

Commentary

Separation Process of Waste into Different Elements and Limitations

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DESCRIPTION

Waste that is not sorted by source is difficult to recycle and is possible only with uniform material flow. Separation of mixed waste is not only technically difficult, but also more expensive and less competitive for recycling. Therefore, sorting waste by source can improve the quality of recycled materials. Therefore, it is very important for everyone in the household to participate in waste separation so that valuable and organic waste can be sent to appropriate recycling department. Too many waste sorting errors if a bottle can be rejected by waste collection, the municipality is not interested in incinerating recyclable waste. They receive financial support for each ton of separated waste. The progress of recycling has undergone the expansion of socalled new branches and sorting instructions. In other words, implement specific bins and containers for each type of waste flow. The more waste that is collected separately, the easier it is to dispose of on individual branches. This applies not only to glass and paper, but also to landfills (wood, metal, batteries) on the streets and in all public places.

Achievement of goal

In France, about 38 million tons of household waste is generated each year (about 570 kg per person, including waste from landfills and stores), and 35%-40% are actually recycled and the rest will be incinerated. In particular, the energy conversion policy has set a target of 65% of waste recycling (including composting of organic waste) by 2025. Europe is advancing the goal of recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035.

Leverage for municipalities

There are already several ways to improve the performance of collecting household waste and similar waste separately to increase the collection rate of recyclables. The purpose is to reduce the loss of recyclable waste as it is mixed with non-recyclable waste.

Incentive pricing

Incentive pricing is a type of municipal waste management

financing which consists in relating the service tax to the quantity of waste produced (number of bins collected, quantity of waste, and number of people in the house). It is already into operation for representing the time being of public policy that allows sharp increase in the ratio of recyclable waste collection. In fact, depending on the starting point, this ratio can increase by 30% in only few years. This increase is more important when incentive pricing is accompanied by a separated organic waste collection (specific collection or individual composters). The energetic transition law voted in 2015 that provides 25 million of French people to get this type of incentive pricing by 2025.

Sorting out all packaging

In today's world, not every packaging is accepted for recycling in every community, this issue should be resolved by 2022. In fact, the energetic transition law provides the implementation of "extended sorting instructions" it means the modernization of sorting centers, which shall accept all types of packaging, including plastic foils, food trays. Indeed, the implementation of waste separation in 1990. In France it was started with the development of the most profitable and easy to organize recycling branches (plastic bottles). But if the sorting is easier for people as it is more automatic, it should lead to increase recycling.

Sorting waste in companies

Every year in France, about 60 million tons of industrial and economical waste is produced. Sorting waste in companies is therefore essential to increase recycling. Whether office paper, construction waste or fast food waste, everything has to start recycling, since for companies as well, wastes are better recycled when separated. For that purpose, sorting is now mandatory in each company or administration which either has a private waste collection, or produces more than 1100 litters waste per week when using municipal waste collection. This obligation is established on March 10, 2016 decree, the so-called "5 Stream"decree (plastic, wood, metal, paper, glass). However, implementation has been delayed as many companies have not implemented the necessary steps.

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Limits of waste separation

Not all waste is recyclable. There are many chemicals or items known as "separation destructives". All of these disruptors are non-recyclable products or contaminants that interfere with the recycling of other streams. For all these products, it is time for businesses to make their products environmentally friendly. Eventually, some chemicals are not allowed, multiple materials will be avoided, and the product will be removable.