

POLICY DOCUMENT

Title: Expansion of the “Holistic Waste Management” Programme

Organisation: Democratic Rally Party Youth (NEDISY)

Date: 19/10/2022

Summary – introduction: (120 – 150 words):

The “Holistic Waste Management” Programme has been implemented in the Municipality of Aglantzia since 2021, with unprecedented success rates. The main objectives of the programme are to limit the purchase of unnecessary products, the reuse of polluting items, the promotion of correct and systematic recycling, and the protection of citizens' financial resources.

Through the implementation of this programme, the fixed, annual waste collection fee is abolished, as citizens will only be charged based on the volume of waste they produce, through the purchase of a special pre-paid bag (purple bag), in which only residual waste should end up. Consequently, citizens are charged only for waste that cannot reduce, reuse or recycle.

According to the national collection results of the PMD, Paper and Glass household programme, published by the GreenDot, in 2019 and 2020, in the Municipality of Aglantzia, 501 and 504 tonnes of PMD were collected respectively, while in 2021, 763 tonnes were collected. The success of the programme was achieved through innovative waste management practices, based on the directives of the European institutions, such as the establishment of the principle «European Polluter Pays Directive».

As a result, this method of "rewarding" citizens for their effort to reduce waste appears to be a sufficient incentive for the implementation and adoption of the programme nationwide. The ultimate goal of this program is to reduce the financial burden of the citizens in regards to waste, as well as the reduction of waste for the protection of the environment and public health. At the same time, it is a way to promote the cultivation of environmental awareness and culture.

Policy Positions: (bullet-point)

- Promotion of the programme at the national and local level, mainly at the Local Government level, with the aim of expanding the programme throughout the Republic of Cyprus.
- Promotion of information about the positive results of the implementation of the programme in the Municipality of Aglantzia.
- Promoting the principle that the full implementation of the programme in the reform of Local Government will help fill the gaps of the programme (e.g. it will not

be possible for citizens of a municipality/community to pollute in locations beyond the municipal/community boundaries of their residence in order to save money).

- Promotion of reduction of fixed financial costs for citizens.
- Promotion of environmental culture through innovative environmental protection and waste reduction practices.
- Promotion of awareness regarding the different types of recycling (e.g. paper, PMD, glass, etc.).
- Provision of assistance to citizens, through the transportation of items to Green Points, with the help of the authorities of the Local Government.
- Reducing the hyperconsumerism of modern society.
- Analysis of the results of the implementation of the programme in the Municipality of Aglantzia, aiming at identifying gaps in the programme and preventing future mistakes.
- Promotion the adoption of the programme in schools, universities and public services.