

# Monthly E-Bulletin of the Project “Zero Waste Strategy for Good Environmental Status-BSB257”

E-Bulletin No:6

## Common borders. Common solutions

This project is funded by the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposal of the Joint Operational Programme “BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020”



**Kamikatsu, “the first zero-waste town” in the world: An impressive story about the waste management program.**

**Kamikatsu** (上勝町 *Kamikatsu-chō*) is a town located in Katsuura District, Tokushima Prefecture, Japan. In 2016 the town had an estimated population of 1,482 and a density of 7.2 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The total area is 109.68 km<sup>2</sup>.

Kamikatsu is a "zero waste" town, all household waste is separated into 45 different categories and sent to be recycled. In 2008, a poll showed that 40% of residents were still unhappy about the aspect of the policy that required items to be washed. But the town continues the policy as it is cheaper and more environmentally friendly than purchasing an incinerator. The Town recycles about 80% of its waste. The town has set a goal to become fully zero waste by 2020 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamikatsu,\\_Tokushima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamikatsu,_Tokushima)).



**How a little town achieved a top recycling rate?**

There are no garbage trucks in the city. City residents compost food waste. They put other wastes in 34 different categories. While doing this, they fold the boxes and put them in a way that takes up the least space, and they also remove the outer paper of the wastes like pet bottles. This brings them to the recycling centre themselves; at the same time, employees at this centre also check whether the waste is categorized correctly (<https://gaiadergi.com/kamikatsu-2020-yilina-kadar-sifir-atik-kasabasi-olmayi-hedefliyor/>).



**“Zero waste town” in Turkey is being established, too.**



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In order to choose the most suitable zero waste town in Turkey, 81 cities and 951 town is being examined. This pilot zero waste town will be an example to other towns in Turkey as Kamikatsu town in Japan within the scope of Turkey’s Zero Waste Project initiated by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s wife Emine Erdogan.

In the zero waste town to be determined, wastes will be collected separately according to their categories. organic wastes will be composted. The recoverable wastes will be processed in recycling facilities and converted into new products and economic benefits will be provided. It is also aimed to reduce exhaust emissions by using electric vehicles in collection system.

Vending machines will be placed in the town to collect plastic, metal and glass beverage packaging. Those who dispose of packaging waste in these vending machines will be encouraged by loading credit for talking or internet use on their mobile phones.

The Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation will carry out awareness raising activities in the selected zero waste town and will provide equipment and expert support for the recycling of waste. (<http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/gundem/sifir-atik-ilcesi-kuruluyor-41117510>).



### Use of plastic bags decreased by 70 percent after the Zero Waste Project in Turkey

Environment and Urbanization Minister Murat KURUM reported that “the number of plastic bag uses per person, being 440 in the beginning of 2019, has decreased to 132, by up to 70 percent now and our goal is to reduce the use of plastic bags by 90 percent and reduce up to 40 per person”. (<https://www.ntv.com.tr/sifir-atik/poset-kullaniminda-yuzde-70e-varan-azalma-oldu,uCrBQP9Q2kyT4g363p3Arw>).



### Which Countries Have Banned Plastic Bags?



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Many countries around the world have embraced banning the use of plastic bags in a bid to control environmental pollution. Plastic bags are typically made of low-density polyethylene plastic which is a thermoplastic that is made from the ethylene monomer. Plastic bags gained global popularity in the 1970s as stores and supermarkets would give them for free to customers as they were a cheap way to encourage shopping and build goodwill.

Governments have devised various ways of ridding and minimizing the use of plastic bags in their respective nations. Some of the policies introduced to control the use of plastic bags include a total ban on plastics bags, increasing taxes on plastic bags, and encouraging citizens to discard the use of plastic bags through environmental campaigns. Currently about 60 countries around the world have instituted plastic bag control mechanisms. (<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/which-countries-have-banned-plastic-bags.html>).

Country	Year of Ban	Country	Year of Ban	Country	Year of Ban
Albania	2018	Guinea-Bissau	2016	Nepal	Unknown
Antigua and Barbuda	Unknown	Haiti	Unknown	Netherlands	2016
Bahamas	2020	Hong Kong	2015	New Zealand	2018
Bangladesh	2002	India	2002	Niger	Unknown
Belize	2019	Indonesia	2016	Panama	2020
Benin	2017	Israel	2017	Papua New Guinea	2016
Bhutan	Unknown	Italy	2011	Poland	2018
Botswana	2007	Ivory Coast	2014	Republic of the Congo	2011
Burkina Faso	2015	Kenya	2017	Rwanda	2008
Cambodia	2017	Latvia	2019	Senegal	2015
Cameroon	2014	Lithuania	2018	Slovenia	2019
China	2008	Madagascar	2015	Somalia	2015
Denmark	2004	Malawi	2015	South Korea	2018
Eritrea	2004	Mali	Unknown	South Sudan	Unknown
Estonia	2017	Malta	2009	Sri Lanka	2017
France	2017	Mauritania	2013	Taiwan	2003
Gabon	2010	Mexico	2010	Tanzania	2006
Gambia	2015	Moldova	2018	Uganda	2007
Georgia	2017	Morocco	2015	Vanuatu	2018
Greece	2018	Mozambique	2016		

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A dead whale that was hauled up in the Philippines had 40 kg of plastic bags inside its stomach, researchers have said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47608949>

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