

Western Macedonia: The first waste management unit in trial operation

Western Macedonia is pioneering in waste management as it is now the country's first region to adopt an Integrated Waste Management System, achieving an alignment with the European guidelines and securing a better quality of life for its citizens.

The most part of the project is already completed by now and the unit has been under trial operation since January 2017.

The history

The contract for the first Integrated Waste Management Project was signed on June 10th, 2015 and provided for 2 years of construction works and 25 years of operation as far as new and some of the existing infrastructure are concerned.

The funding

Budget:

48mn euros

Funding resources:

- European Investment Bank (12.72mn euros),
- Urban Development Fund for Western Macedonia (Jessica): 12.72mn euros
- Own capitals: 16.96mn euros
- NBG: 5.6mn euros

Environmental and social benefits

Efficient waste management is pivotal for contemporary societies and has a strong environmental and social impact as well as a direct relation with public health. The project was implemented in accordance certain guidelines and technical characteristics dictated by the European Union, aiming for the facilities' excellent environmental performance. Some of the main targets that are expected to be met through this project are:

- Minimization of the unrecyclable waste remnants intended for burial to less than 36%
- Recycling will be boosted to 35%
- Significant minimization of the carbon footprint

During the project's implementation, more than 150 jobs have been created and, when the facilities go operational, more permanent roles for the local society will become available for a period of 25 years.

What is now expected is the signature, approving the absorption of the first compost loads in the Waste Management Unit. From February 2017, the Unit will be handling increasing waste volumes to reach full capacity in April and become commercially available by June 10th.