

→ Exploring new services in waste management

Country Turkey

Project title Exploring new services in waste management

Twinning Municipality of Almelo (the Netherlands)

Municipality of Denizli (Turkey)

Project period 1 December 2006 to 1 September 2007

Project budget € 56,751

Project objective

Formulate an integrated waste management and policy plan, prioritizing waste and environmental services.

Project summary

The Netherlands municipality of Almelo supported the municipality of Denizli in formulating an integrated waste management and policy plan which sets priorities for the future waste and environmental services. Feasibility studies were carried out on new services related to waste management.

Core information

Denizli, located in the southwest of the Aegean Peninsula, is a tourist and industrial city with around 300,000 inhabitants. The famous white cascades and healing hot springs of Pamukkale attract both local and foreign tourists. Geothermal energy offers potential. Industry is well developed, especially the textile sector. Denizli municipality is a local administration serving citizens with public services, especially infrastructure, city planning and social services.

Problem analysis

In view of Turkey's EU membership application, local authorities have been given greater responsibilities and obligations related to wastemanagement, public health and environmental protection. The process of policy development in regard to new waste services is less developed. Turkish waste management services are still mostly supply-driven. Integrated and demand-driven waste services are still not common as a result of problems in policy development, and justification and prioritization of investments. The experience and knowledge gained in this project forms the basis for a more professional approach in the definition, selection and development of new waste services.

A practice to improve service delivery of local governments

Project implementation

The project started with training on how to execute a feasibility study. A waste policy document was then drafted by experts of the two municipalities of Almelo and Denizli. Both the feasibility study and waste policy document aimed to cover the upcoming five years. The study showed good applicability of methane gas extraction techniques in Denizli. However, this technique can only be used for 3-4 years, as then the landfill needs to be closed down. The results of the study were incorporated in the waste plan drafted by municipal staff. Meanwhile, municipal staff was trained on how the equipment already installed can be effectively used for future services. Field excursions and learning visits took place to Almelo. The presentation of the feasibility study as well as the waste policy document were presented to executives and council members.

Process management

The project had a strong capacity building objective for organizational strengthening and improvement of work processes. The decision making processes were supported by changing the planning and feasibility processes for the proposed investments. Municipal staff and council members were primary players in this specific project.

Recommendations: do's and don'ts

- Implement public awareness campaigns to precede or in parallel with practical work;
- Involve all key staff in the training and project processes;
- As effective methane gas extraction takes time, the lessons learnt from the feasibility study and the applicability of the extraction techniques must be recorded carefully so they are still known to local participants when actually required.