of all waste streams excl. residual & bulky waste (kg/inhabitant/year) (Use indicator 1 or 2 from the R4R Online Tool)	
Residual waste (including sorting residues) (kg/inhabitant/year) (Use indicator 8 or 9 from the R4R Online Tool)	
Total waste (add up the previous two)	
Sum of all waste streams excl. residual & bulky waste to DREC (kg/inhabitant/year) (Use indicator 3 of the R4R Online Tool)	

1.2 Context

Please give a short description of the context (history) in which the GP is initiated.

The waste that went to landfill, prior the implementation of the Article 9 of Law 3854, were being paid according to the total budget of each municipality and according to a certain percentage. In the Attica region it was 6% of the municipality's total budget. This arrangement allowed for many distortions in the waste economy by allowing transport of waste from other regions and excessive production of waste from some municipalities.

1.3 Short description

According to Article 9, Law 3854, June 2010, the annual landfill fee that municipalities are charged with, will depend on the tonnes of waste that the municipality brings to the landfill site, including the residues from the sorting facilities.

1.4 Objective

The aim of this good practice is to encourage municipalities to send less waste to landfill by implementing waste prevention actions. Moreover, this measure will correct all the distortions that were previously in place, due to interregional illegal transport of waste. Finally, this system is fair and puts the financial burden to the bigger producer.

1.5 Method used to identify the good practice

The method is identified as a good practice based on our expert judgement. It is expected, once the measure is fully deployed, to produce results that will justify early judgements, i.e. waste quantities produced from some municipalities will significantly change, without any prior interventions to justify the change.

1.6 External factors

Not applicable.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Preparation phase

This measure was included in the law 3854, as Article 9. Its implementation was not previously discussed. This political decision was proposed and supported by Ecological Recycling Society.

2.2 Technical implementation

All landfill sites are required to use a weighbridge and record the weight of each waste truck entering the landfill area, as well as the municipality it belongs to.

2.3   Communicative implementation

There was no information campaign associated with the specific good practice.

2.4   Organisations involved

The organisations involved in this good practice are the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, the Regional Authorities, Local Authorities, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

2.5   Key success factors

All involved organisations must cooperate in order for this good practice to be practical and efficient. The fair nature of this measure, compared to the previous charging system ensures its acceptance by the stakeholders.

2.6   Resources

There are no costs involved in the implementation of this good practice.

3. RESULTS

3.1   Monitoring of the progress of the GP

The Law was voted in 2010. Since then it has not been activated, meaning that the municipalities have not paid their fees based on this measure. The abnormalities that were previously in place with the previous legal status, in combination with the fact that the quantities of waste have significantly dropped due to the economic crisis have created a problem. The amount of fees collected from the landfill authority by the municipalities is not sufficient to operate it and this leads the discussion to force the municipalities to pay their fee according to the 2011 quantities of waste. The debate is still on-going but sooner or later the region will have to comply and enforce the law. This will eventually normalise the situation and bring the expected results.

3.2   Other results

Not applicable.

4. LESSONS LEARNED

4.1   Negative effects

The implementation of this practice is not expected to have any negative effects apart from the initial problems that were mentioned in chapter 3.1. Once the measure is properly implemented and monitored

and the municipalities start paying according to the tonnage of waste they send to landfill, there are no negative effects expected, environmental or financial.

4.2 Challenges

As mentioned before the main challenge is to solve the problem of reduced waste due to the crisis which eventually leads to less fees. Part of the fees collected goes to the municipality which hosts the landfill site a compensation measure. An important fraction of the municipality's costs were strongly connected with the income produced from these fees. The eventual reduction of income is creating problems and strong opposition in the hosting municipality.

5. PICTURES AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION

Not applicable.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

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