

Separate waste collection: Citizens' behavior and satisfaction, policies of cities

Years 2016-2017

In 2016, municipal waste collected was 496.7 kg per inhabitant (+ 2.2% compared to 2015); the percentage of separate collection on total waste was 52.5% (+5 percentage points on the previous year).

The highest levels of municipal waste production were found in Emilia-Romagna (653.0 kg per inhabitant) and Toscana (616.2). Molise (387.0) and Basilicata (353.0), on the other hand, were the regions in producing the lowest quantity.

In 2017 it is estimated that 85.0% of households regularly carried out the separate collection of plastics (39.7% in 1998), 74.6% of aluminum (27.8%), 84.8% of the paper (46.9%) and 84.1% of the glass (52.6%). Households resident in the North differentiated waste more than other areas of the country. The record belonged to the families of the North-West area: glass 91.8%; 81.0% aluminum containers, 91.1% plastic containers and 91.4% paper.

In 2017, 69.9% of households deemed they supported a high cost for waste collection, 25.6% considered it adequate. It is estimated that families resident in the Islands were more dissatisfied: they judged the cost to be high in 83.4% of cases, a share that dropped to 61.1% in the North-East regions.

26.3% of Italian households were satisfied of the door to door waste collection service (35.2% in the North-West and 31.9% in the North-East). Below the national average, the other geographical areas: 17.6% in the South, 19.9% in the Centre and 20.6% in the Islands.

The reasons for door-to-door dissatisfaction were related to waste collection times (94.3%) and to the belief that separate collection was not useful (89.6%).

To improve, in terms and quality, the participation in separate waste collection, 93.4% of households would like to have more information on how to separate waste; 93.3% more numerous and efficient recycling and composting centers; 83.3% deductions and/or tax or tariff concessions, already existing in some areas of the country.

Among the policies for the prevention and reduction of urban waste in provincial capitals or metropolitan cities, the most common concern the implementation of good practices in offices, schools and municipal nests, adopted by 60% of the administrations in 2016. Over 50% of the municipalities promoted the supply of quality drinking water in public spaces and carried out awareness campaigns on the topic.

In 2016, a policy largely implemented on the subject of recycling concerned the application of facilities for home composting, adopted by more than 7 cities out of 10.

In 2016, the policies for the correct inserting of waste in the appropriate container were widespread: 32 municipalities in the provincial capital exceeded the target of 65% of separate waste collection on total urban waste (21 in 2015).

28 provincial capital municipalities applied at least half of the prevention and reduction policies considered. With respect to the right conferment policies, 107 are those that implement at least half of them.

Considering the management of separate waste collection, within the structures of the municipalities of the provincial capitals, in 2015, 98% of the municipalities collected paper and toner differently (respectively in 87% and 68% of the local units); 96% of the cities differentiated plastics (in almost 80% of the buildings), 93% glass in more than half of their local units.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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