

Ninth edition



WATR

Waste Management Technologies in Regions

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
2016



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Dear Readers,

The Waste Management Technologies in Regions (WMTR) program is pleased to share our ninth Newsletter, which describes the work we have accomplished during the period of July-September 2016. This newsletter facilitates interactive communication with colleagues and participants in the development of solid waste management sectors. Your comments and suggestions are highly appreciated; please contact us at the following address/email:

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Sincerely,
WMTR Program

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About the Program

Waste Management Technologies in Regions (WMTR) is a 4-year program that was launched on March 18, 2014. The initiative is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), together with the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) – a local partner.

WMTR is assisting the Government of Georgia to design an adequate waste management system in the regions of Adjara and Kakheti. The program objectives are to support a cleaner and healthier environment, minimize adverse impacts from waste on human health and natural resources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.

Activity Highlights

One Less Landfill – Gurjaani Landfill is Closed

Within the framework of the closure plan conducted by the Waste Management Technologies in Regions program, Gurjaani landfill, which has operated since 2000, and was located on a swamp, was closed by the Georgian Solid Waste Management Company. In accordance with international standards, the landfill's surface was graded, while the remaining waste was covered by clay soil.



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The Gurjaani disposal area was located in the municipality of Gurjaani along the Gurjaani-Jabukiani-Lagodekhi road. The landfill, which was built during the Soviet era, did not comply with modern standards. It should be noted that the exact date when disposal operations began in the landfill is unknown and there is little information on the total quantity of solid waste delivered to the site during its operation. However, it is known that waste delivered here was regularly burned.



The closed landfill, the surrounding territories of which were used for agricultural purposes, is no longer a threat to the environment and human health.

The purpose of the closure plan prepared by the WMTR program is to present the design basis and activities that will be utilized to minimize the environmental impact of the disposal area.

Currently, waste from Gurjaani Municipality is disposed of at the refurbished landfills in Telavi and Dedoplistskaro.

Trainings on Composting at Keda and Shuakhevi Municipalities in Adjara A.R

Aiming to assist Adjara AR in developing composting practices, the WMTR team together with a local expert organized training in Keda and Shuakhevi municipalities on September 13 and 14 respectively. The training was conducted for municipality and Gamgebeli staff together with trustees, farmers and various organizations operating in the municipalities. Both trainings hosted approximately 70 interested individuals.

According to the seasonal composition study conducted by the team at Batumi landfill from the summer of 2015 to spring 2016, organic waste composed of 36.61% of the total. Thus, to promote the rational use of organic waste and to reduce the disposal of such waste on the landfill, it is important for the region to introduce a composting scheme.

The training covered basic information on soil and the expert talked about problems that are caused by its degradation. He continued to cover composting, and explained the process, its importance and the how to prepare to compost.



While talking about composting, the expert explained the ingredients of composting, how to design a composting bin, what should be put in, what should not, what ingredients are harmful, and how to take care of it.

The audience expressed an interest in the topic and asked questions to the expert to get more detailed information. Some even showed readiness to install a demo composting box in their yards.



Launching waste separation scheme in Tbilisi Marriot

In order to promote waste separation, Tbilisi Marriott hotel has established recycling areas in August with the help of WMTR team.

At the moment, the hotel separates plastic and glass. This is due to the fact that hotel generates only this two types of recyclable waste. The team helped the hotel to establish the whole process of separate waste collection and identified a company to collect the waste and later on take to the recycling entities.

WMTR program through different small scale pilot projects is trying to demonstrate benefits of separate waste collection development in the country and continues its collaboration with various hotels and commercial entities.

WMTR developed a Waste Management Strategy for Adjara A.R. 2017-2023

Within the framework of the program, the team has started working on waste management strategy for Autonomous Republic of Adjara, which will include activities to be implemented in the years 2017-2023. Document is developed in accordance with Waste Management Code and EU-Georgia Association Agreement guidelines.

The strategy aims to harmonized the waste management process of Adjara A.R with Waste Management National strategy 2016-2030 and Waste Management National Plan 2016-2020.

SWOT and PEST analysis method was used during the development of the Strategy and Action Plan. The vision and goals of the plan was identified based on this analysis. Objectives are written out for each goal along with performance dates. In order to fulfill each task, an appropriate measures need to be done to constitute the main part of the action plan.

According to the strategy having an effective waste management mechanism includes: waste management sector regulation, appropriate standards and best practices to improve services taking into account the geographical location, the service fee calculation standard methodologies; to encourage commercialization of the waste management sector and to establish waste separation systems.

Training on Changes to Tax Legislation and Taxation Issues

On July 13, training on Changes to Tax Legislation and Taxation Issues was conducted for waste recycling companies within Waste Management Technologies in Regions (WMTR).

The meeting was attended by members of the Waste Management Association (WMA), which was formed within WMTR, as well as organizations interested in becoming members of the association. Companies recycling



and collecting paper, plastic and tires were represented at the training. Representatives of around 10 organizations attended the training.

Within the training, recent important changes to tax legislation were discussed, including distributed profits. Amendments to the Tax Code of Georgia come into effect as of January 1 2017, and aim to transform the taxation system based on the Estonian model. This will result in changing the taxation system for all legal entities other than individual entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations and financial institutions.

In addition, participants discussed various practical cases pertaining to tax legislation and the influence of case manuals of the Revenue Service and other legal acts related to tax legislation on incurrence of tax liabilities of companies.



The meeting proceeded in a question and answer style. Participants were especially interested in the Estonian model of taxation related to income tax. The model fundamentally changes the current understanding of income tax for legal entities.

WMTR developed a Waste Management Guideline for Protected Areas of Georgia

In collaboration of Agency of Protected Areas (APA), the WMTR team has developed a special guideline on how to manage waste on protected territories of Georgia.

According to the report, an effective waste management must be an integral part of APA and its protected areas. Therefore, the waste management policy of the Protected Areas should clearly define and reflect the mission of the APA - to preserve and protect Georgia's protected areas. The policy should highlight the need to reducing the waste, collection, recycling and composting processes to reduce the negative impact on the environment.

One of the principal problems that currently exist at Georgia's protected areas is uncontrolled litter, especially at active public areas like picnic spots or in remote locations used for hiking or other similar purposes.

To address the above mentioned issue, the report suggests several approaches for APA to consider and implement. Among them is one of the most common methods used worldwide called "carry in/carry out" approach, when a visitor leaves with the waste he/she generated at the area. In this regard, source reduction approach is also noteworthy which implies making rational environmental choices on packaging and purchasing consumer goods, especially those used by staff members or sold to the visitors.

It should be also mentioned that the local population litters the nearby territory, which is mainly due to the lack of waste collection containers. The issue should be solved in close cooperation with the local municipality. This needs to be taken into account during the implementation of municipal waste management plans (if necessary additional containers should be places in such places, or to optimize the location of existing ones).

For effective waste management system, each Protected Areas should define and implement an individual waste management plan and determine how to implement it on its territories.

Working Meeting and Presentation on General Methodology for Establishing Waste Management Tariffs and Cost Recovery System in Georgia

Within the framework of the project, several working meetings to present the general methodology of waste management tariffs were held in targeted regions of Ad-



jara A.R and Kakheti regions in July. The meetings were attended by the representatives of municipalities along with the cities halls of Batumi and Telavi.

The WMTR team member has presented the General Methodology for Establishing Tariffs and Cost Recovery System in Georgia, which later on was followed with question and answer discussion. During the discussion in both regions, all the parties agreed that modern billing system is the best tool to collect waste tariff fees.



General Methodology for Establishing Waste Management Tariffs and Cost Recovery System was developed by the program and is currently discussed with various decision-making institutions.

Integrated Waste Management, Challenges and Development Perspectives - joint training of WMTR and IREX

From June 14 till July 12, journalists had training on Integrated Waste Management, Challenges and Development Perspectives.





The training discussed modern approach to waste management, legislative base, household waste management system. Also, commitments related to waste management undertaken under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement was discussed.

The training was attended by 7 journalists mainly from



print media. Throughout the course, the journalists were more interested in the country's vision, strategy and action plan related to the waste management along with tariffs and waste management system in the capital.

On the last day of the course, journalists visited Tbilisi landfill. A few months later, the studio Monitor expressed an interested to do a report on waste management related issues.

Kindergartens join the Telavi Pilot Project to start waste separation

The WMTR team continues to have various awareness raising campaigns in the 5 villages of the Telavi Pilot Project.

The Pilot Project, Piloting of Integrated Waste Management Systems in Target Areas of Telavi Municipality, aims to demonstrate the benefits of solid waste management practices in 5 targeted villages via establishing integrated waste management system, raising the awareness of local governmental structures and the public at large.



In 5 villages of Telavi Municipality – Tsinandali, Kvemo Khodasheni, Busheti, Vanta and Akura – separate waste collection areas was established in public spaces where population collects paper and plastic separately. In order make the project even more large-scale and to popularize it within the kindergartens, additional 12 waste bins were places at public kindergartens.

Within the framework of the event, the program organized a campaign dedicated to separate waste collection on July 6. The team held short interviews in the streets, asked questions regarding waste recycling, and awarded correct answers with WMTR program t-shirts.





Social Campaign “GO Green with Goodwill”; First Recycling Corner Opens in Tbilisi

Goodwill is going green, and encouraging their customers to follow their lead. On 4 August, the city’s first recycling corner for customers and residents of Tbilisi was opened in the supermarket chain’s Didi Dighomi branch, which will collect separated paper, PET bottles, plastic bags, and aluminium cans. Separated waste from the recycling corner, instead of ending up in landfills, will be delivered to a private company, Clean World, for recycling.

Goodwill is the first business in Georgia to introduce such a green initiative. The project is being implemented with the support of the USAID programme, Waste Management Technologies in Regions, in partnership with the waste collection company Clean World.

The opening ceremony created a very positive atmosphere, with guests taking photos in front of an innovative and original photo stand made of repurposed items and admiring the recycling art installation — a tree, decorated with creatively reused items. The ceremony was also attended by guests from Kakheti Region, with Telavi #1 public school’s Eco-Club eager not to miss out on the event, visiting Goodwill to show their support for the green initiative.

During the opening of the new recycling corner the public and media representatives were addressed by US Embassy’s Chargé D’Affaires Nicholas Berliner, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection Gigla Agulashvili, CENN’s Executive Director, Nana Janashia, and Goodwill CEO Giorgi Khabashvili. The event was also attended by USAID Acting Deputy Mission Director Mark Mitchell.

Check the Social commercial (Georgian) on Goodwill’s social initiative by following this link.



WMTR Program Concluded its Summer Eco-Camp Season

The WMTR Program concluded its eco-camp season on September 2. Within the framework of the program, three eco-camps were organized in Mtirala and Lagodekhi national parks from August 15 till September 2. The eco-camps lasted for five days and gathered school students from project target regions.



Along with having fun, the WMTR team provided 8-11 grade school students with the following information through interactive sessions:

- A seminar on protected areas and on Mtirala or Lagodekhi National Park
- A day in a park rangers’ life, and waste management issues in the park;
- Discussion around the campfire about ways to manage waste in protected areas;
- A seminar on ecosystem services and an educational game called Fishing — on how to benefit from and sustain the ecosystem at the same time.



One day from the five-day camps were dedicated to a hike. In Mtirala National Park the participants followed the Tsalnari trail, while in Lagodekhi they visited Gurgeniani waterfall.

As a practical example of how to reduce waste, the participants used multiple-use utensils instead of single-use ones. During their hikes, the students cleaned the areas and conducted research on the waste that was dumped in the area. The program continues to raise awareness on waste management issues among youth. Moreover, for next summer’s eco-camp season, it plans to offer various competitions to its targeted regions of Adjara AR and Kakheti.



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