

Renovating the System of Returnable Packaging in Slovenia

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Abstract—Today societies handle with various questions about waste management, which are representing the big environmental threat. Slovenia, as an EU member state, is focusing in become The Recycling Society, which, in a first step is trying to prevent the formation of waste, by handling with waste trying to reuse them as a source.

Even so, that Slovenia is a small country with only 2. 000 000 inhabitants (approx.) it is facing a major problem regarding the waste management. The problems start with the different systems of waste management, which are basically the same but in the details they do have different approaches. For the uniform systems is responsible the Ministry for agriculture and environment, which is also in charge of fixing out the roles of all key players in the packaging chain.

The purpose is to redesign the system of reverse packaging system for drink containers, which represent a big proportion in the municipal waste from households. Today the basic system of empty drink containers is integrated into the system of sorting out general household waste. In this system the drink containers end in the packaging waste, although they are made from different material. After sorting, the public service for waste removal collects the waste and sorts it again in the collection centers. Afterwards the packaging materials are stored for company for handling the packaging waste to take them away. These companies continue with the recycling process so that in the end we get the new source for production.

To reduce packaging waste from households, the best optimal solution would be reducing the waste at the source. The system we want to introduce is a combination of already known waste management with deposit system for drinks. As a parallel system this would represent an optimal waste handling. In Slovenia is already in use the deposit system for some glass bottles (mostly for beer and mineral water), but sadly in the decades the usage of returnable bottles is decreasing. The cause for this decreasing comes from customer's habits. "Why to buy the product which is less practical while its price is similar to the same product in more practical pack?" is the major question for most of the purchasers. Recycling propagandas and playing on person eco minding is on one way productive, but the road of eco minding is still very long and curving. To solve the problem as quickly as possible, we introduce the renewed system for drink containers with charging the deposit. We made a survey which showed that Slovenians are ready for changes and charging the deposit which would be refunded it is not a bad idea.

Key words—waste management, packaging waste, drink containers, deposit.

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Published as submitted by the authors.