

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN SELECTIVE WASTE COLLECTION AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS

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ABSTRACT

The paper summarizes the main strategies for increasing community involvement and mobilizing citizens in waste collection and recovery programs both nationally and globally, in the context of a sustainable economy. Structured in two directions, this study begins with the presentation of general considerations related to the need to involve the local community in integrated waste management. Finally, the major goal is highlighted, namely the selective collection of waste for recycling, resulting in the conservation of natural resources and a cleaner environment. The role that the research must play in developing new solutions in this regard is also emphasized.

KEYWORDS: *solid waste, collection, recycling, strategy*

1. INTRODUCTION

The waste is a pressing issue, both globally and locally, which has become a priority in public policy. Waste has a high potential for environmental pollution, gaining a global dimension. Improper waste management generates public health risks as well as short and long term costs.

The increase in the consumption of goods in the last period has also had the effect of increasing the volume of waste generated by the population. For this reason, the environment has suffered, with climate change, one of the main causes being inadequate waste management.

Thus, it is necessary to take measures to reduce the amount of waste deposited in landfills for disposal, and thus increase the amount of recyclable waste extracted from municipal waste, therefore involving the community in selective waste collection and recovery programs is needed, having an essential role in this regard.

Selective collection, as defined in *Wikipedia* (Colectare selective, n.d.), represents a part of the recycling process, through which recyclable materials are collected and transported to recycling centers. The recycling process involves composting waste, separate collection and waste treatment for their reintroduction into economic circuit.”

„The relations that are established between man and nature depend to a large extent on the applied economic circuit. To overcome or alleviate the problems within this relationship, the classical economic model or “linear” model, based on the principle of “resource consumption – product – waste” should be gradually replaced through the “circular” model, which presupposes the principle “resource consumption – product – waste recovery which becomes a secondary resource” (Turcan, 2019).

Under these conditions, proper waste management is a basic pillar of long-term policies aimed at sustainable development, minimizing the amount of waste generated and recycling it as a priority.

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