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10  
**NEWSLETTER**

**LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013**

**LIFE-IP CEI-GREECE**

Implementation of Circular  
Economy in Greece

SPRING  
2025





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# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025 | No10



MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT  
& ENERGY



GREEN FUND



The project LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013 is co-funded by the LIFE programme of the European Union.

The project LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013 is co-funded by the Green Fund.



# ANTIPAROS CIRCULAR BUSINESS

*Full-scale implementation of the circular economy with impressive results*

## Source Separation Recycling

**The Municipality of Antiparos** continues actively implementing **circular economy** actions under the **LIFE programme for a more sustainable and environmentally responsible local community**. This year, the CIRCULAR BUSINESS initiative was deployed on a full scale and was promoted as **Source Separation Recycling** as a key waste management practice on Antiparos.

The success of this initiative is due to the collaboration between the Municipality, local tourism businesses, collection workers, and, of course, **the citizens**, who, through their participation, demonstrate their commitment to a sustainable future.

### **New Infrastructure**

The Municipality of Antiparos acquired a **new garbage truck**, funded by the **LIFE programme** and the **Green Fund**, further strengthening its infrastructure for more efficient waste collection (ACTION C2.2).





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*The Recycling Tricycle of Antiparos*

Partnering food and catering businesses in **Antiparos** carry out separate collection of plastic bottles, glass containers, aluminum cans, and cardboard boxes, using the bins provided to them. With the help of **two electric vehicles**, collection is done **door-to-door**, easily, quietly, and without emissions, at appropriate times scheduled in advance with each business. The recyclable materials are then transported for baling to reduce their volume. This initiative is part of the **LIFE IP CEI Greece** project, and supported by **DAPHNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands**.





# Municipality of Alonissos

## Door-to-Door

As part of the LIFE-IP CEI GREECE project, equipment procurement has been completed to enable sustainable waste management alternatives in the Municipality of Alonissos. A pilot “door-to-door” recyclable waste collection initiative was implemented from July 12 to September 30, 2024, in collaboration with the DAPHNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands. The pilot involved food service businesses in the Patitiri area and focused on the separate collection and recycling at source of plastic bottles, glass containers, aluminum packaging, and cardboard boxes.

## ZERO WASTE BEACH & CIGARETTE BUTT PROJECT

Businesses along the beaches of Milia, Tzortzi Gialos, Leftos Gialos, and Chrysi Milia also actively participated in the pilot Zero Waste Beach initiative, engaging in the sorting and recycling of materials at source. Additionally, the beaches were equipped with special designed structures for cigarette butt collection as part of the environmental program “Cigarette butt Project”.

## Clean Recyclable Materials

Municipal vehicles transport the clean recyclable materials to a designated covered area at the **Sanitary Landfill Site (SLF)**, where the collected **plastic bottles, glass containers, aluminum cans, and cardboard boxes** are **baled using a compression press**, while the **glass bottles** are stored in dedicated containers.



(ACTION C2.1)





# Municipality of Alonissos

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## Tires, batteries, bulbs and glass

### Recycling of tires, electrical appliances, and fishing gear

The Municipality of Alonissos collects electrical appliances and light bulbs. In early March, a full container of these waste streams was sent for recycling.

Moreover, the Municipality collected and sent for recycling UPS batteries, AA and AAA batteries, tires, and fishing gear, thus reinforcing alternative waste management practices.

As part of the ART4SEA project—which brings together artists to create works inspired by “Sea and Ocean Sustainability”—recycled materials collected in Alonissos, such as old metal pipes and glass, will be repurposed into art.

Renowned sculptors from around the world will transform these discarded items into powerful artistic statements on marine conservation and circularity.





# Circular Economy in Thessaly

## *Three-Day Regional Circular Economy Workshop in Larissa*



The **Green Fund**, the **Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEEN)**, the **Region of Thessaly**, the **Municipality of Larissa**, the **Regional Waste Management Association of the Region of Thessaly S.A.**, and the **Ecological Recycling Society (ECOREC)** were co-organized the “**Regional awareness-raising event (info day) and Regional Circular Economy Workshop**”, which were held from April 9 to April 11, 2025, in Larissa, at JOIST Innovation Park (Valtetsiou & Tripoleos, PC 41336), within the framework of the **LIFE-IP CEI-Greece – LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013 “Implementation of Circular Economy in Greece” Project**.

During the **three-day event**, successful circular economy practices that can be implemented in Thessaly were presented. At the same time, clear answers were also provided to key questions related to understanding the concept and potential of the circular economy (ACTION C7.1).

[Read the Press Release here](#)

# Circular Economy in Kalamata!

## *Three-Day Regional Circular Economy Workshop*



From **October 21 to 23, 2024**, an **Information Day and a Regional Circular Economy Workshop** took place at the **Municipal Cultural Center of Kalamata**. The event was co-organized by the **Green Fund, the Ministry of Environment & Energy, the Region of Peloponnese, the Municipality of Kalamata, Regional Waste Management Association of Peloponnese, and the Ecological Recycling Society**.

The goal was to promote and implement Circular Economy practices in Greece. Participants had the opportunity to learn about successful practices and explore innovative waste management solutions that can be adopted in the Peloponnese region (ACTION C5 & C7.1).



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# Voluntary Memorandum of Collaboration

MEEN x medINA

Voluntary Memorandum of Collaboration between the **Ministry of Environment and Energy** and the **Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)** within the Framework of the Circular Economy

Aiming to enhance the utilization of **agri-food waste** in accordance with **circular economy principles**, a Voluntary Agreement of Collaboration has been signed between the **Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEEN)** and the **Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)**. This initiative falls under the European project "**LIFE-IP CEI-Greece – Implementation of the Circular Economy in Greece**".

Through this Agreement, MEEN and MedINA will collaborate on the exchange of knowledge and data related to agri-food waste, the identification of best management practices, the deployment of innovative technological solutions, and the exploration of investment opportunities—recognizing the sector's significant potential for growth (Action C.5).

[Learn more here](#)



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# Voluntary Memorandum Agreements

*MEEN x Municipality of Kalamata*

*MEEN x Cultural Society of Clean Mani*

**Voluntary Memorandum Agreements between the Ministry of Environment & Energy, the Municipality of Kalamata and the Cultural Association of Clean Mani within the Framework of the Circular Economy**



As part of the circular economy conference and workshop held from October 21 to 23, 2024, in **Messinia**, a Voluntary Alliance was signed between the **Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEEN)**, the **Municipality of Kalamata**, and other stakeholders, aiming to utilize agricultural waste in the region of Messinia. A similar Voluntary agreement was signed between the MEEN and the **Cultural Association of Kathari Mani** (ACTION C.5).

Learn more: <https://circulargreece.gr>



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# VERDE.TEC: Circular Economy in Greece

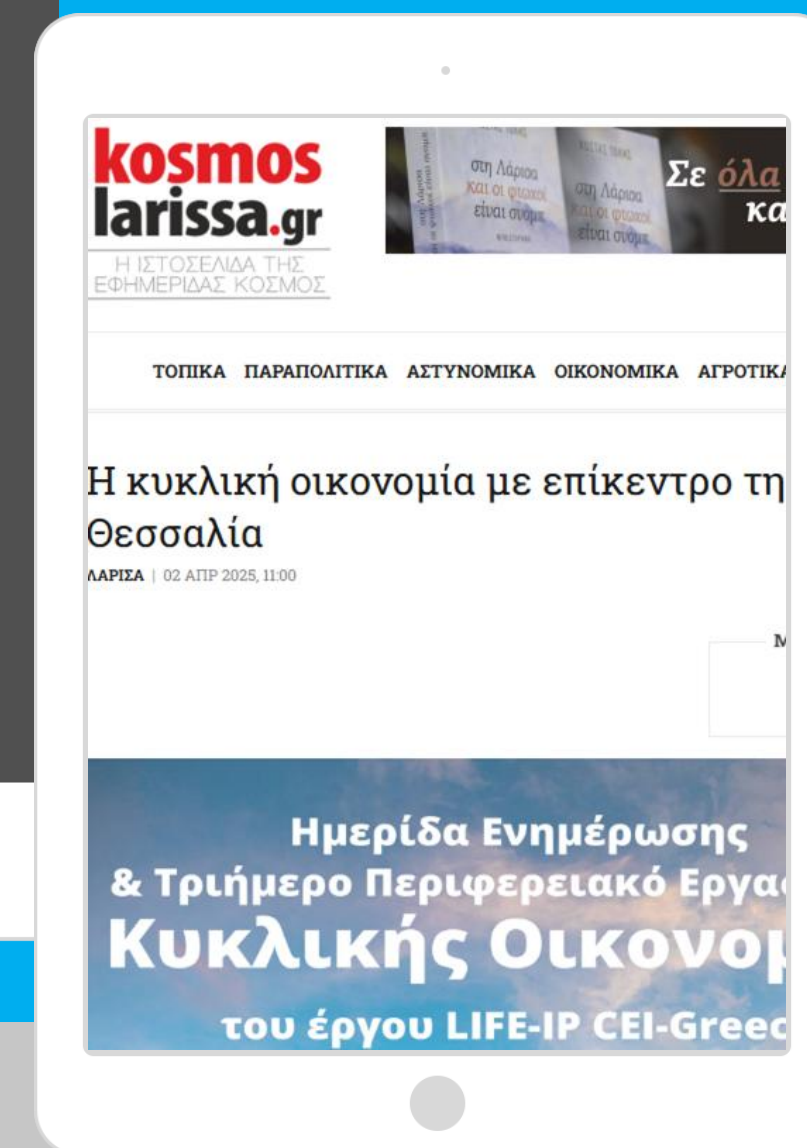
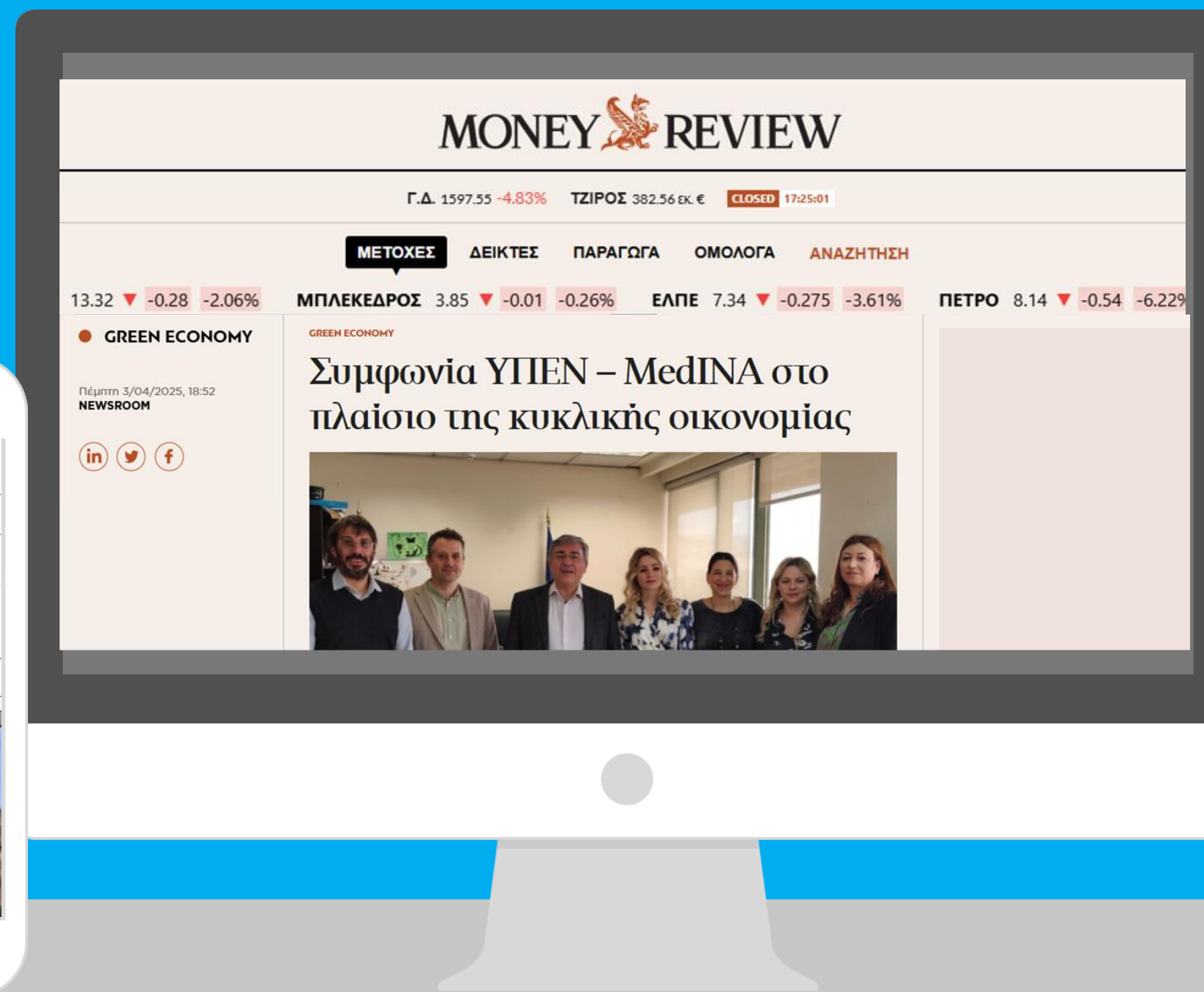
## *Results and Perspectives*

The **Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEEN)**, coordinator of the **LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project – LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013 “Implementation of Circular Economy in Greece”**, along with three (3) partners—the **Green Fund**, the **Hellenic Recycling Agency (HRA)**, and the **Ecological Recycling Society (ERS)**—organized an event on **February 21, 2025**, as part of the **VERDE TEC Exhibition**. The event presented the project’s initial results and fostered discussions on the significance and future of Circular Economy in Greece (ACTION E2 & E3).

[Learn more here](#)



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## Project Publicity

The participation in VERDETEC, the voluntary alliance with MedINA, and the organization of the circular economy event in Larissa were communicated through national and regional media, aiming to enhance the project's outreach. Press releases were featured in more than 35 media channels (ACTION E1).



# Public awareness and networking

*The project regularly organizes information and awareness-raising events about its purpose and activities, or participates with presentations and exhibition material in conferences, expos, festivals, etc. A few indicative examples are listed below:*

## Local awareness raising events (E1.8)

4th ECO Observatory Conference titled "2024: Recycling at a Critical Crossroads", held at the Regional Association of Municipalities of Attica (PEDA), organized by the Ecological Recycling Society. [Learn more HERE.](#)

The first **Repair Café** of the year took place on Friday, January 10, 2025, organized by the Social Cooperative Enterprise "Reboot" at the Kypseli Municipal Market. [Learn more here.](#)

## Replication and transfer strategy and implementation (E3)

The **Green Fund** participated in the 3rd International Circular Economy Exhibition "Forward Green Expo", held from March 13 to 15, 2025, in Thessaloniki. [Learn more here.](#)

An online thematic event titled "**Good recycling practices and standards for the circular economy – 2nd cycle**" was held by ELOT - ESYN NQIS on Thursday, November 28, 2024.

The "Recycling Week" organized by the Municipality of **Nafpaktia** was held on October 26, 2024, with great success and enthusiastic participation from both children and adults. [Learn more HERE.](#)

An Information Day on the Circular Economy was held at the "Melina" Cultural Center, co-organized by the **Ministry of Environment & Energy**, the **Green Fund**, and the **Municipality of Athens**. In addition to informative presentations, the event featured a Regional Capacity-Building Workshop, which concluded successfully on Wednesday, December 18. [Learn more HERE.](#)

A **Swap Party** – Clothing Exchange Event was organized by the Ecological Recycling Society on December 16 at the "Melina" Cultural Center of the Municipality of Athens, where visitors had the opportunity to bring clothes they no longer need and exchange them for "**new**" second-hand clothes.

## EU-level and international dissemination & networking (E.2)

**LIFE Projects Platform Meeting**, February 10–12, 2025, on the topic "**Plastic Waste Prevention and Reuse Systems**", held in Brussels and Mechelen. The meeting was organized by the **LIFE-IP C-MARTLIFE project** (Closing loops for less plastic waste).



# Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)!

The **LIFE-IP GREECE** project's television spot, aired on June 20, 2024, presents and explains the “**Pay-As-You-Throw**” (PAYT) system. PAYT implements the “polluter pays” principle.

This system charges citizens and businesses based on the amount of waste they generate. The less waste one produces (through prevention, recycling, or reuse), the lower the waste collection fees they pay (ACTION C6).

[You can watch the spot here](#)



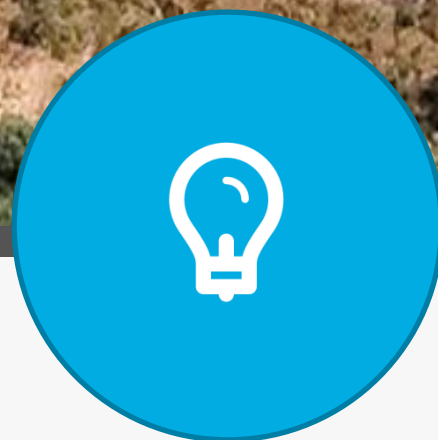
# Municipality of Vari, Voula, Vouliagmeni

Όνομα χρήστη

Κωδικός χρήστη

Γλώσσα

Ελληνικά



## PAYT

The **Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni** (Municipality of VVV) is gradually implementing a “**Pay-As-You-Throw**” (PAYT) program, which aims to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills. What does it achieve? Improved quality of recyclable materials and a cleaner, more beautiful environment for everyone (ACTION C6.3)



## The collection

**How is the waste collected?** Waste is collected through the use of smart bins, which are designed to encourage proper recycling behavior. Residents who use the bins correctly are rewarded with a 50% reduction in their municipal fees. To support the initiative, informational materials have been distributed to help citizens understand how to use the bins effectively.



## Discount on Municipal Fees

Proper use of the smart bins requires residents to activate their contactless access cards via the “Municipality VVV Anakiklosi” mobile app and to follow the usage guidelines provided by the municipality. The discount on municipal fees has been in effect since the end of March 2025. **More information:** [anakiklosi.vvv.gov.gr](https://anakiklosi.vvv.gov.gr)





Σύστημα μετατροπής **οποιουδήποτε** κάδου απορριμάτων σε **έξυπνο** σύστημα **διαχείρισης** & **ανταμοιβής** των πολιτών που ανακυκλώνουν, μέσω της καταγραφής του **βάρους** και του **τύπου** των απορριμάτων ανα παραγωγό.

## Σχεδιασμός & Ανάπτυξη

Το σύστημα του ευφυούς κάδου σχεδιάστηκε, αναπτύχθηκε και δοκιμάστηκε πιλοτικά με την συμμετοχή του Δήμου Βάρης Βούλας Βουλιαγμένης και την χρηματοδότηση των:



## Σκοπός

Το σύστημα έχει ως σκοπό την μετατροπή οποιοδήποτε κάδου απορριμάτων σε ένα έξυπνο αυτόνομο σύστημα διαχείρισης & ανταμοιβής των πολιτών, μέσω της αυτόματης καταγραφής του βάρους και τύπου απορρίμματος (ανακύκλωση/σύμμεικτα) ανά παραγωγό σε πραγματικό χρόνο.

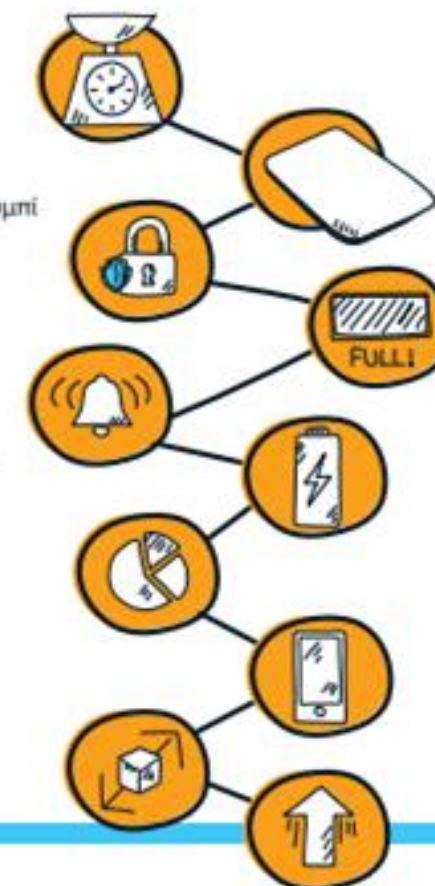
Τα δεδομένα αυτά, στέλνονται αυτόματα σε κεντρικό σύστημα στο διαδίκτυο για την στατιστική ενημέρωση και χρέωση/πίστωση ανάλογη με τα παραγόμενα απορρίμματα ανά χρονική περίοδο και παραγωγό.



## Περιγραφή

Το σύστημα μετατροπής του κάδου είναι φορητό, μπορεί να εγκατασταθεί σε οποιονδήποτε κάδο και αποτελείται από τα παρακάτω:

1. Αδιάβροχη πλατφόρμα ηλεκτρομηχανικής ζύγισης με στήριξη στο εσωτερικό του κάδου με πλήρες ηλεκτρονικό σύστημα και λογισμικό καταγραφής του βάρους.
2. Σύστημα ανάγνωσης ηλεκτρονικών καρτών πρόσβασης (NFC tag reader) για ταυτοποίηση του χρήστη που εφαρμόζεται σε κατάλληλο σημείο του κάδου με κουμπί ενεργοποίησης με πράσινη ένδειξη λειτουργίας.
3. Ηλεκτρονικό σύστημα κλειδώματος του κάδου για την ελεγχόμενη πρόσβαση του κάδου.
4. Αισθητήρια πληρότητας κάδου που εφαρμόζονται εντός του κάδου.
5. Αυτόματη ενημέρωση σε περίπτωση μετακίνησης του κάδου ή πτώσης του.
6. Εσωτερική μπαταρία για αυτόνομη λειτουργία και κύκλωμα διαχείρισης ενέργειας.
7. Κεντρικό διαδικτυακό πρόγραμμα συλλογής και στατιστικής πληροφόρησης και διαχείρισης των κάδων.
8. Λογισμικό για τα κινητά τηλέφωνα με σκοπό την στατιστική πληροφόρηση των χρηστών για τα παραγόμενα απορρίμματα τους και την ανταμοιβή τους.
9. Σε περίπτωση φθοράς ή αλλοίωσης των χαρακτηριστικών του κάδου το σύστημα δύναται να μεταφερθεί σε νέο κάδο.
10. Αυτόματο άνοιγμα του κάδου κατά την αποκομιδή



## Τρόπος λειτουργίας

Η εγκατάσταση του συστήματος μετατροπής του κάδου σε έξυπνο κάδο διαχείρισης των απορριμμάτων είναι απλή και η λειτουργία του περιγράφεται παρακάτω:

Ο μεταποιημένος έξυπνος κάδος έχει το καπάκι του κλειδωμένο σε κατάσταση ηρεμίας.

Ο χρήστης πατάει το κουμπί στον κάδο για να τον ενεργοποιήσει και πλησιάζει την κάρτα πρόσβασης για να ταυτοποιηθεί και να ξεκλειδώσει το καπάκι, ώστε να εναποθέσει εντός τα απορρίμματα του.



Στην συνέχεια η πλατφόρμα ζύγισης καταγράφει το βάρος των απορριμμάτων, τον τύπο, την ώρα, τον κωδικό του χρήστη, και τον κωδικό του κάδου και τα αποστέλλει μέσω της διασύνδεσης στο διαδίκτυο σε κεντρική βάση δεδομένων.

Το λογισμικό του έξυπνου κάδου αποστέλλει στην κεντρική βάση δεδομένων πληροφορίες σχετικά την τρέχουσα κατάσταση του όπως στάθμη μπαταρίας, πληρότητα, ανοιχτό καπάκι, συμβάν παραβίασης, συνολικό βάρος, αλλαγή θέσης, πτώση κάδου.

Ο δημότης ενημερώνεται online μέσω εφαρμογής για την ανακύκλωση και την ανταμοιβή του!

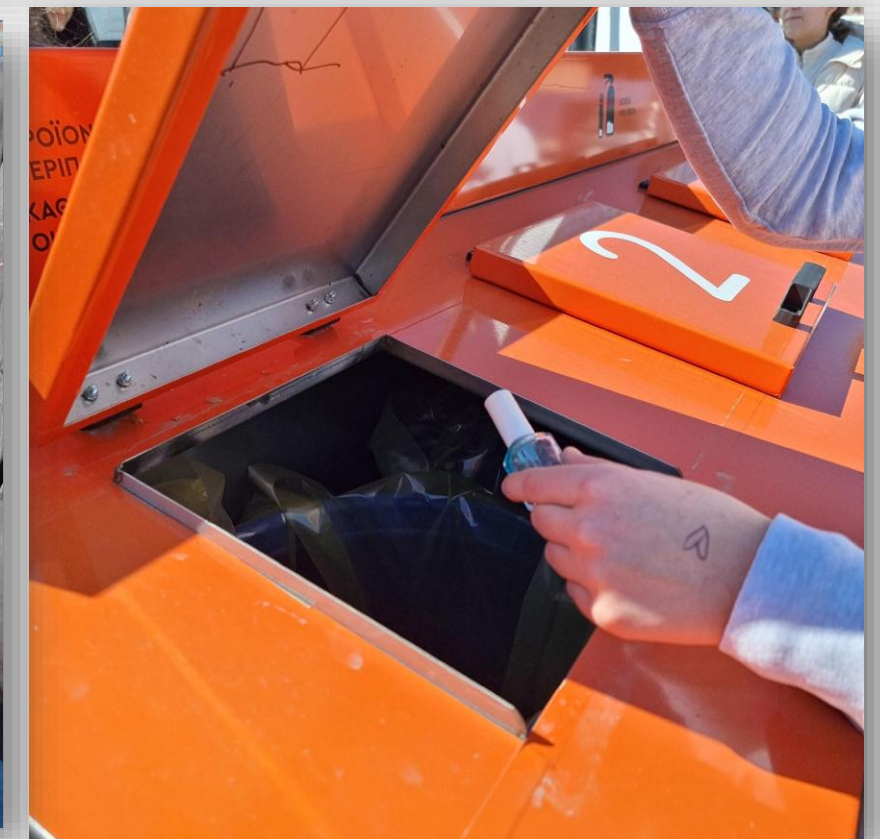


# Hazardous Household Waste

The innovative separate waste collection program for **Hazardous Household Waste** (HHW) continues with the addition of another **special bin for HHW** at the corner of Aianis and G. Gennimata Street, opposite the stadium, as part of the collaboration between **DIADYMA** and the Municipality of **Kozani**.

On Wednesday, March 5, an awareness session was held for students and teachers of the **8th Primary School of Kozani** at the site of the newly installed bin. A previous event took place on February 12, when another bin was installed in Agia Paraskevi, Kozani, attended by students from the 1st General Lyceum of Kozani.

These special bins are intended exclusively for packaging that contains **Hazardous Household Waste** with chemical substances, such as personal care products (e.g., acetone, nail polish), detergents (for clothes, dishes, etc.), drain cleaners, paints, varnishes, insecticides/pesticides, and aerosols/sprays (ACTIONS C3.1 & E1.8)



# Hazardous Household Waste

DIADYMA x MUNICIPALITY OF KOZANI

Currently, in the **Municipality of Kozani**, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) bins have been installed at the following locations:

- Aianis & G. Gennimata Street
- Kakridi & Sikelianou corner (Platania area)
- Ailiostratas & Dadamogia corner (across from the 6th Junior High School)
- Stefanou Stamkidi Street (Agia Paraskevi open-air market)

The initiative by DIADYMA and the Municipality of Kozani was featured on the TV program [perimetros](#) on ERT3 (ACTION E1 & E3)



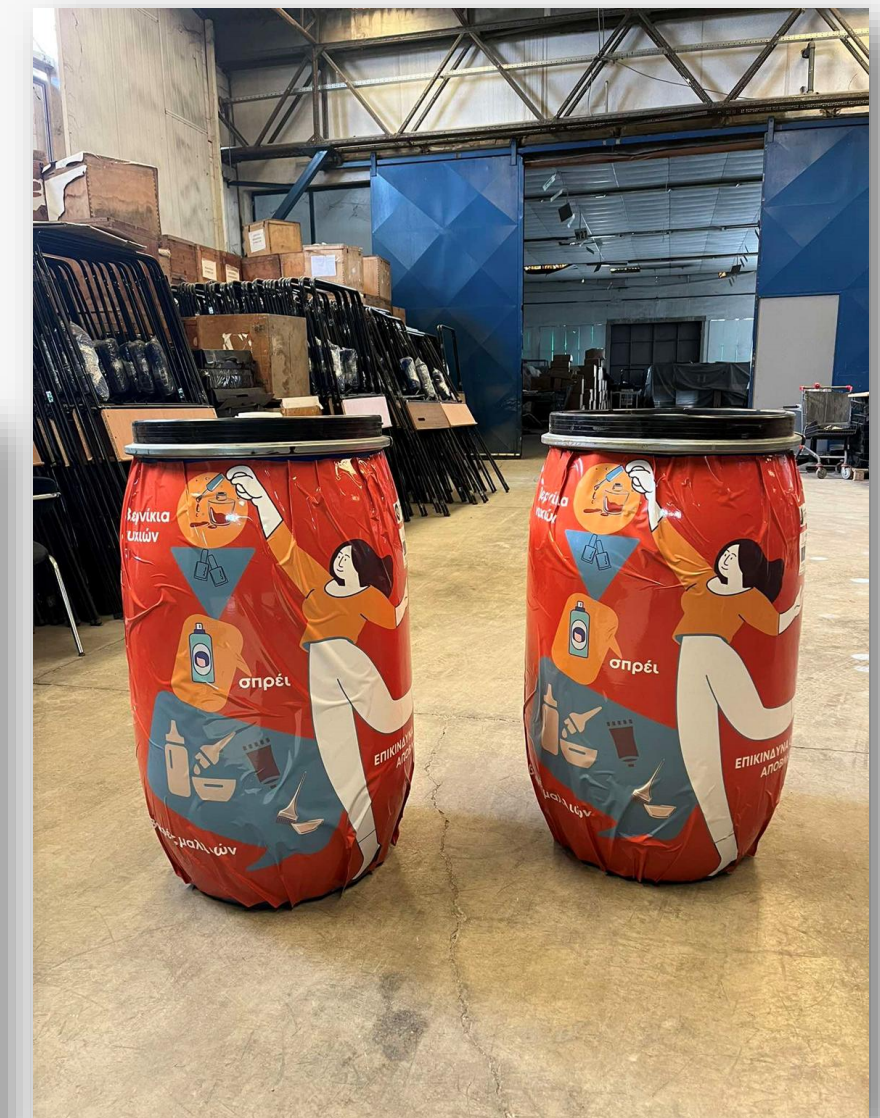
# Hazardous Household Waste

*Municipality of Athens*

The **Municipality of Athens** has launched a pilot program for the collection of **Hazardous Household Waste (HHW)** as part of the project “LIFE IP CEI GREECE – Circular Economy Implementation in Greece,” coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

The first barrel-style bins for HHW were installed in the 3rd, 5th, and 7th municipal districts!

Since April 25, 2025, the **Municipality of Athens**’ van **will have begun** making its **rounds across the city’s neighborhoods** to collect HHW. The goal is to gather as much HHW as possible from all citizens who have such waste to dispose of. Nail polish remover, varnishes, sprays, and more are now “wanted” by the Municipality of Athens!



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# CENTRAL MARKET OF THESSALONIKI

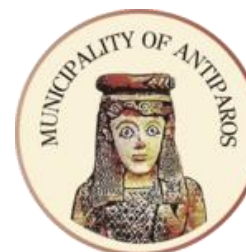
## NEWSLETTER #6



Find [here](#) the Newsletter of the Central Market of Thessaloniki, a project co-beneficiary



# PARTNERS



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# Contact us



Visit the project Circular Greece: <https://circulargreece.gr>



[circulargreece@prv.ypeka.gr](mailto:circulargreece@prv.ypeka.gr)

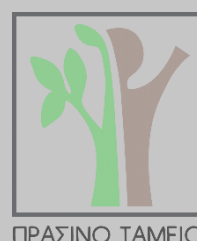


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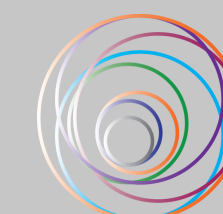
## Find us on Social Media



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