



12th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management

Municipal Biowaste Collection Strategies in Portugal: Assessing Local Approaches to EU-Driven Separate Collection Requirements

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Introduction

Portugal is in a transition phase regarding urban waste management:

- The **selective collection of biowaste** begun on January 1, 2024 (following Directive (EU) 2018/851)
- PAYT(Pay-as-you-Throw) tariff systems will gradually be implemented
- It is necessary to meet (inter)national targets for **preparing wastes for reuse and recycling**, set at 60% by 2030

What works? ... What doesn't work?

To address waste policies, local municipalities need to understand the different solutions available and assess their suitability to the **local context**.

There are already various initiatives in testing the selective collection of biowaste, PAYT, and other economic incentives...

However, a systematic analysis of these initiatives' results is lacking, which is crucial for supporting informed policy decisions.

Objectives

Carry out a comprehensive survey of
selective collection initiatives and **pilot experiences**
in Portugal related to separate biowaste collection

Methodology – data collection



On-line survey 308 municipalities

(Microsoft Forms)



Content analysis of websites

Municipality's website; digital platforms; social networks; online newspapers; official reports; technical documents



Telephone or e-mail

In cases where there was no clear information, **direct contact** was made via telephone or email.

Target data

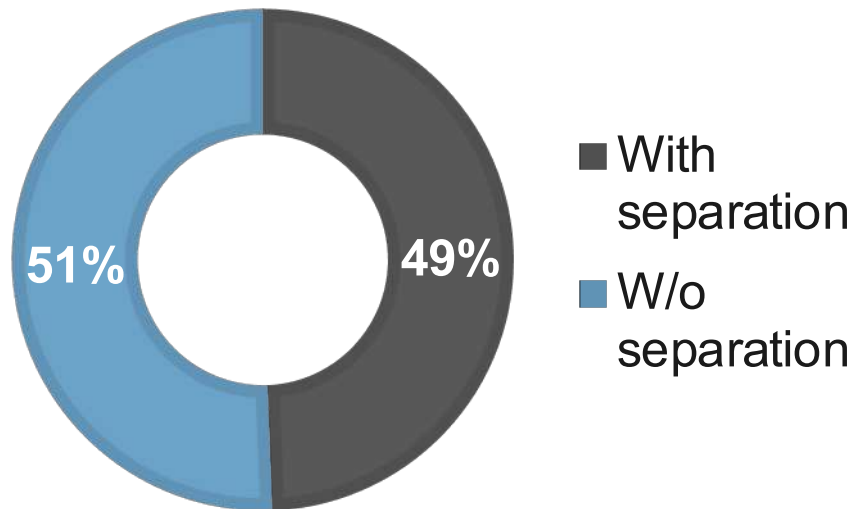


- **Selective collection of biowaste?**
- **Type of collection** (door-to-door, co-collection and kerbside bringpoints)
- **Activity sectors**
- Composting as an alternative?
- Urban type (rural, urban,..., large buildings, detached houses)
- Tonnes of biowaste collected
- Economic incentives
- Investments and costs

Results...

- How many?
 - How?
 - Who?
 - Where?
-

1. How many? Where?



- Approximately **half** of the municipalities in Portugal **have separate collection of biowaste**
- of the municipalities w/o separate collection
 - 2/3 → rural**
 - 1/3 → urban**

2. How?

Unsorted
collection



door-to-
door
59%



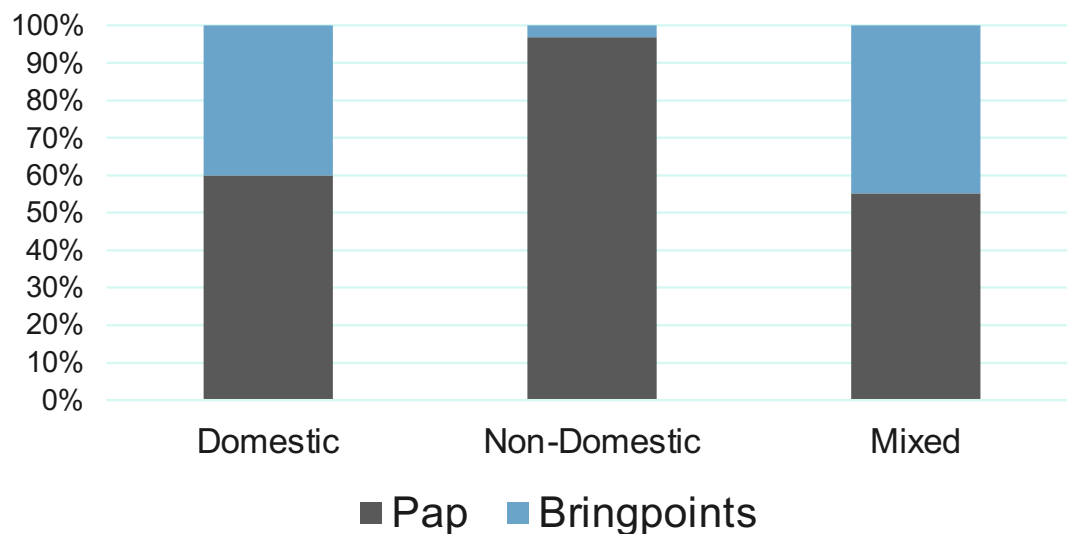
Bringpoints
(kerbside)
34%



Co-collection
7%

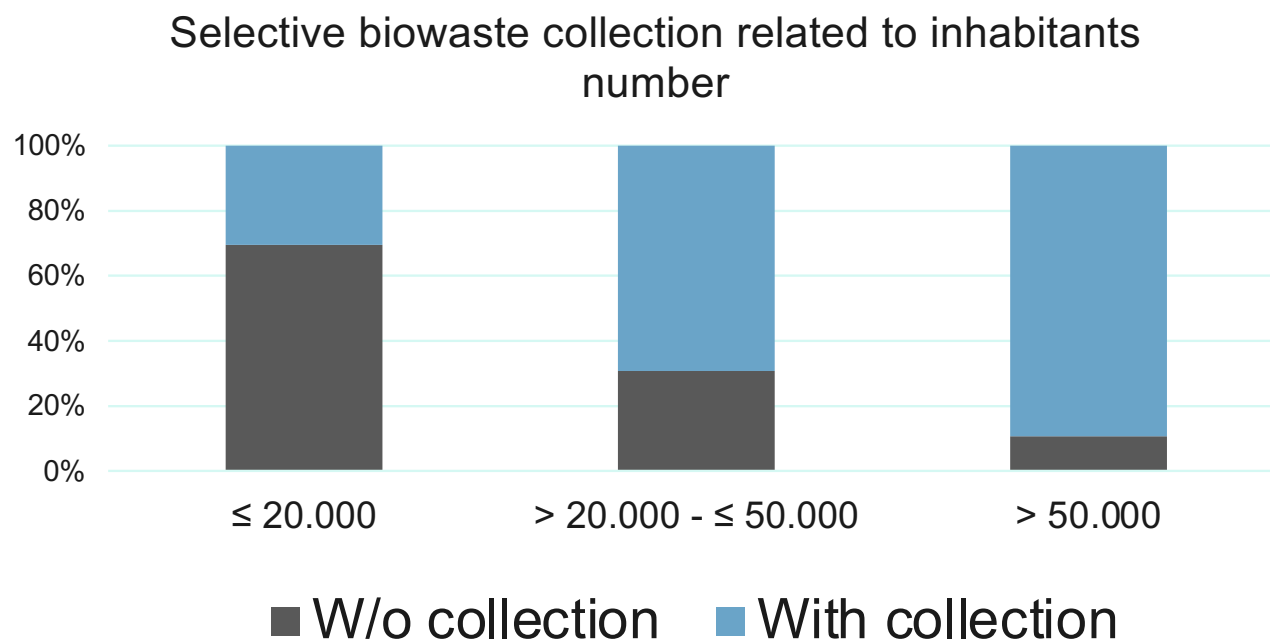
3. Who?

Do biowaste collection approaches differ in domestic and non-domestic sectors?



- For **commerce and services** (non-domestic sector), **door-to-door collection** is preferred
- In **households**:
door-to door
+
kerbside bringpoints

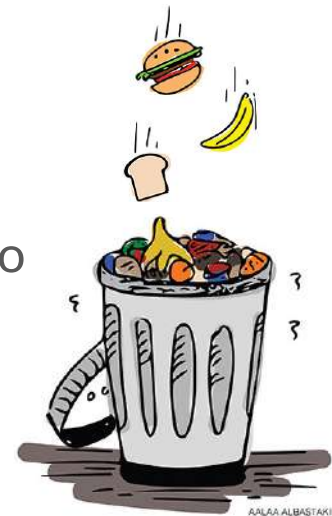
3. Who?



**Bigger cities
→ separate
collection of
biowaste**

Conclusions

- **Half of the municipalities** have implemented **separate collection of biowaste**, following the Waste Framework Directive.
- **Comerce and services** (non-domestic sector): almost 100% is **door-to-door**
- **Households**: door-to-door + kerside bringpoints
- Waste collection strategies are not evenly distributed, but tailored to each locality's specific characteristics.



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Final comments

Portugal needs to step up its recycling efforts if it wants to achieve the national, as well as European, targets, and separate collection of biowaste is essential ...**Next 5 years will be crucial**

**What about your own countries?
How are they handling separate collection of
biowaste?**

Obrigada! Thanks!

If you have any questions or
comments:

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