

# Zero Waste Live!



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## DOES ZERO WASTE MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE FOR MUNICIPALITIES?



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VODOVOD  
KANALIZACIJA  
SNAGA



# On our way to sustainable society

Jože Gregorič

# Waste management

## COLLECTION AND WASTE REMOVAL





Our strategy facilitates recycling and reuse, improves the separation and treatment of waste, and encourages citizens and businesses to reduce the amount of waste they generate in the first place.

Waste collection system



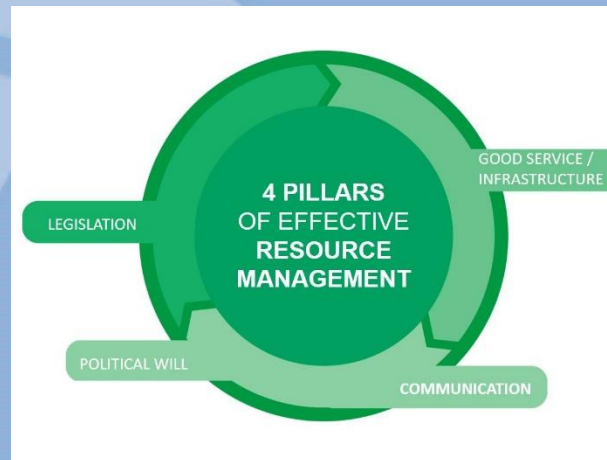
Bulky,  
hazardous  
household  
waste

# Building a circular society: because we have power and because we have responsibility



## LJUBLJANA REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE (RCERO LJUBLJANA) - WHERE WASTE IS TRANSFORMED INTO A RESOURCE

RCERO Ljubljana is the most modern waste treatment facility in Slovenia and in Europe. It is a unique example of good practice in terms of liaising and cooperation among local municipalities. RCERO Ljubljana processes mixed municipal and bio waste from 58 municipalities with over 800 thousand inhabitants in total. It is innovative and self-sufficient, generating its own energy. The efficient use of resources is vital to our well-being. Not only in the future, but right now.

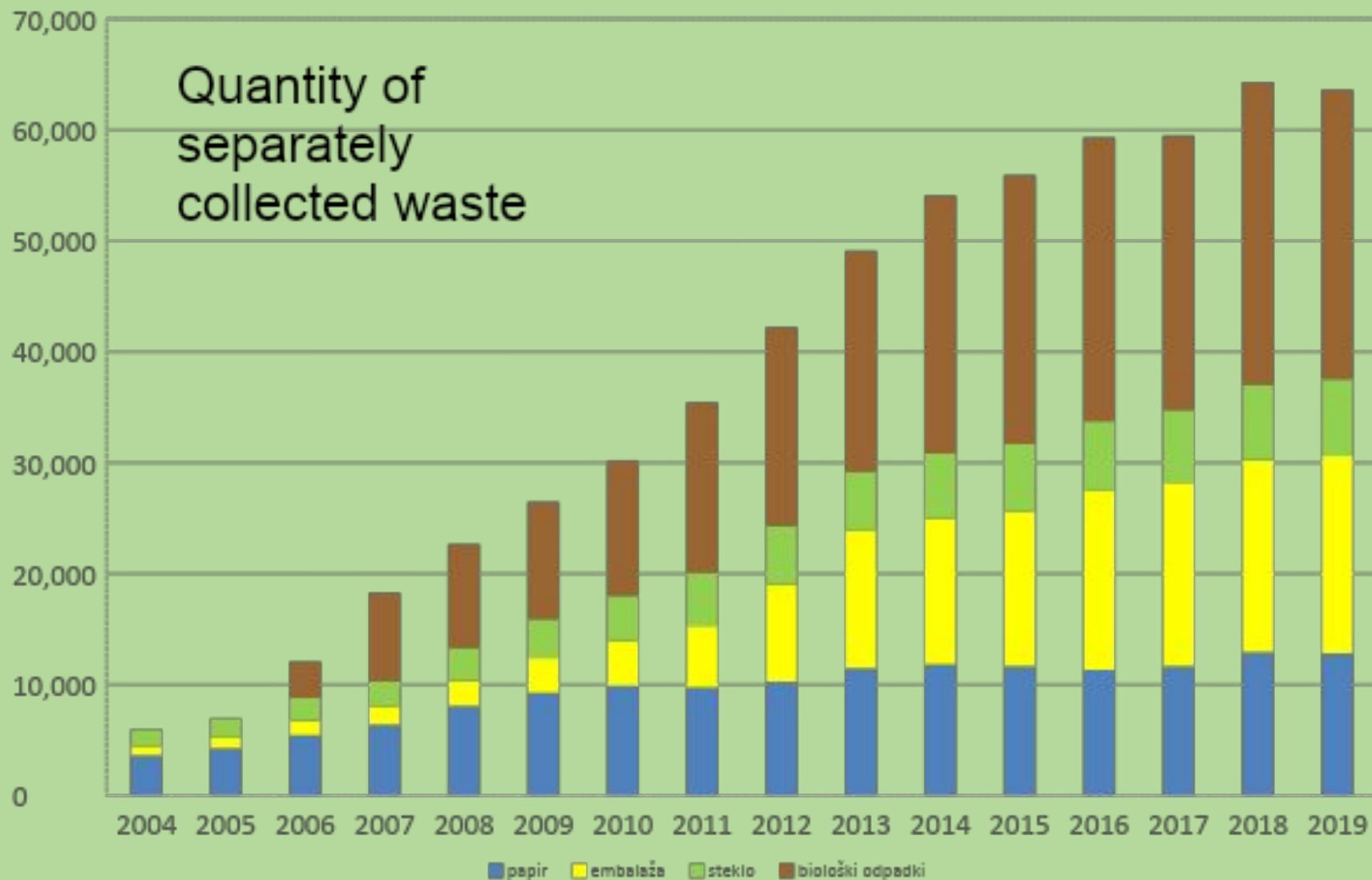


# Quantity of residual waste



■ mešani komunalni odpadki

# Quantity of separately collected waste





In 2019 we  
separately  
collect 69%  
of waste!





Ljubljana is an EU capital with the largest share of separately collected waste.



**LONDON**



**LJUBLJANA**



**PARIS**



**BRUSSELS**



**BERLIN**



**ROME**



**First European capital  
to move towards**

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**ZERO WASTE**

# ZW goals until 2025

- Raising the recycling rate to **75%**.
- Reduce the annual amount of **residual waste** per inhabitant to **60 kilo**.



# From (no) recycling to actively promoting reuse waste prevention and responsible consumption





Examples of good practices



We are **using** the most **sustainable type of hygienic paper** on market as of 2015, made of recycled milk and juice packaging.

Earlier, only 50% of the packaging was efficiently utilized (the rest went to incineration).

# Invasive plants: turning enemies into friends

## Project APPLAUSE: from harmful to useful invasive alien plant species (IAPS)

**I**nvasive alien plant species are a globally growing challenge: they displace local species, damage ecosystems, destroy agricultural land and harm the local economy. Many of them are removed daily from public or private properties and, as in Slovenia, there are no special landfills for invasive alien plant species; nowadays all the biomass that is collected is taken to incinerators and treated linearly. The project's activities will demonstrate that IAPS may be approached in more circular manner.



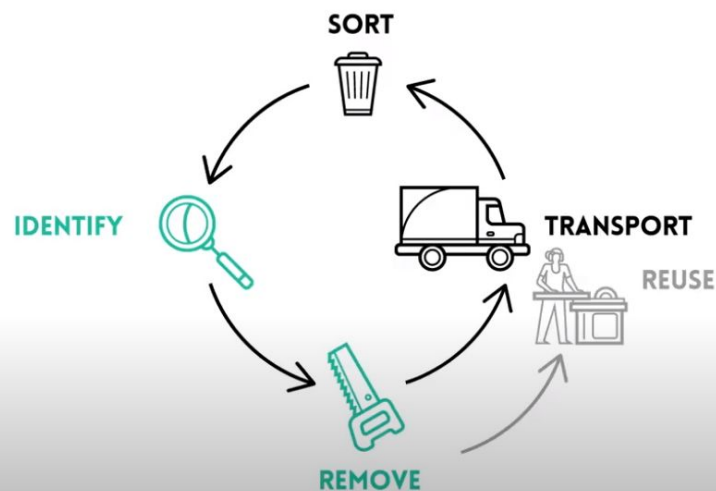
Ljubljana, the first Zero Waste capital in Europe, recognised the potential of setting up a systematic participatory model which uses collected biomass to develop new sustainable products, promote eco design, reduce classical resource use and reduce waste production.

With the project APPLAUSE and by developing circular production processes Ljubljana started focusing on controlling the population of invasive alien plants and increasing the resilience of local economies and ecologies. The project is an ongoing and interdisciplinary process, bringing together scientists, specialists from various fields and, most importantly, residents of Ljubljana, who will be made aware of how to identify, collect and process invasive alien plants.

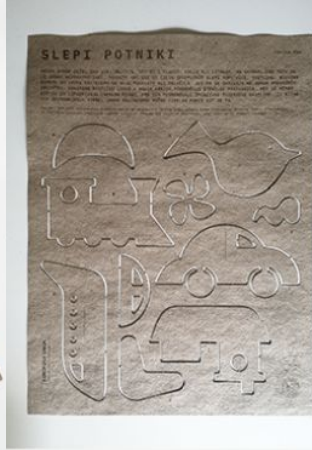
The project will have numerous benefits, from developing new, greener and non-conventional processes and techniques using invasive alien plants as raw material for wood and paper production and creating high-value products

from this material, to using plants for food, dyes and home-made formulations against plant harmful organisms. And above all, a comprehensive set of actions ranging from investment, education, research, environmental improvement and social inclusion will be integrated into a new sustainable business model that will be systematically developed as a ready-to-use 'black box' solution also for other cities.

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Urban Innovative Actions Initiative. More about the project at [www.ljubljana.si/en/applause/](http://www.ljubljana.si/en/applause/).







# Happy Halloween





Economic benefits of  
adopting a zero waste

## **Directly**

- Reducing the cost of waste management services due to increased separately collected waste.
- Reducing the cost for waste treatment and disposal.
- Green jobs (RE-USE centres, NGO, handmade paper workshop, separate waste in public events, etc.).

## **Indirectly**

- Recognition of locally produced food and its increased consumption.
- Better handling of unsold food. Paths has created for food distribution to the people who need it.
- Opening the media space for sustainable topics and thus increasing the awareness of the population about these topics.
- The City of Ljubljana encourages many activities in the field of more sustainable solutions.

## **Tasks for the future**

- Reduction of total waste generated,
- Make closed loop for specific material, goods,...
- Increase a local food consumption and local items use.
- ....

Adopting a zero waste commitment is a great opportunity for a certain community to speed up the process or unify various activities on the way to a sustainable society.





“Progress is impossible  
**WITHOUT CHANGE**  
and those who cannot  
**CHANGE THEIR MINDS**  
cannot change anything.”

George Bernard Shaw



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