



Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie,
l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile

Differentiated waste collection, Sustainable mobility - Castelbuono Municipality [Sicily]

Context & Rationale

Castelbuono is a Zero Waste town of 10.000 habitants in Sicily, Italy, which has managed to develop an innovative system to marry sustainability, social work and economics. The mayor decided to link the recovery of a traditional donkey-breed from Sicily - called Ragusa - with the challenges of the waste collection in narrow streets and the social work.

Description

Castelbuono mayor decided to use the donkeys to activate the door-to-door separate collection. On one hand it makes donkeys useful so that recovering this breed stops being a cost to become an asset, on the other hand it becomes a way to reintroduce socially excluded people (with mental or addiction problems) thanks to using contact with animals as a therapy (onotherapy) and finally it turns waste collection into a tourist attraction and an education tool. A win-win situation!

Main Objectives

- expected saving: 7.000 € per year, 47.000 Kwh, 12.600 kg of CO₂
- balanced accounts in waste collection and treatment
- less expenses in subsidies to socially excluded people and very high rates of integration to society
- recovering an important part of local culture
- creation of a tourist attraction at zero cost

Implementing Structure & Partners - Governance

Castelbuono is member of the Italian network of Zero Waste municipalities: other municipalities with similar characteristics inside and outside Sicily are studying importing this successful practice.



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Financing and Costs / Time Frame

Buying a small truck to collect waste costs more than 15,000 euro and lasts 5 to 10 years whereas a donkey costs less than one tenth and last longer. Plus the maintenance costs of donkeys are a lot lower and they don't need oil or electricity to run which makes them more cost efficient in a world of ever rising oil prices.

Contacts & Links

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