



Talking Trash

Helping Neighborhoods
in Kamza Manage Their Solid Waste



A society without a comprehensive waste plan leaves waste separation to those brave enough to sift through the garbage. Local residents can organise and influence the development of a proper urban plan, helping to provide themselves a clearer future.

BACKGROUND

In the Municipality of Kamza, the Bathore and Frutikultura districts have no waste management systems, creating an unsanitary situation in which household waste is burnt or disposed of in drainage canals. Local communities, in cooperation with relevant authorities, were eager to find a solution using a democratic approach based on proper information on good waste management practices.

OBJECTIVES

The project team aimed to:

- provide information to residents according to the principles of the Aarhus Convention;
- get residents and community-based organisations to share their views and participate in a project addressing waste-management issues;



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- present potential waste reduction methods to the municipality and citizens; and
- develop a joint community/municipality solution to waste problems according to the process prescribed by the Aarhus Convention.

METHODOLOGY

The team achieved its aims by:

- sending out a questionnaire and awareness-raising materials about the waste issues in the community;
- holding community meetings to disseminate information and discuss possible solutions;
- giving demonstrations and organising site visits in areas affected by illegal waste disposal;
- holding focus group discussions; and
- making partnership agreements between public authorities and the community.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The team managed to:

- get residents to recognise themselves as important partners for public authorities;
- inform citizens and involve them in the development of two action plans to deliver waste collection systems to Bathore and Frutikultura; and
- identify waste recovery options — an important part of any waste management system — which could be implemented in the future.

FOLLOW-UP

Further community awareness-raising activities were conducted concerning waste recovery. An action plan was drafted for incorporation into the Bathore Neighborhood Development Agenda, a community document on sustainable physical, social, and economic development. The draft was presented in a newsletter and the community was invited to comment. It was also debated on television by mayoral candidates.



Ignoring urban waste issues lets the problems pile up.

GRANTS



ALBANIA