



Guarda sem Desperdicio

COUNTRY

Portugal

PROJECT PROMOTER

Freguesia da Guarda

FUNDING

National funds, EUR 24 525

Private funds, EUR 6 953

DURATION

2018 – 2019

CONTRIBUTION TO

- generating environmental benefits
- mitigating climate change
- increasing efficiency of biomass resource use
- replicating an existing approach from another area/country

KEYWORDS

Added value, bio-waste, residues, pilot project, sustainability, environmental protection

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The initiative

A pilot project was set up in rural Portugal in order to raise awareness and educate households about how to minimise food waste by re-using it as compost. The project helped to distribute compost bins to families so they could turn their food waste into fertiliser. The families also received training in how to prevent food waste in home cooking. Food waste prevention brochures were distributed locally and a schools workshop series was organised.

RESULTS

- ✓ The project contributes to Portugal's goal of achieving a 35% reduction in the quantity of organic waste that ends up in landfill by 2020.
- ✓ The training and information made available through the project will encourage more energy-efficient food preparation and storage practices; leading eventually to fewer supermarket visits and a consequent decrease in CO2 emissions
- ✓ The project also aims to improve soil quality through increased domestic use of compost bins



Context

This project was set up because of the need to reduce the amount of food waste that ends up in landfills. It is vital that households begin to view food waste as a resource and understand the economic and environmental value of preparing and storing food more efficiently.

Objective

The goal of this project is to raise awareness and educate households about how to minimise food waste by re-using it as compost.

Activities

The project helped to distribute compost bins and provide training to 100 families so that they can use them in their backyards to turn food waste into fertiliser.

Participating families also received training in how to prevent food waste in the home.

The project also organised the collection of coffee grounds (for composting) from local NGOs that offer free coffee to their employees.

500 information brochures on food waste prevention were distributed to the local population.

Finally, the initiative organised workshops in schools regarding food waste prevention and composting.

Students from the local university were engaged in the initiative by delivering cooking classes and composting workshops.

All information material was produced by local companies, ensuring that the project worked in a closed circle, as much as possible.

This project was run according to the Portuguese Action Plan for Circular Economy and contributes to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals No. 12 on sustainable production and consumption, No.13 Climate action and No. 15 Life on land. Moreover, it contributes to Portugal's goal of achieving a 35% reduction in the quantity of organic waste that ends up in landfill by 2020.

Environmental sustainability

The project promotes environmental sustainability, by reducing the amount of food waste that ends up in landfill and helping to improve soil quality by producing compost fertiliser.

The project's success will be measured in terms of the number of families that received the compost bins and the number of people that participated in the training programme; the quantity of compost produced that was then incorporated in the soil; and the results of a soil analysis to see how it has been affected by the compost. Finally the project will measure the total number of people involved in its actions.

Lessons learnt

Projects should be made as simple as possible, involving local actors and the local community from the outset.

Project holders should take advantage of the social dynamics and local spaces of social interaction to introduce the themes and ideas to potential participants.

Specialised partners should be engaged to measure the more complex aspects of the project's impact (such as the soil analyses)

Make sure that there is enough time to prepare and make the necessary acquisitions during the existing time frame. Especially if it is a short project.

Ensure there are some back-up funds available and time to spare, as there might be some delays with funding or suppliers.

Relationships with stakeholders are more concrete when they have been established before the start of a project. Therefore, it would be best to build a network as soon as possible, or organise meetings and activities that build trust between potential project partners.