

CESME Good Practice Description

Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto

Presented by Region of South Ostrobothnia

Point of contact
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Brief Description of Good Practice
<p><i>Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto Oy started to use the first optical waste sorting management in Finland. The company collects waste material from construction sites, companies and also some public organizations. As a result of the new optical waste sorting the company is capable of reusing the materials unlike nobody else in Finland.</i></p> <p><i>Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto is collecting plastic, metal glass, wood etc. For instance the plastics will be optically analyzed, and the different types of plastics will be sorted to be reused. Optic sorting is capable of doing the sorting efficiently, and in a way that human eye could not do it.</i></p>
Problems/challenges and how they were overcome
<p>In Finland municipalities have their own waste management sites for that the private consumers are obliged to use. They have significantly built more capacity to burn the reusable material. According to Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto significant amounts of reusable materials from individual homes are burned each year rather than reusing the materials. The problem is that according to Finnish law, the municipalities are collecting the waste from the private individuals.</p> <p>Even though the recycling is getting more and more popular in Finland, the individuals are not</p>

capable of sorting the materials as optical system would be. For example different types of plastics can not be sorted by individuals in a way, that they would be right away reusable.

Impact from Good Practice

Quantitative and qualitative impact, how it was measured, etc.

Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto used to directly reuse 58% of the materials that they receive. 34% was used for energy production and 7% for other reuse such as biogas. As a result of the optical sorting system the company is capable of directly reusing 85% of the material that they receive. The change is very significant.

Lessons learnt from the Good Practice

Recycling done by human eye/ hands is not the best way in the modern world. People are lazy to do recycling and their skills for sorting materials are limited. Today better technology is available and should be widely used.

Recommendation you want to stand

European Union and the partner states should put pressure on using the state of art technology for more efficient recycling. We can't waste the valuable materials by burning them or not using them.

We need to create systems in which companies efficiently collect and reuse the materials. Lakeuden Ympäristöhuolto mentioned City of New York as an example for the Europe on reusing materials and sorting them optically.

For more information

Insert link(s)

<http://www.lakeudenymparistohuolto.fi/>