

Factsheet on food waste reduction and related eco-innovations In Ferrara City, Italy

City Strategic Plan 2016-2019: 143 Mio EUR

The main objectives of CSP are: City Administration, Citizens, Economy, Urban Planning

1. Situation and key challenges

Ferrara covers an area of 404.04 km². The total population is 265.000 (Functional Urban Region) – of which 135.000 live in the city.

The Municipality of Ferrara will be among the first municipalities of the Region Emilia Romagna to put into practice the new approach proposed in the Regional Plan for Waste Management and introduce the «pay as you throw» principle in the municipal waste management service.

The goal is to differentiate and produce less waste and recycle more to deliver to future generations a cleaner and healthy territory. Reducing the amount of waste produced and improve waste collection are key objectives. The territory has been involved for years with concrete actions to protect the environment. Good results are emerging from the environmental sustainability indicators, however the city need to improve waste management in order to achieve the objectives set by Regional Law.

In this framework the Region Emilia Romagna produces 350,000 tons of food waste (Coldiretti, 2015). Ferrara contributes with 12%. Food waste in the Region Emilia Romagna represents around 39% of unrecycled municipal waste.

Researches (Waste Watchers, 2013) has revealed eating habits as the main causes for food waste in the Region: residents often buy products they don't like.

Ferrara is committed to implement the Regional Plan for Waste Management that foresees following actions to reduce food waste:

- raising awareness among citizens;
- reduce foodwaste in the catering sector;
- recovery of unsold products in the small and medium-scale distribution.

2. How Ferrara will address these challenges towards 2020

The City of Ferrara aims at implementing the Regional Plan for Waste Management by improving its City Strategic Plan and giving a regulatory framework and strategic support to:

- actions promoting awareness on food waste its relation with resource efficiency
- collection of unsold food from restaurants, catering, shops and its redistribution to citizens in life challenging situations

Funding might be provided by Regional Funds for Waste Management and funds deriving from the Regional Law for Circular Economy.

3. What kind of eco-innovations may offer opportunities to help Ferrara to address these challenges?

Eco-innovations should primarily aim at developing services for the reductions of food waste with a view to develop a circular approach at city level in the food governance:

- developing community apps connecting citizens with shop-owners;
- developing awareness actions and educational campaigns (especially in Schools, training of trainers)
- improve tax waste reductions for business donating unsold food for social purpose