

New ways to avoid municipal solid waste in the communities

Dipl.-Geol. Dr. Ulrich S. Lottner, 2008

The Bavarian Environment Agency (BEA), Augsburg, Germany

The basic principles for modern waste management in Bavaria were set in the Bavarian Waste Management Act of 1990. On this base the residual waste in the municipalities and administrative districts of Bavaria (both referred to communities hereinafter) became noticeably reduced in favour of a material or energetic recovery of valuable materials. The total municipal solid waste stagnated in the Bavarian communities at approximately 500 kg / a in the last 15 years. So, waste prevention made no relevant progress since then.

Targets and measures to avoid waste as well as obligations and suggestions of the state and the communities are set in the "waste management plan Bavaria" in an excellent manner. But those points do not have a binding character. Hardly anything the communal waste consultants initiated years ago because of a high political importance is still operating in the waste advice. The number of communal waste consultants in Bavaria decreased from 285 in 1992 to 182 today. Climate protection and dramatically increasing prices for energy and raw material also induce to rethinking in waste prevention and increase the efficiency of goods by re-use.

Measures to avoid waste are in particular buying patterns based on the purchase of low waste and pollutant products, a quality buying behaviour, the acquisition and transfer of well-preserved second-hand goods (re-use with or without repair) and the further use of goods (for example tyres as fenders for ships). Also the European Union makes demands on new standards for waste prevention: On 17 June 2008, the European Parliament adopted the draft law of the European Commission directive on waste. The publication of this directive can be expected in 2008. Then a two-year implementation period into national law will begin. The member states have to develop waste prevention programmes and targets. The progress will be monitored and evaluated. The information and participation of the general public is to ensure.

The classic waste advice reached the limits, what now a campaign of the Bavarian Environment Agency (BEA) tries to overcome: a new integrated basis for a more efficient and sustainable waste prevention is to work out by networking with other communal duties. The BEA together with communities, open-minded for this problem will develop the base for waste avoiding concepts in a workshop. These concepts as an example are to be implemented in other communities later on. About successes and challenges in the field of a sustainable communal management should be reported transparently and understandably. Aim is to win the citizens in this way but also to impress companies.

As an initial development the BEA will run the mentioned workshop on 14 October 2008. The following topics should be processed: Possibilities and limits (1) of a comprehensive communal policy with the aim of avoiding waste and optimizing the capture and re-use of well-preserved second-hand goods, (2) of the adaptation of disposal structures and waste statutes, (3) of establishing repair skills in the communities through economic incentives, (4) of close local environmental and social pacts with offices, clinics, nursing homes, small business enterprises, hotels, restaurants, etc. (5) of involving and winning citizens, especially families, children and young people with avoiding waste. (6) of reducing littering by communal measures, information and involvement of the citizens.

The campaign of the BEA starts with the selection of appropriate communities and realization of the workshop. It will continue with the development and implementation of the waste avoiding concepts on the basics, developed during the workshop. The particular community wins reputation by the citizens as a result of its sustainable development, assumed the political self-representation is adequate. This also will advertise outgoing on guests and the resettlement of companies. The campaign will continue in other communities following the example.

Lottner, U.: "Neue Wege zur Vermeidung von Siedlungsabfällen in den Kommunen" eingereicht zur 9. DepoTech2008, 8 S. (Langfassung), Augsburg 2008, see:

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