At the top of the waste hierarchy but underfunded: Who should pay for re-use?

Special thanks to:
Insieme and AGSM AIM Ambiente

since 1998 (for the Fixed Fee and Variable Recovery Fee) &
since 2021 (for the additional Variable Preparing for Re-use Fee)

Actors Involved

AGSM AIM Ambiente (a public waste management company), Insieme (a social economy reuse and preparing for re-use operator dealing with a wide range of products), monitoring and control authorities and citizens (paying the collection and treatment fee and buying in second-hand shops).

Funding System

- Households pay a waste collection and treatment fee to the municipality of Vicenza who then transfers it to AGSM AIM Ambiente.
- AGSM AIM Ambiente, thanks to these financial contributions, finance preparing for re-use of the waste collected in the waste collection centre according to this calculation method.
- The “Variable Recovery Fee” merges both quantities separately collected for recycling, and quantities separately collected for preparing for re-use.
- The “Variable PfR Fee” only measures what is separately collected for preparing for re-use.

### Remuneration Method

**Fixed Fee**

- Since 1998 to May 2021

**Variable Recovery Fee**

- Since June 2021

**Variable PfR Fee**

- Since 2021

### Recovery Fee Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery Fee (RECOV-D)</th>
<th>Recovery Fee €/ton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 40%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% ≤ 50%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% ≤ 70%</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% ≤ 85%</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 85%</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preparation for Reuse Fee Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation for Reuse Fee (PfR-D)</th>
<th>PfR Fee €/Tonne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 2.00%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2% ≤ 2.50%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.60% ≤ 3%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3% ≤ 3.50%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 3.50%</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

• The preparing for re-use rate of what is collected in the main waste collection centres rose from 3.5% before June 2021 to 5% today. It represents an increase of 60 tonnes of products prepared for re-use.
• If merging both recycling and preparing for re-use activities, the recovery rate in the collection centre is 86% (74.2% in the city considering 54,400 t/year out of 71,700 t/year of waste collected).
• Littering has been decreasing as a result of this initiative.
• Separate collection for re-use, which is made easier via this system, is better advertised towards discarers/citizens who then go shopping for second-hand goods in Insieme’s shops.
• Helps create jobs for people at risk of socio-economic exclusion
CRNI and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications since 1996

Actors Involved

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (Irish governmental body in charge of environmental affairs) and CRNI (an Irish network of re-use social enterprises).

Funding System

- The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications enacted a Waste Management Act in 1996 which created two levies: The plastic bag levy (22 cents per plastic bag) and the landfill levy (€75/tonne)
- These levies are then funding waste prevention; R&D; less harmful products; enforcement; education & awareness, etc.
- In 2019, 12% of the collected levies funded prevention and education & awareness
- Through different grants and projects related to waste prevention and education & awareness, CRNI and its members manage to receive a share of this funding
- New legislation (Summer 2022) will create a Circular Economy fund that will be financed through additional Coffee cup and Recovery (incineration) levies
- A certain % of the Circular Economy Fund will be ring-fenced to support the development of reusable products and packaging
CRNI and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications since 1996

Results

- The funding system partially helped CRNI and its members to achieve the following results
- However CRNI members expressed the following concerns and needs with the current funding system:

Reuse funding - insights from CRNI member surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Core funding  
- Specific for social enterprises  
- Specific for environmental services and impact  
- Physical space to conduct members’ work  
- Salaries for add’l staff  
- Add’l labour activation roles  
- Funding for capital costs (equipment, vehicles, building improvements, IT systems)  
- Funding for development of new business opportunities | - Social enterprises not eligible for some funding, commercial enterprises are (e.g., job creation, start-up support, new business development)  
- Funding applications cumbersome for small organisations  
- Administrative costs of grant administration high and often funded via traded income  
- Scaling reuse projects can become more expensive towards end of product’s lifecycle | - Offer core funding  
- Offer capital grants  
- Open eligibility to not for profit social enterprises  
- Open funding for environmental services, impact, creative/ unusual applications of reuse  
- Tiered grant application process to reduce administrative burden  
- Feedback on why grant application unsuccessful  
- Include funding in labour activation programmes  
- Public procurement of reuse organisations’ goods and services |
Envie & Ecosystem since 2005

Actors Involved

Ecosystem (a WEEE Producer Responsibility Organisation), Envie (a preparing for re-use operator from the ESS* specialised in refurbishing large household and cooling appliances) and Emmaüs (a reuse operator from the ESS working with a wide range of second-hand products).

Reuse and preparing for re-use have been an integral part of the activities supported by Ecosystem since its inception.

*Social and Solidarity Economy

Funding System

- When people buy EEEs (Electrical and Electronic Equipment) they pay an EPR** fee.
- The EPR fee is eco-modulated: Products that are more easily repairable or which have recycled content have a lower EPR fee (ex: €8 for a washing machine which has 10% of recycled plastic OR has spare parts available, €10 if none of these two criterions are met).
- The EPR fee goes to Ecosystem’s budget who decides, based on some minimum rules set in the French Environmental Code, how the EPR fee is spent:

**Extended Producer Responsibility
Results

- The funding system partially helped ESS re-use and preparing for re-use operators achieve the following results
- In total, €6.000.000 have been redistributed to ESS re-use operators in 2021, including €2.000.000 dedicated to re-used appliances.
Thank you!

Thank you for joining our event “At the top of the waste hierarchy but underfunded: who should pay for re-use?”

Contact us

You can find us on our website reuse.org and follow us on our social media channels

LinkedIn: RREUSE - Reuse and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises
Twitter: @RREUSE.Brussels
Facebook: @RREUSE.RREUSE

Reach us via email: info@rreuse.org