

Assessing Readiness of Greek municipalities to introduce bio-based materials in waste management streams

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Abstract:

Each year, people generate 2.5 billion tonnes of waste in the European Union – or five tonnes per person. Proper separate collection of waste is necessary to ensure optimal material recovery and move towards circular economy. The current trend of increasing collection rates, encouraged by EU legislation, is promising, however, progress is uneven within European countries. Whereas European and national targets are the overall drivers of better waste collection, regional and local implementation is crucial for achieving positive results. New initiatives to include innovative materials as bio-based and biodegradable plastics to current waste management streams should be carefully evaluated before further actions are recommended by authorities. Greece is one of the most touristic European countries and solid waste management is of crucial importance. Considering quick development of bio-based and biodegradable plastics in the European market, it is important to assess the readiness of the municipalities to manage this new type of solid waste. Therefore, this study assesses the readiness of the municipalities across Greece to introduce innovative materials to their current waste management structure. Municipalities have been surveyed in order to evaluate the current situation and capacities for adapting waste management streams to process bio-based and biodegradable plastics.

Keywords:

Plastic, bio-based, biodegradable, waste management, assessment, Greece, municipalities