

The Relationship of Citizens with Source Separation in Municipalities of Thessaloniki Regional Unit

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Abstract

The objectives set by the new Greek National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) are based on the development of strategies and policies aimed at protecting the environment and human health. To achieve these goals, special emphasis is placed on waste prevention and reduction, limiting the use of natural resources by improving their efficiency, with the ultimate aim of transitioning to a circular and sustainable economy. Furthermore, Law 4819/2021 (Government Gazette A'129/23.07.2021) establishes a new framework that further promotes recycling and circular economy as key policy tools for the rational management of waste. Key provisions of Law 4819/2021 address the extended producer responsibility, the introduction of the Pay as you Throw system, the establishment of Green Points, Recycling Corners, and Creative Materials Reuse Centers, as well as the preparation of waste for reuse and recycling. In order to achieve these goals, active citizen participation is needed, since they are the ultimate contributors to these actions. Within this framework, this study examines the relationship of citizens in the municipalities of Thermi, Kalamaria, Kordelio-Evosmos, Pavlos Melas, and Pylaia-Chortiatis in the Regional Unit of Thessaloniki with source separation and its implementation. According to the research results, there is a lack of information among citizens regarding source separation actions. Therefore, our study proposes ways to enhance source separation in order to minimize waste directed to landfills and to aid the transition to a circular economy.

Keywords: Municipal Solid Waste, Source Separation, Green Points, Pay as you Throw System