
Best practice in Spain: "Tu papel es importante"

Sofía Boente
Recycling Department, ASPAPEL
s.boente@aspapel.es
CONTENTS

• INTRODUCTION TO ASPAPEL & THE PROJECT
• SPANISH MONOMATERIAL COLLECTION SYSTEM
• RESULTS: VOLUMES, QUALITY & COSTS
• CONCLUSIONS
ASPAPEL
Asociación Española de Fabricantes de Pasta, Papel y Cartón

Brings together companies in the pulp and paper sector in Spain of the sector’s output 96%
INTRODUCTION

2012

Jobs

17,150 direct
85,000 indirect

Output

6,2 million tons of paper
2 million tons of pulp

Mills

11 pulp mills
71 paper mills
Ranking in Europe

2012

6° Paper producer

5° Pulp producer

2° biggest recycler after Germany
The Project

Main objective: to increase paper collection at municipal level (collection from households, small shops, markets, hotels, small offices and schools) for sustainable development.

Financing: All the relevant paper industry companies in Spain using recovered paper as raw material.

Scope: biggest cities in Spain (>50,000 inhab.)

Who is involved: All Paper & Board Stakeholders

Web site: www.tupapelesimportante.com
The Project

**Methodology:** Environmental Assessment of used paper collection systems (21 indicators) → Proposal of improvement plan → Implementation → Certification & public recognition.

**Results:** 130 municipalities participating in the program (25 M people), 28 have already been awarded, P&B collection increased in 1Mt, special agreement with the Spanish green dot scheme-Ecoembalajes (13,000 blue bins financed, technical studies, communication campaigns)…
Total P&B collected = 4,637,100 tonnes / year (2010)

- Household channel
- Industrial and commercial channel: industries, office buildings, supermarkets, malls, retailers...

Household collection ➔ Responsibility of local authorities

Industrial and commercial collection ➔ Private management
P&B municipal collection channel

- Households
  - Bring system: blue bin
- Small shops
  - Specific collection services (door to door)
- Business offices, schools, universities
Waste collection system

- Only for households. Sometimes, small shops and offices allowed
- Bring area containers for 4 types of waste (5th type under development)
  - Grey/brown: Biowaste + mixed waste
  - Yellow: Beverage cartons, plastic & metal packaging
  - Blue: ONLY Paper & Board
  - Green: Glass bottles
Blue bin: key figures

- Blue is the official color
- Implementation promoted by Spanish government and the paper chain companies, since 1994
- 100% of population covered (47 million)
- More than 170,000 blue bins
- Average rate: 280 inhab/bin. Depending on population density.
- Distance <100 meters bin-building
- More blue bins + near citizens = More tonnes
- Permitted materials: Newspapers, magazines and graphic paper (60-70% by weight) and P&B packaging (30-40% by weight)
- Municipalities are responsible for blue bin collection management
Types of blue bins

Population (%) covered by type of collection (2010)

- Igloo: 51%
- Side loading: 42%
- Rear loading: 2%
- Underground container: 4%
- Others: 1%

Sizes:
- 2.700-3.000 L
- 2.400-3.200 L
- 800-1.100 L
- 4.000-5.500 L
Limits of blue bin system

- Not prepared for big P&B waste producers
- Not prepared for big corrugated boxes

SOLUTION: Complementary collections
Small shops: door to door collection

System:
- Specific service is recommended
- High density Commercial areas
- Collection frequency: daily M-S (recommendation)
- Schedule: after shop closing
- Cardboard should be flattened and stacked outside the shop, free of garbage, by shopkeepers
- Municipalities should develop laws, promote information campaigns, supervise service and shopkeepers behaviour

Results:
- Improvement of blue bin efficiency (prevents overflows)
- Cleaner streets and bin areas
Evolution of P&B collection and recycling in Spain 1990-2013 (´000 tonnes)

Collection rate = 70%
Before sorting = 1.01 EN643 (Mixed paper and board, unsorted, but unusable materials removed)

- Source separation is the citizens role
- Blue bins with narrow lids
- Communication campaigns

Low quantity of usable materials
Costs: Household collection

✓ **Cost parameters:** blue bins & vehicles acquisition costs, collection service costs, other costs.

✓ **Total collection cost =** 70-90 €/ton

✓ Material goes directly to the traditional recovery paper plant (no sorting from other materials)

Source: Recomendaciones para el diseño de un servicio de recogida selectiva monomaterial de papel y cartón en contenedor (www.aspapel.es)
 ✓ "Real" separate collection: a matter of costs, quality and collection volumes.

 ✓ P&B separate collection (monomaterial)

 ✓ Source separation: citizens participation

 ✓ The municipal collection volumes have doubled while keeping the quality standards.

 ✓ Legal support: Environmental authorities will take measures in order to promote high quality recycling and, to this end, a separate collection of waste will be established (art. 21.3 Law 22/2011).
Thank you for your attention!

www.aspapel.es

http://www.aspapel.es/en/rss.xml
http://www.youtube.com/user/ASPAPEL
http://vimeo.com/user7063540/videos
https://twitter.com/quieropapel

Avda. de Baviera, 15 Bajo | 28028, Madrid
Tel.: (+34) 91 576 30 03 | Fax: (+34) 91 577 47 10
aspapel@aspapel.es