



TRIS

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Policy for Circular Economy: Emilia-Romagna Circular Economy Law

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Legal service of environment, waste, remediation of contaminated sites and environmental public services

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Waste management policies



Emilia-Romagna is the first Italian region to have taken on, by law, the circular economy as the North Star of its waste policy with the aim of reducing waste production and recover as much matter as possible for recycling.

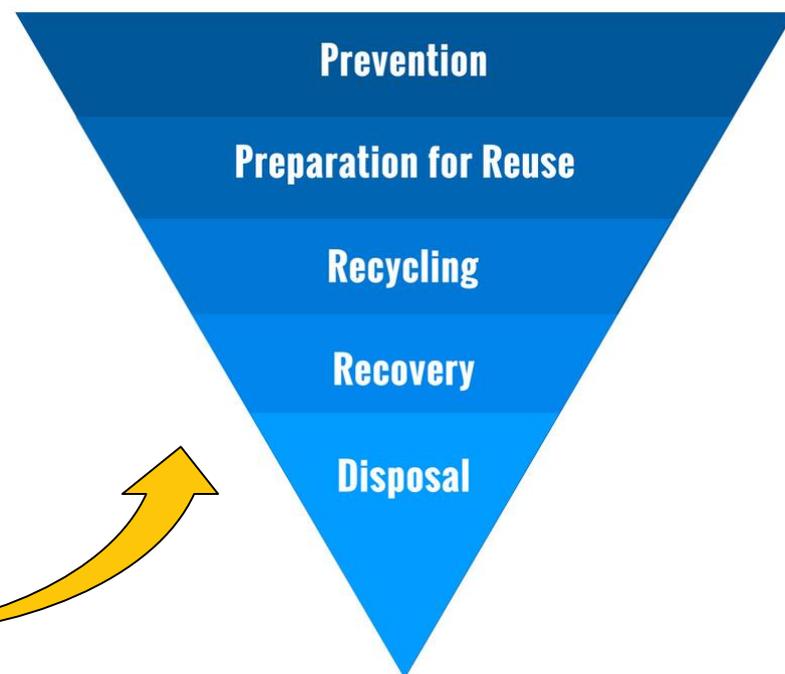
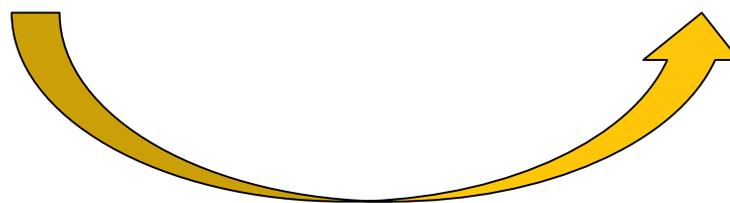
It did so through the Law nr 16 that came into force on October 5th 2015.

Waste and sustainable development

With this law, the Emilia-Romagna Region, has adopted the Circular Economy principles.



The outlined management model is in line with the so-called "waste hierarchy" which places a top priority prevention and recycling.



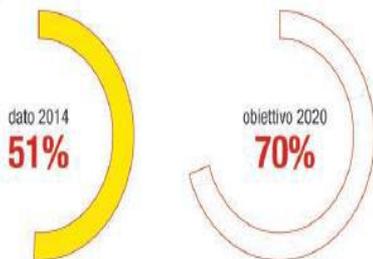
Goals to achieve by 2020

RACCOLTA DIFFERENZIATA



TASSO DI RICICLAGGIO

Indicatore previsto dalla CE



PRODUZIONE DEI RIFIUTI

657 kg/ab. dato 2014



* Obiettivo percentuale riferito al dato 2011, pari a 673 kg/ab.

The regional act defines **target** for waste management, ensuring environmental and health protection and reducing the overall impacts of resource use.

With regard to municipal waste, the law settled ambitious minimum targets to be achieved by 2020:

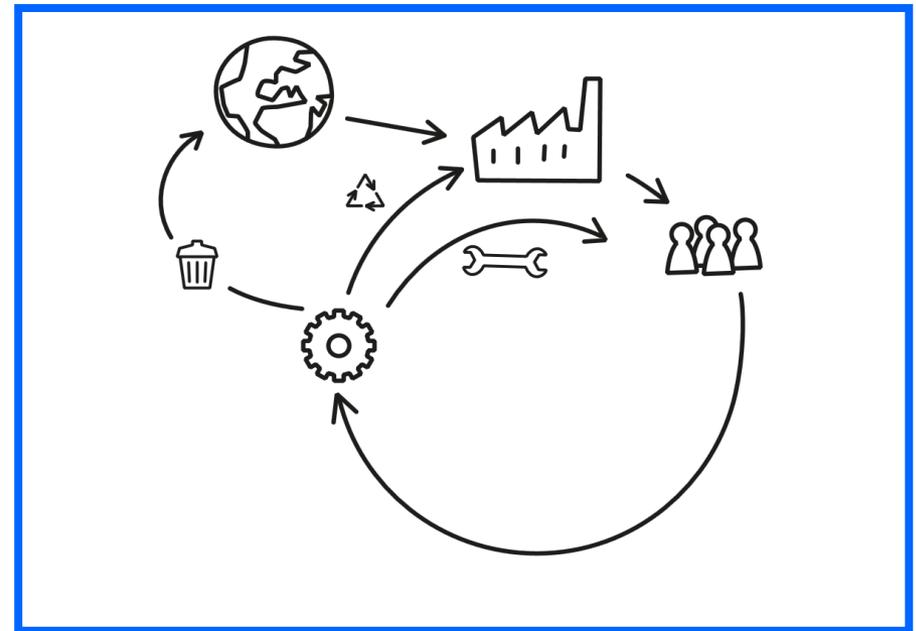
- reduce production by 20-25%** compared to the 2011 values and achieve an average of 150 kilograms year per capita by 2020;

- for **separate waste collection**, the bar is raised to **73%**, of which at least 70% to be sent for actual recycling.

Tools for Circular Economy

In order to allow the achievement of the targets set for 2020, Law 16 identified some **actions and tools**:

- **incentives** for prevention;
- **the promotion of reuse**;
- **the application of Pay as you Throw (PAYT) system**;
- **disincentives to waste disposal**;
- **forum on the circular economy**;
- **a “Permanent Coordination for the by-products”**;
- **activities of information and education on prevention and recovery.**



Pay as you Throw (PAYT) system

The first of such instruments, the quantity-based tariff, introduces a fairness criterion: **citizens and companies will pay their waste tax according to the production of mixed waste fraction.**



Such measure, based on existing experiences, has proved to contribute to the reduction of waste production in an effective way and improve recycling.

The law requires all municipalities to adopt it by 2020 with priority given to the non-residential users.

Fund for waste prevention

The second instrument is the **Fund to promote waste prevention and reduction**, aimed to rewarding local administrations, citizens and company achieving the best results in reducing waste production.

Part of it is aimed at **reducing the costs of MSW management** in the municipalities achieving a high level of mixed waste reduction, while the remaining part of the Fund is meant **to finance, projects and investments** by the municipalities devoted to increasing separate waste collection, and waste production reduction.

It is also aimed at the **creation of municipal centre for reuse**, where goods brought by citizens will undergo appropriate maintenance so that they may be used again.

So, the most virtuous local administrations will be allocated more resources and local citizens will lower their bills.



Special Tax for waste landfilling

The third instrument is the raising of Special Tax for waste landfilling, as well as the disposal of waste in its unaltered state into incineration plants without energy recovery.

The rationale behind such increment is easily understood. It is an attempt to make waste disposal economically unpalatable, thus paving the way for the **closing of most of the operating landfills in Emilia-Romagna.**



Permanent “Forum”

In order to support the implementation of this new strategy, **the law introduced a permanent Forum on the circular economy**, which involves institutions, civil society’s representatives, economic organizations representing businesses and environmental associations.



The Forum on the circular economy has been started in September 2016 and is being developed through a participatory process called “Chiudi il cerchio”.

Chiudi il cerchio

The participatory process “Chiudi il cerchio” includes:

- meetings and workshops, reserved for different stakeholders, using methods of involvement, communication and facilitation;
- a dedicated online platform where all the documents are published;
- education and communication activities carried out on the territories.



<http://partecipazione.regione.emilia-romagna.it/iopartecipo/economia-circolare/chiudi-il-cerchio>

Forum and Tris project

The third workshop of “Chiudi il cerchio” which took place on 6 December, was reserved to companies and to research's communities.

At the meeting, it was presented the Tris project. The participants discussed about industrial symbiosis, highlighting the key elements that may lead greater innovation and added value.



With regard to the companies and in particular those innovating production cycles and product aimed at reducing the production waste, the law (Article 3, paragraph 2) refers to the incentives provided in other regional regulations, for example the allocation of European funds.

Another important instrument provided by the law is activation of a **permanent coordination** to facilitate the **identification of by-products** from businesses.

At the 'by-products permanent coordination' take part trade associations and other stakeholders. It's aimed at the identification of by-products, in accordance with national regulations, in order to facilitate the achievement of the objective of reducing the production of waste.



By-product: apricot kernels

The “path” identified by Emilia-Romagna Region

The identified procedure involves:

- the formalization of the characteristics of the production processes and by-products derived from them for the different chains identified within the Coordination.
- Companies can apply for entry in the “List of regional products” where its production process and any substance or object deriving from it comply with the characteristics identified, and there are legal requirements.
- the inclusion in the list is voluntary and does not affect the ability to demonstrate, with different ways permitted by law, that the substances and / or the identified objects have the status of by-products;

We have just approved rules for four by-products:
apricot kernels, peach pits, salt arising from salting meat and
Black-liquor

Agreement for prevention e recycle

Moreover (Art 3 paragraph 3), requires that waste management service can include incentives for those businesses operating towards the prevention of waste production.

This also includes both charity and social activities and initiatives that have already obtained formal certification of their shops from an environmental and energy point of view according to protocols agreed with the Region (the first was signed in November with Legacoop and other Emilia Romagna large-scale retail trade).

The Regional Waste Management Plan

The targets of the LR nr 16/2015 were taken from **Regional Waste Management Plan** approved by **Emilia-Romagna**

In fact in Italy, responsibility for waste management is shared between the Government (national level) and the 20 regions (regional level).

The regional government is the responsible authority for the Waste Management Plan.

The "**Waste Management Plan 2020**" of Emilia-Romagna Region has been legally approved in May 2016 following a long and complex planning process started in 2012. The Regional Plan has been subjected to an evaluation procedure of the European Commission. Following this detailed procedure, the WMP is outcome fully comply with Community law.

The Regional Waste Management Plan

The WMP implements the recommendations contained in current regulations and represents one of the regional strategy cornerstones for sustainable development.

It covers municipal waste, which includes commercial waste considered to be similar to that of households, and industrial waste.

Specific waste streams within these broader categories are also analysed; for example waste oils, and construction and demolition waste.



Conclusions

- The Emilia-Romagna was **the first Italian region to have a law on circular economy** and to believe that a shift towards a circular economy can be an important development opportunities for SMEs and for the whole region.
- As you have seen, the **regional WMP sets very high targets, even more ambitious than those of the circular economy EU package.**
- The starting point is good, but there is still needed a lot of work, and it is necessary especially collaboration of citizens, stakeholders and public service operators to achieve them.



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Thanks for your attention

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