

Policy and Legal Recommendations in Menorca

As a result of the previous gap analysis, the Plastic Hotspot Assessment¹ and the stakeholders' consultation, we will hereafter provide a series of recommendations, which will help achieve the targets.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Implementation of waste prevention measures, according to the Law 8/2019

■ Implement deposit-return systems (SDDR) for certain beverage containers to facilitate the recovery of reusable containers. Deposit-return systems are an effective solution to preventing the abandonment of packaging waste in the environment, promoting their reuse and helping to ensure high levels of separate collection of these materials. This kind of systems also contributes to significant savings for regional and local bodies, as they ensure that the EPR principle is applied in a comprehensive manner. Moreover, pilot tests of a return system for beverage containers through reverse vending machines and direct (monetary) or indirect (discounts, promotions, contributions to environmental/social projects)

economic incentives have already been performed during summer on the island. This system could entail a reduction of costs for municipalities, if established permanently, and achieve better separate collection rates of light packaging, as well as raise plastic littering awareness on the island.

- Increase separate collection in municipalities, through the implementation of economic instruments (municipal charges, landfill and incineration taxes). In fact, there is very limited use of landfill/incineration taxes which disincentive waste diversion from landfill.
- Implement the regulation of the sale and distribution of single-use elements on the market, in public premises and in public and festive events.

¹ Quantis/EA (2020). Plastic Hotspot Assessment in Menorca, unpublished.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Development of a new municipal/insular policy for waste prevention

- Prioritize systems such as door-to-door collection, pay-per-generation systems, and specific business collections.
- Apply the principle of proximity when implementing measures to promote waste management.
- Apply discount on waste taxes to those businesses that reduce or eliminate disposable packaging.
- Develop internal policy for municipalities to only make public purchases of reusable items, whenever possible, and in order to avoid single-use plastics.
- Incorporate criteria for waste prevention, promotion of reuse and responsible consumption in the public procurement processes.

Promotion of a Research & Development policy in waste prevention

- Increase the quantity and quality of information available on waste generation, its environmental impacts and product consumption.
- Develop databases and life cycle analysis of materials in Menorca.
- Develop new products under eco-design criteria.

Promotion of environmental education and capacity building

- Develop widespread environmental awareness campaigns on waste prevention and the effects of current consumption patterns, and providing alternatives/solutions.
- Develop training for public bodies and enterprises (particularly the service sector) regarding separate collection, targets, costs and operative settings;
- Disseminate good practices for waste collection and management at the local level.
- Make information on waste management costs and economic balance available to the public.

Fostering of investments devoted to:

- Complement the existent collection systems.
- Implement new infrastructure for reuse and recycling and improve current infrastructure.
- Improve tools for capturing data on waste and traceability.
- Strengthen markets for recovered and recycled materials.