

RECOMMENDATIONS

NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Third Session of Working Group V – Environment (Chapter 27)

Topic: "Waste – Pollutant or Resource? How to better implement the new law on waste management?"

Held on 10 December 2021

1. Pending the establishment and operation of the Regional Waste Management Centers, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP) should initiate the establishment of mechanisms for regular communication with the municipalities and Public Communal Enterprises (PCEs) for the flow of information related to the new approaches to waste management, in order to raise the awareness (and knowledge) of these extremely important actors for the proper implementation of the legislation.
2. The MoEPP should initiate a procedure and develop a methodology for mandatory mapping of large illegal landfills to be implemented by municipalities and Public Communal Enterprises (PCEs).
3. The municipalities together with the PCEs should increase the controls in order to detect the perpetrators who deposit waste in illegal landfills and should apply measures for their appropriate sanctioning. Additionally, it is recommended that the municipalities together with PCEs, regularly clean the illegal landfills, while in order to break the habits of the citizens, the site should be given another use (to set up recreation facilities, benches, greenery, toys for children) as far as the terrain allows it.
4. It is recommended that the MoEPP introduce minimum standards for existing landfills used by municipalities and set up a waste disposal reporting system. The standards should not refer only to the fencing of the landfill, but also to the installation of a weighing scale and an appropriate recording system.
5. The State Environmental Inspectorate (SEI) should inspect all landfills to determine if the standards have been met. This is particularly important in determining the objectives to be achieved in terms of reducing waste generation and determining measures to reduce it.
6. The MoEPP and the Directorate of Environment should urgently implement the procedure for obtaining permits for waste management of Public Utility Enterprises. Also, the MoEPP should publicly announce all permits for waste treatment held by PCEs.
7. According to the principle - 'Every polluter pays', the MoEPP should oblige each legal entity twice a year to submit information (using a specially prepared online form) on the amount and type of waste

they generate.

8. In order to achieve the goals of the National Plan for waste management, i.e., for progressive reduction of the biodegradable (organic) waste, the municipalities (through PCEs or other interested actors - civil society associations) should promote and support initiatives for opening composters. For greater effectiveness of this goal, it is necessary to encourage cooperation with local restaurants, markets, and green markets for selection of biodegradable waste and further composting.
9. It is recommended that the MoEPP, in collaboration with the national media, should launch a public campaign to raise awareness that every citizen, company, school, and other organized forms participate in waste management and jointly create the economic branch - circular economy that benefits everyone.
10. Within the existing financing framework for financing environmental protection projects by the MoEPP, it is necessary to give priority to goals that will support local initiatives (projects) for waste management.
11. Simultaneously with the planned establishment of regional waste management, the municipalities are recommended to start introducing primary waste selection (glass, paper, plastic, organic waste), which would be achieved by placing another bin where a solid fraction will be selected, i.e., packaging waste (glass, paper, and plastic) and placing another bin for organic waste.
12. The MoEPP, in collaboration with the Energy and Water Services Regulatory Commission, should implement a pilot project in several municipalities in order to build a model for estimating the amount of compensation for waste management per household (legal entity) and what measures are necessary to implement the principle - 'The polluter pays more', that is, to determine the method of payment according to the amount of waste generated. Also, it is necessary to propose specific forms of waste management (selection, storage, delivery) and the possibility to introduce financial incentives for households that properly select waste. For example: reduction of the monthly waste disposal fee by 10-20% if the family collects a certain amount of plastic, glass and paper waste and hands it over through a collective handler or PCE accordingly.
13. The State Environmental Inspectorate should urgently solve the problem with the lack of inspectors who will conduct regular inspections in all locations where the local population usually illegally dumps waste.
14. In order to prevent corruption in waste management, all public procurement procedures should be conducted in a transparent and accountable manner before the citizens.