



The Environmental Project of RC Aspelia

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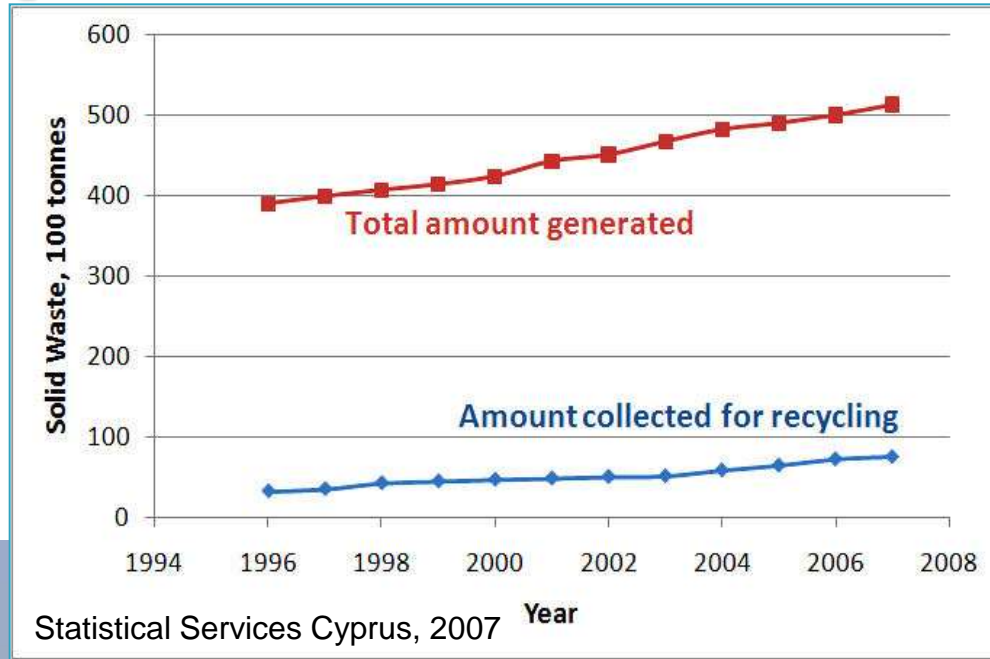
Motivation / Background

- ▶ Even though environmental awareness is relatively high on Cyprus, there is so far relatively little activities with regard to waste recycling
- ▶ Cyprus as “Champion”:
 - ▶ Municipal waste generation high in the European context
 - ▶ Most of the waste ends up in landfills (“official” and “wild”)
 - ▶ Recycling (of packaging material) lowest in European context
- ▶ Grave consequences:
 - ▶ Long-lasting/permanent degradation of environmental integrity
 - ▶ Degradation of aesthetic quality of Cypriot environment and landscape
 - ▶ Significant burden on future generations
- ▶ Need for awareness raising and concrete actions ➡
rational for RC Aspelia’s Environmental project



Waste Management on Cyprus

- ▶ There are a total of seven semi-controlled landfills on Cyprus
- ▶ In addition, waste is being “deposited” elsewhere



Kotchiatis landfill



“Wild” landfill

Pictures: courtesy of
C. Theopemptou,



Raising Public Awareness

- ▶ Given this situation, the ROTARY Club *Nicosia Aspelia* decided to initiate a number of activities/campaigns in 2010/11, which will be continued for some time
- ▶ They have to be seen in the general spirit of ROTARY as a premier service organization operating both globally and locally
- ▶ We intend to address the general public on Cyprus with an emphasis on primary and secondary school students
- ▶ We strive to involve additional/all of the ROTARY Clubs on the island
- ▶ We have established a number of partnerships but are open to any additional collaboration



Raising Public Awareness

- ▶ One project concerns scraped electrical appliances and used batteries
- ▶ Used batteries can currently be discarded/recycled in selected in selected collection points
- ▶ However, the overall coverage on Cyprus remains relatively sparse
- ▶ We will cooperate with Green Dot Cyprus (http://www.cydot.com.cy/default_en.aspx) and WEEE Electrocyclusis Cyprus Ltd (<http://www.electrocyclusis.com.cy/en/index.php>) and selected municipalities and schools to
 - install additional collection bins in these municipalities
 - update the general public and school children about recycling through the distribution of information leaflets
 - Inform the public about collection points and their availability



Raising Public Awareness

- ▶ Composting of bio-degradable waste and separation from other waste is largely absent on Cyprus
- ▶ Composting: Transforming/decomposing of plant remains and other once-living materials into an earthy substance to be added to houseplants or enriching garden soil
- ▶ It is known that about 30% of household waste (~250 kg/capita/yr) is suitable for this type of recycling
- ▶ This approach offers various advantages:
 - reducing waste and waste deposition
 - resulting in valuable material for planting and gardening
- ▶ We will carry out information campaigns in schools in order to:
 - raise awareness about recycling and the value of natural resources
 - introduce them to the natural cycle of growth and decay



Conclusions

- ▶ Despite a functioning legal framework, the current waste management system of Cyprus leaves much to be desired
- ▶ The predominant deposition of solid waste in landfills results in environmental degradation and a lasting burden on future generations
- ▶ The concept of recycling and an appropriate appreciation for natural resources need improvement
- ▶ The ROTARY Club *Nicosia Aspelia* in cooperation with public and municipal partners will initiate a number of activities aimed to raise awareness for material recycling, composting and the cultivation of homegrown vegetables and fruits



**Thank you for
your attention**

