



CASE STUDY

Torres Vedras Ecocentre

KEY FACTS

- 3500 m² – Ecocentre area
- There are in total 10 areas:
Sorting of paper and cardboard, Plastic packaging and metal, Rigid plastic, Iron, Construction and Demolition Waste, WEEE, Glass, Wood, “Bulky” Waste.
- No. of operatives: 2
- Quantity of material received per month: 200 tons

DO'S

- Spreading the importance of waste recovery
- Putting into practice the sorting of materials
- Forwarding the waste for valorisation.
- Creation of incentives to deposit waste to be sorted in the Ecocentre.
- Increase the number of waste streams available.

DONT'S

- Avoid contaminated Waste

CONTEXT

OESTE Cim is committed to the promotion of sustainable development and the maximization of resources. The "Oeste Circular" Project has developed actions related to the dissemination of the Circularity concepts in the Oeste Region, namely through the promotion of public procurement with circularity criteria. There are, however, other vectors of great importance. The municipality of Torres Vedras has an Ecocentre available to the population, an infrastructure that enables and enhances the proper treatment of waste and that the Oeste CIM believes to be an example as a principle of good practice to promote and implement in other parts of the territory. It is also developing, with an internal team, a centre for the selective disposal of waste from works carried out under direct administration by the Municipal Services for Water, Sanitation and Waste, namely in the supply and sanitation networks

TORRES VEDRAS ECOCENTRE

We believe that to promote Circular Economy it is necessary to create infrastructures and provide staff with the necessary qualifications so that the transition from "waste" to "product" can be operated. The main objective of the Ecocentres is to selectively deposit used materials that have reached their end so that they can be forwarded to other infrastructures where they can be valorised in the future. The Torres Vedras Ecocentre is managed by the Municipal Services, where each citizen can make a free daily delivery of waste such as glass, paper or cardboard, electrical and electronic equipment and Construction and Demolition Waste.

OPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The existence of places like the Ecocentres allows solving one of the problems about the reuse of materials. It's a place open to the public, where construction and demolition waste can be left for treatment. One of the main "environmental costs" of bad practices, when the subject is waste treatment, is the contamination of the places where the waste is deposited. We believe that the creation of this type of infrastructure should be promoted in a logic of proximity to the population and also with private companies to achieve maximum efficiency in the use of materials. The premise is simple: A delimited and supervised location where materials can be delivered properly separated.



LESSONS LEARNT ON COLLABORATION

- It's important to spread knowledge about how the Waste can be treated
- Private companies should be involved, they are the main waste producers
- Reach out to operators that can treat the waste and give it a second life
- It's important to spread knowledge about the new circular products that serve as substitutes for the traditional products.
- Having a quota of waste that the citizens can deliver on the Ecocentre for free is a way of promoting the proper waste management.

The good practices are already being showcased by the public entities (Like SMAS Torres Vedras), they are promoting and implementing circular practices on the waste that is produced in their own construction works.

Another challenge is to provide more areas of the municipality with proximity recycling centres, managed by the Local Councils and available to a fringe of the population that does not have the availability to go to the municipal recycling centre.

This is the direction SMAS is working in, with some locations serving as pilots for these infrastructures.

The awareness and training of the main producers of Construction and Demolition Waste are fundamental, mainly to highlight the importance of the most effective separation of waste, in order to promote the reuse of materials, their incorporation in the works, or recycling.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The creation of this type of infrastructure should be encouraged and it is recommended that municipalities start studying and identifying the places where this type of infrastructure can be created. The next step in the waste life cycle is also extremely important: ensuring that there is a recovery of the materials and that they can integrate the production chain, promoting their usage.

Involving construction companies in the dynamic of delivering CDW separated by type and promoting the use of the largest amount of materials possible on site.

The URGE project aims to serve as a catalyst for the implementation of circular practices, we believe that the existence of this type of infrastructure is a key part of the life cycle of waste so that it can continue to serve its purpose as materials.