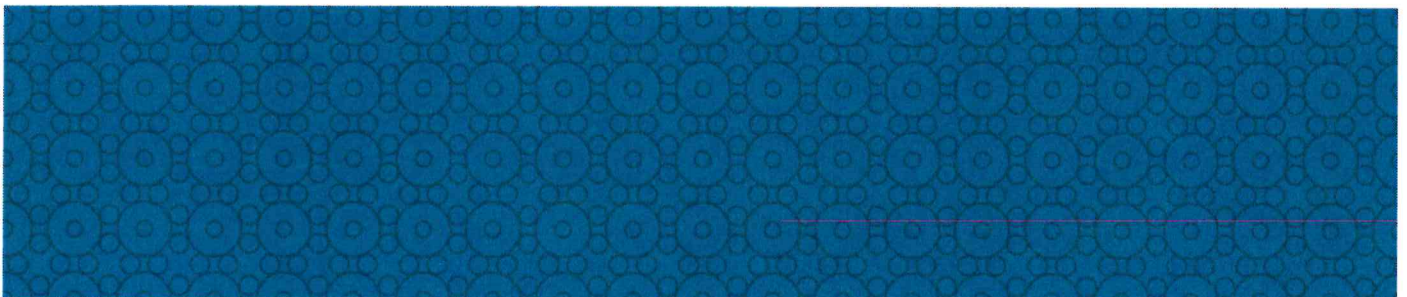


OptiWaMag Regional Action Plan

County Administrative Board in Östergötland



Preface

Pursuant to Directive 2008/98/EC of European Parliament the competent authority of each Member State is required to establish a waste plan. The waste plan must be evaluated every six year and revised as necessary. To implement the national plan efficiently we need to review and develop our regional waste plan. In the regional waste plan we identify a series of initiatives which must be implemented on the road to a more resource-efficient society. When we review and develop our regional waste plan we will be able to find new cooperation between the municipalities within our county and find new solutions for identified obstacles to reach the national goals for waste. By improving our regional waste plan by influences from other regions within EU we will improve the waste management in our region in total. After the project we will have an updated waste plan, nowadays called waste strategy, that will be continued.

Through the OptiWaMag project it became clear; the importance of climbing on the waste hierarchy, that is waste prevention and circular economy. Results showed that necessary for this is cross-sectorial work and politician involvement in the municipalities. The updated Regional waste strategy will serve as a guidance for prioritized areas within waste planning and help for the municipalities officers when develop the waste plan on a local level. This action plan will present the steps we plan to take to implement the updated regional waste strategy where cross-sectorial administration and communication are the main steps on the way for achieving waste prevention activities.

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General information

Project: OptiWaMag

Partner organization: County Administrative Board in Östergötland

Country: Sweden

NUTS2 region:

Contact person: Helene Rask-Lantz, CAB Östergötland

email address: Helene.rask@lansstyrelsen.se

phone number: 010-223 54 52

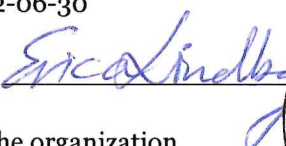
Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- *Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Regional Waste Strategy

Date: 2022-06-30

Signature: 

Stamp of the organization



Policy instrument: regional waste strategy

Pursuant to Directive 2008/98/EC of European Parliament the competent authority of each Member State is required to establish a waste plan. The waste plan must be evaluated every six year and revised as necessary. To implement the national plan efficiently we need to review and develop our regional waste plan. In the regional waste plan we identify a series of initiatives which must be implemented on the road to a more resource-efficient society. When we review and develop our regional waste plan we will be able to find new cooperation between the municipalities within our county and find new solutions for identified obstacles to reach the national goals for waste. By improving our regional waste plan by influences from other regions within EU we will improve the waste management in our region in total. After the project we will have an updated waste plan (name changed to waste strategy) that will be continued. The updated Regional waste strategy will serve as a guidance for prioritized areas within waste planning and help for the municipalities officers when develop the waste plan on a local level.

Swedish environmental legislation regulates municipal waste management responsibility for waste produced by households (excluding waste covered by producer responsibility), in addition to the responsibility which already obliges on the municipality as a waste producer. Each municipality is responsible for the collection, transport and recycling or disposal of waste in the municipality that falls under the municipality's responsibility. All municipalities must have a sanitation scheme adopted by the municipal council. The waste management scheme consists of a waste plan and regulations for waste management.

The municipality has great freedom to design its waste regulations and its waste system in order to achieve good waste management from an environmental and health protection point of view. The regulations state, among other things, which collection intervals shall apply to the different areas and the different fractions of waste. In order for the municipality to be able to finance the waste operations via fees, the municipal council must also adopt a waste tax.

The plan must include goals and measures to prevent and manage waste they produce and which they are responsible for.

When it comes to waste issues, it is partly part of the County Administrative Board's mission to coordinate regional work on environmental objectives (incl. waste part) follow up the environmental work in the county, take advantage of and coordinate state interests; guide on national objectives, plans and strategies; facilitate cooperation between municipalities, carry out supervision at waste facilities subject to a licensing obligation under Chapter 9. The Environmental Code and provide supervisory guidance in the county. With this as a background and since the municipalities owns the waste issue within their own municipality the Regional waste strategy do serve as a help and inspiration for the municipality to use when develop their local waste plan.

Background

Self-assessment tool in OptiWaMag

Within the OptiWaMag project a Self-assessment tool (SAT) was developed for each partner to use in their region. The aim of the SAT was to determine the regions strengths and weaknesses within the field of waste management. The SAT consisted of a survey for stakeholders to fill out (step one), visualize the result (step two) and a workshop where the result from the survey further was discussed and analyzed (step three). Self-assessment reports were produced by each partner and discussed within the project.

Since partners within the OptiWaMag were from different countries and had different stakeholders, contexts and policy documents to improve we at the County administrative board, found it necessary and helpful to look at the learning from an organizational and social psychology perspective rather than technical perspective. This gave us the possibility to compare the outputs from the different regions self-assessment results and good practices, put it in our context and we were able to be inspired of when influence the Regions waste strategy here in Östergötland, Sweden.

We found similarities between project partners regions results (self-assessment reports) and this is how we concluded a general summary important for improve waste management planning:

1. Waste prevention is important
2. Knowledge and politician are important
3. Education in different levels
4. Less waste to landfills
5. Improve sorting
6. Biological waste and construction and demolition waste
7. More cooperation between different sectors and within municipalities

This goes for most part hand in hand with the outputs from the self-assessments in our Region here in Östergötland, Sweden.

Conclusions from the self-assessments done in the region of Östergötland, Sweden

The result from the first workshop with our local main stakeholders, that was a part of the self-assessment, highlighted priorities for continuing work for improvement: waste planning early in physical planning, cooperation between and within municipalities and the importance of engaging politicians.

Historically, the responsibility for the management of household waste fell to the municipalities on the basis that they would handle the issue from a sanitation perspective. Over time, the demands have increased and continue to increase for waste management to become part of sustainable development. What's obvious from the survey and workshop is that the waste system works well from initial purpose. But

circular economy sets completely different requirements where solutions are primarily outside the scope of the waste sector. A general observation is that it is difficult to break established patterns and that waste management is still seen as a sectoral issue.

The increased demands placed on the municipality to work with recycling higher up at the waste ladder and with waste prevention is not possible to implement without cross-sectoral collaboration. It also puts new demands on state actors such as the County Administrative Board to use channels other than the traditional ones, when waste minimization and circular economy are on the agenda.

The result from the self-assessments done by our local stakeholders, result from the comparison with our interregional partners self-assessments and also from interregional partners good practices led to following three areas that will be highlighted in the updated regional waste strategy:

1. Waste planning early in physical planning
2. Cooperation between and within municipalities
3. Involve politicians in the waste management issue within the municipalities

The interregional learning will be explained in the following section:

From interregional learning and inspiration to regional actions

The result from the learning and focus for us, CAB, is through improved governance and structural changes. This was done by workshops with local main stakeholders, other external advisors, OptiWaMag interregional meetings and seminars. Throughout the project we collect international benchmark to be able to improve our governance. By letting the municipalities make the waste analyses together and find cooperation, there will be synergies, so we can find structural changes on waste management within the region.

The regional waste strategy will be updated to a digital self-assessment tool published on CAB's website, for municipalities to use.

During the OptiWaMag project decision was made, together with the participating stakeholders from municipalities, about a structure of organization within the updated regional waste strategy which will continue. The structure is based on cooperation between the county's 13 municipalities and County administrative board. CAB's role will be to coordinate and be convener in this context. The aim is to update the strategy at regular intervals with new focus areas as a result from the cooperation.

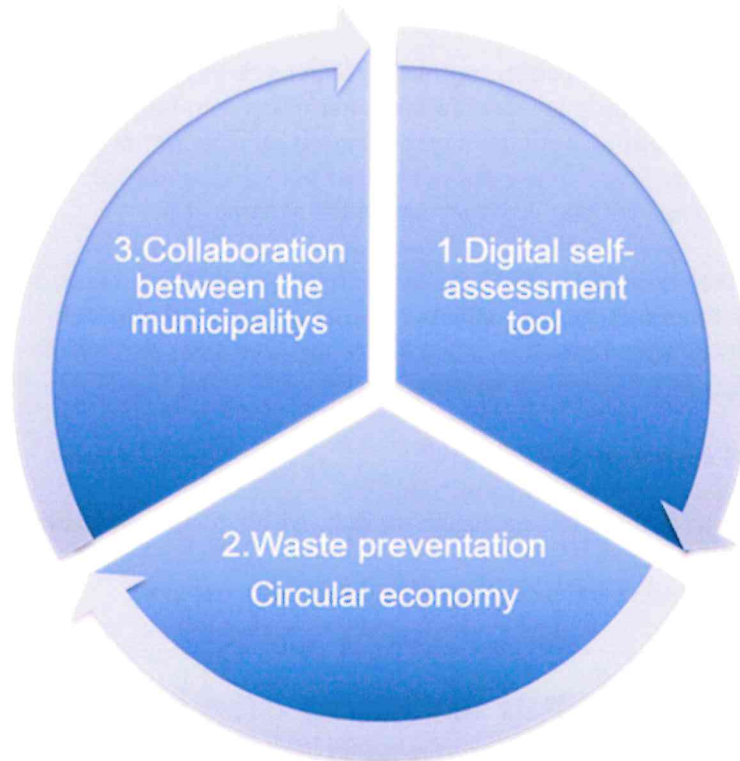


Figure 1: the updated regional waste strategy in Östergötland will be a digital tool which will be expanded with new focus areas on a regular basis through cooperation between municipalities in the county

Cooperation between municipalities was highlighted as important both on a local and interregional level within the OptiWaMag project.

CAB's way of learning from partners in the OptiWaMag project was to put some of partners self-assessment results, presentations and good practice (GP) in our context and make parallels. That makes us able to learn despite different perspectives and contexts.

Hungary's good practice (GP) regarding waste sorting plants ([Development of a waste sorting plant with optical sorting machine in Zala county | Interreg Europe - Sharing solutions for better policy](#)) underlines the importance of infrastructure, investment and engagement. This highlights the importance of planning early in physical planning and involve politician which also Latvias good practice regarding deep containers did ([The method of sorted waste collection by deep containers | Interreg Europe - Sharing solutions for better policy](#)) and one challenge mentioned is to agree with owners of apartment houses on concluding agreements about creating joint deep container placements.

Cooperation between and within municipalities was highlighted as important to improve both by partners stakeholders self-assessments and also in our region when it comes to improve waste management. Latvias GP, The park of nature and technology URDA ([Park of Nature and Technology URDA \(URDA\) | Interreg Europe - Sharing solutions for better policy](#)), highlights the importance of information and education in this area (waste) and also the importance and benefits of cooperation between municipalities.

For this context (information and education) we plan to conduct a seminar with includes discussions. In order to involve politicians in the waste management issue within the municipalities our plan is to host the seminar where politicians are invited to discuss the self-assessment results, the updated regional waste strategy and related working method (cooperation) and also for the importance of prioritize the waste issue within the municipalities different sectors. The planned seminar also makes it possible to raise questions and have a dialogue with politicians and managers which is positive for deeper understanding and a ground for necessary changes and for improve waste management.

Information and education underlines as important at the implementation phase in some of partners GP. For example Italys GP regarding home composting ([Home composting and economic incentives | Interreg Europe - Sharing solutions for better policy](#)). Also Portugal GP regarding community and home composting ([Tabuaço JUNTAr: circular composting and recycling | Interreg Europe - Sharing solutions for better policy](#)) where different kind of communication was necessary for a successful implementation. Our partner from Greece GP, domestic composting pilot programme ([Domestic composting pilot programme | Interreg Europe - Sharing solutions for better policy](#)) also highlights the importance of and the need to engage the public to increase the effectiveness of the practice and in their pilot action a series of information and dissemination activities in cooperation with the municipalities was organized. The above GP inspired us to not only publish the updated regional waste strategy but instead also plan several meetings with the municipalities in question.

Short summary of areas that will update the regional waste strategy

Waste planning early spatial planning

Workshops, seminars and good practices highlighted the need for improving the waste planning within the physical planning process, with the aim of waste prevention and circular economy. Result from our local stakeholders self-assessment showed that waste strategist or waste engineer are involved in the planning process and has views on the collection issues of household waste but in general they experience that they come in too late in the process, when the opportunity to influence physical planning is limited. In physical planning, it is usually the developer's agenda that governs for example with the aim of maximizing investment. Then space for waste management means an extra cost.

Cooperation within municipalities

Another issue that was highlighted at workshops was the need for improving the cross administrative cooperation within the municipalities when develop the municipality waste plan. CAB will therefor develop the Regional waste strategy to a digital tool, a self-assessment tool that will be published and linked to from County administrative boards homepage, for the administrators to use when develop the municipalities waste plan. This with the aim of facilitate the cooperation through a step-by-step questionnaire for the administrators to fill out together. The result from the questionnaire will be the ground for continuing cross-administrative work.

Involve politicians in the waste management issue within the municipalities

The importance of involve and anchor waste management with politicians and managers in the municipalities different sectors is also something we took into account as a result from the OptiWaMag project: the importance of waste management planning early in spatial planning and the importance of cooperation within the municipalities different sectors when develop the municipality waste plan and the continuing work with waste management.

Since each municipality has an elected assembly, the municipal council, which takes decisions on municipal matters it is important that waste planning and waste prevention becomes one of the high prioritized questions in the organization.

Action

Seminar and discussions with the main Pilot group consisting of representants from three municipalities in the county. The aim is to implement the updated regional waste strategy (a digital self-assessment tool with tutorials for improvements), with associated cooperation, in several levels in municipal organizations. The reason for this form (seminar and discussions) is the learning part. Separate meetings with each municipality are also planned and connected to the learning part and inspiration for the Pilot group to continue the process for improve the local waste plan.

The aim of the regional waste strategy is to serve as a help for the municipalities regarding guidance to improve waste planning early in physical planning, waste prevention within the municipality and how to improve cross administrative work within the municipality when it comes to waste planning.

Players involved

- Politicians from municipality organizations in the pilot group (three municipalities)
- The manager for the unit for Energy and Climat at CAB, Östergötland

- Administrators and strategists from the unit for the Energy and Climat at CAB, Östergötland
- Director for public works and administrators from the unit for Spatial planning and heritage environment at CAB
- Municipal managers for the unit for community building and administrators/officer
- Representants from the university
- Representants from the Region of Östergötland

Timeframe

Date	Activity
Aug-Oct 2022	Organize the seminar and workshop and test/review the updated regional waste strategy
November 10, 2022	Seminar and discussions with the pilot group (three municipalities)
January 18, 24 and February 2, 2023	Separate meeting with each municipality for coaching and discussions. At the meetings we will follow up the process and make efforts/help the municipality if needed.
April 26, 2023	Follow-up: meet participants in the Pilot group. Any improvements locally? Was this helpful? Digital survey during the meeting.
May 2023	Write a report with result from the previous months and for continuing work with the Regional waste strategy.

Costs

The costs (200 000 SEK) will be financed by County Administrative Board.

