Aglantzia’s Pay as you throw

The eco-social approach to Waste collection pricing

Harris Tsangarides
Aglantzia Municipality Town Clerk
The issue

- Limited recycling
  - Compared with the rest of the EU
- Large Number of Debtors
- Disproportionate number of students (hard to track, charge, collect fees)
- Constant pleas for Garbage fees
  - Unfair system
  - Subjective criteria
Current pricing system

- Flat rate
  - According to size of dwelling and/or number of inhabitants
  - No connection with actual consumption
- Maximum fee of €170 per household
- Brake-Even regime
- “Polluter Pays”!!!!
Until... a rainy day in Brussels ...
Investigation

- Google
- Twinned Towns
- Green Dot
The initial proposal

- Memo to the Board (June 2006)
  - “Prepaid Bag”
- Re-sent to the new board (2007)
- Hesitations
  - Resistance to change
  - Illegal Dumping
  - Legal issues
  - Cost

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And on

- Green Dot intervention
- Municipal Board re-convenes
- Mayor gives strong political support
- Addressed positively by the Ministry of Interior
- Visit to Flanders and an in depth look in to PAYT systems
- New thorough memo
- Board reaches a positive political decision
Aglantzia’s PAYT

Volume or Weight?

Bag or Bin?
Aglantzia’s PAYT

● Bag:
  ● Advantages:
    ● Constant Cash Flow
    ● No need to register
    ● Direct receipts
    ● Easily understood
  ● Disadvantages
    ● Less Fair – Half empty bags
    ● Mass buying – cost awareness
    ● Hard to identify in large buildings – flats
    ● Cats and weather
    ● Dumping sites charge per weight

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Aglantzia’s PAYT

- **Bin:**
  - **Advantages:**
    - Fairer System
    - Direct contact / usage awareness
    - Apartment Blocks
    - Weight to weight charge
  - **Disadvantages:**
    - Large cost (Pilot €100K)
    - Harder transition
    - Increased collection time by about 35%

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Other Decisions– Where & How

- Pilot project:
  - 600 dwellings (12.7% population)
  - Easily defined area
    - Larnakos ave, Ammochostou ave, Green Line
    - Postal Code 2103
  - Good population sample
    - High, Medium, Low Income, detached housing, apartment blocks, students
  - Close to the “Green Point”
Other Decisions – App Blocks

- The issue
  - Large Waste Volume
  - Confined Bin space
  - “Anonymity”

- Pilot within a pilot:
  - 120lt bins where possible
  - 1100lt bins for joint use with barometric lock
  - RFID equipped press
Other Decisions- Invoicing

- Total waste collection cost 2010 / Total waste weight 2010
  - €0,10 per kilo
- Social criteria
  - The same discounts following an application
- Detailed invoicing every 3 months
  - Date / Time / Weight / Cost
- Dummy Invoicing to familiarise
Awareness Campaign

• Via national and local newspapers radio and TV interviews - Free
Awareness Campaign

- Logo and Branding (Flyers and Q&A)

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Awareness Campaign

- Website

- Door to Door

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Issues addressed

- No illegal dumping increase – A relief
- Use of “neighbouring” bins
- A small number of bins had no weightings
Issues addressed

- Resistance to change
  - “Bin Aesthetics” / Bin Lockers
  - “Punish Municipality” for other issues!
  - Locks

- Labour system misuse
  - Remove bin before end of weighting cycle
  - «….μιά σακκουλούα……» (just a small bag)
  - Software issues

- Single Garbage truck
The results

- The costs for 2013:

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The results

● Despite:
  ● The lack of “Green Point”
  ● The fact that the results have not been notified to the participants
  ● The recession

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The results

- For 2013
  - There were 29,842 weightings
  - Reliable measurements 28,380
  - 276 compressor uses
  - 595,237 kg collected
  - The average house had 738.15 kg
  - The average apartment block had 3,219 kg
  - Estimated annual domestic waste 224.9 kg per person
The results

- Adding all recycling:
- We reach the astonishing result of per capita domestic waste of 270.6 Kg
- Cyprus as per Eurostat had in 2012 663Kg!
- Reduction of 59.9%
The results

Eurostat 2012 domestic waste per capita

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Recycling

Decrease of 4.1% in overall recycling
Increase in PAYT area (11.3% in 2013)
The impact on households

- Overall cost reduction of 13.4%
- Detached housing
  - 235 are currently overcharged / 144 undercharged
  - Savings can go up to €142 (83.5%)
- Apartment blocks
  - 80 are currently overcharged / 13 undercharged
The next steps

- Complete the pilot
  - Re-cost
  - Real invoicing
  - New Data
  - Android / i Phone real time application
- Expand into a fully fledged system
- EU Structural Funds application
  - €1.6 million
Thank you for your attention

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