

Introduction

Once again it is time for our annual report on the year gone by and on this occasion we present you with one that is intended to mark the beginning of a new period of communication about the activities we are undertaking with regard to residues.

Our major challenge is to implement the principles of the Government Agreement—the Tinell Accord—and this opens up new perspectives in the field of waste management.

If 2003 could still be considered a transitory phase, this no longer holds for 2004 which we must consider to a period of receptiveness to the new residue policies the Government of the Generalitat wanted to implement in Catalonia.

These policies naturally had to be in harmony with European initiatives and that means that they had to contemplate waste prevention, the achievement of more and better aims for the selective collection and recycling of materials and the reduction of waste at the end-of-line facilities such as tips and/or incinerators and the correct treatment of such residues to reduce their biodegradable content and maximise the recovery of materials.

I would like to define 2004 as a warm-up year for the achievement of these aims. As you will see in the administrator's report, we have embarked on a whole set of proposals in both the field of legislation and in territorial planning that constitutes the basis for residue management over the coming years. The road to follow, we should remember, will not be an easy one, but if we set out decisively, overcoming any inertia, we will be able to speak of having a well-focussed waste management system that we must ensure is carried out in an orderly and well-planned way.

In 2004 we improved or commenced many activities such as: the revision of waste management programmes, putting in place a new waste management model together with coherent territorial planning for it; increasing grants such as those awarded for the selective collection of the organic fraction and other municipal services; increasing the existing, and establishing new, grants for waste prevention projects and for making the participation of social economy companies possible in waste management; the application of the levy on municipal dumped refuse and its reimbursement to encourage better and more appropriate waste management; etc. All this means that the report is full of novelties and merits careful perusal.

I would like to point out once again that everything we do is in response to the challenge that faces us as a modern society to ensure future prospects, that is to say, to bequeath a better environment to our children. That, quite simply, means ensuring sustainable development and appropriate waste management is a core element of that.

We are all key players in this: the Administration of the Generalitat, the municipal councils, the world of science, every kind of organisation and, in general, the citizens of Catalonia. The promotion of these policies would be meaningless without the participation of us all. For this reason a priority has been made of establishing contact and cooperation with the municipalities and other bodies throughout Catalonia with the aim of reaching the agreements necessary to create the consensus required to make the better and more sustainable management of our residues possible by recognising them as a valuable resource.

This is the new way of seeing waste management, a way that raises people's awareness in a much more direct way, a way that is closer to people's daily lives.

SALVADOR MILÀ I SOLSONA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING
OF THE CATALAN GOVERNMENT

Translation

English text

Report

This document is the annual report in which we have collated the main activities of the Residue Agency of Catalonia during 2004 together with the results for that year. It was a very important year's work from the legislative point of view and from the perspective from which environmental policies are applied, it was a year of analysis and planning. To sum up, it was a year during which a part of the work was carried out which will determine the results and the situation over coming years.

On one hand, the implementation of Laws 15 and 16/2003 commenced bringing legislation up to date and introducing the levy on the controlled dumping of municipal waste. A particularly noteworthy aspect of this is the setting up of a system for reimbursing this levy to local authorities to the degree that they improve the management of municipal waste. It is hoped that this will have a positive effect on the figures for selective waste collection, especially with regard to the organic fraction of municipal waste—one of the main challenges for achieving the correct management of municipal waste. On the other hand, the process commenced of revising and adapting the Catalan legislative framework (a Draft Law modifying Law 6/93, of 15 July, on the regulation of waste; a Draft Law on measures to finance waste treatment infrastructures and the levies on the final dumping of waste; Reformulated Texts, etc.), in compliance with the Government Agreement so as to make a new residue management model possible while adapting it to the requirements of European regulations.

Furthermore, the results achieved until then by the residue management programmes in force at the time, the ones dealing with municipal waste in particular, and the changes in context since their approval in 2001 led to a process of revision foreseen for the latter end of 2003 and which commenced in 2004. This process of revision affects waste from the construction industry (PROGROC), industrial waste (PROGRIC) and municipal waste (PROGREMIC). The almost complete revision of PROGROC was carried out in 2004 and the terrain prepared for the revision of the other two, priority being given to actions concerning PROGREMIC given the results by 31 December 2003, the exhaustion of large dumping facilities and the lack of coherent planning for new treatment and final dumping facilities. Once this task is completed, the established forecasts will have been brought up to date and their time scale brought into line. All this is intended to set a trend towards the achievement of the environmental targets we must aim for as a country whereby modernity, sustainability and economic development are compatibly linked together.

The generation of municipal waste has continued to grow, albeit at a slower rate. In this regard, auxiliary actions were implemented in the field of prevention and 1 million devoted to this end for use by local authorities and other entities. Concomitant with this was the boost given to selective collection which has undergone a generalised increase, especially with regard to the organic fraction of municipal waste for which municipalities received 5,300,000 in assistance, almost double the amount for 2003. In 2004, however, the total impact of this assistance can still not be entirely seen. We hope that this will become evident in the results for 2005 and most especially, in 2006 when they should have their full impact on the selective collection and treatment of the organic fraction.

At the level of strategic planning, work has been done on a proposal for a new model for waste management that follows the lines laid down at the European level, a model that is focussed on prevention, the maximum reuse of resources and the recovery of materials from the fraction that is not collected selectively. Prior work also commenced on drawing up a sectorial and territorial residue management infrastructure plan required in order to ensure that management needs are covered on the basis of the principles of proximity and sufficiency to guarantee territorial balance with regard to waste management. This instrument, designed for implementation in the mid-term, must be supplemented with an appropriate finance model to ensure the plan's viability.

A noteworthy case is that of the management of waste containers which received a new boost with the signing of agreements with the Ecoembes and Ecovidrio systems. This new framework ensures the maintenance of the management model and represents a financial improvement for the local authorities. Similarly, procedures are underway to incorporate into the state regulations for this sector the system of deposit and return as a management system for certain kinds of container in compliance with the legislative stipulations approved by the Parliament of Catalonia and contained in the Generalitat de Catalunya Government Agreement.

In the context of industrial waste, actions have been centred on the stimulation of clean production and reduced waste-generation. Technical and financial support has continued to be given to waste-minimisation actions in industry, through the award of grants for a total of more than 1,900,000, and a contribution has been made to making diagnostic and planning instruments and training in methods and technologies for clean production available to businesses. Similarly, in the field of improving waste management, strategies to stimulate the market in recovered products and to improve processes for recovering specific categories of waste have continued to be applied.

Regarding construction waste, it is desired, with the agreement of the industry, to stimulate the market in recycled materials through the use of these resources in projects carried out by the Generalitat de Catalunya and through participation in projects at the European level. At the same time, local authorities have received support for the closure of tips and other sites where uncontrolled dumping took place, to the total value of more than 500,000 euros.

As for livestock-farm slurry, we should mention the drawing up of a joint proposal, thanks to interdepartmental cooperation, whose aim is to coordinate efforts to facilitate the adaptation of the livestock industry to a context of sustainability, taking participative action in fields such as fertiliser management, the adoption of new technologies and training and awareness-raising.

In pursuit of a new waste management that will be more participative and transparent, work has been done this year on the proposal to create a participative body, in which all sectors of the administration, local authorities, the universities and society will be represented. In this regard, draft legislation has been prepared for the creation of the Waste Management Preventative Council, enabling us to inform those concerned of all the waste proposals that are to be implemented in the coming years and discuss them. Furthermore, as part of a transparent information policy, as required by the new European legislation, work has begun to lay down criteria for environmental information about waste-management facilities, which we know as the waste-facility environmental information protocol. During the course of the coming year this will be gradually implemented through consensus amongst all the various waste-management sectors.

In summary, then, 2004 meant a shift towards a new orientation for the various waste-management policies and it saw the basis come into existence for them to be directed—with the participation of everyone, civil society, organisations and administrations—toward a model whose core aims are prevention and sustainable development and which helps to shape a way of understanding progress and the quality of life that will be compatible, in the long term, with the preservation of the environment.

MANUEL HERNÁNDEZ CARRERAS
DIRECTOR OF THE CATALAN WASTE AGENCY

Towards a well-managed environment

The Catalan Waste Agency is a public company attached to the Catalan Ministry of the Environment.

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Through its work in the sphere of waste prevention and management, it seeks to improve the quality of citizens' lives.

In order to achieve this goal, all the action undertaken in 2004 was in keeping with the principle of sustainable development and followed the guidelines of the various Waste Management Programmes.

The Agency works to turn waste into a resource.

Prevention, reduction and recovery are, therefore, the core issues in the Generalitat's policy. The action taken is based on planning, on regulations that provide incentives and on collaboration accords, as well as measures to monitor and intervene where necessary. This forward-looking policy fully respects the rules and regulations laid down by the European Union

MAIN GOALS IN 2004

ON WASTE IN GENERAL

- **To review the municipal, industrial and construction waste programmes.** To update targets in the light of new circumstances. To implement measures resulting from new policies on prevention, separate waste collection, recovery, information and participation.

- **To promote waste prevention and recovery by industry.**

- **To stimulate t ess on establishing ways to recycle and recover construction waste.**

- **To aid action initiated in the sphere of technical and financial support** for livestock farm waste management in order to make progress on the sustainability of the sector and to contribute towards solving the problems of nitrate pollution.

- **To implement a mechanism** that will enable conservationists, scientists, social agents, business people and politicians to play a part in decision-making, in determining priorities for action and in arriving at a consensus on these issues.

ON MUNICIPAL WASTE

- **Development of a new management model.** To promote the prevention of waste generation and to encourage sustainable consumption as well as separate waste collection, in particular of organic waste. The treatment of the remaining waste and regional planning of infrastructure are especially important.

- **Sector infrastructure plan.** Analysis of the current state of affairs in municipal waste management from the perspective of territorial balance, proximity and self-sufficiency in waste management in order to determine the need for infrastructure and the areas of work that such infrastructure should deal with.

- **Implementation of new regulations, in particular laws 15/2003 and 16/2003, which came into force in January 2004.** Particularly noteworthy is the application of a levy on the disposal of municipal waste and the rebate system for this tax.

FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

The Catalan Waste Agency has a number of governing bodies that direct its initiatives for a more sustainable environment.

THE AGENCY. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Governing bodies of the Catalan Waste Agency

- **Presidency.** Represents the committee.

- **Steering Committee.**

Powers and responsibilities

- To establish the general directions of the Agency's work.

- To approve:

- Proposals for initiatives and programmes.
- The investment programme and finance for the year.
- The Catalan Waste Agency's draft operating and capital budget.
- Cooperation accords.

- To agree loans.

- To establish consortiums and collaboration accords with universities and other bodies.

- To propose to the government that affiliated companies should be set up or that it should take a stake in other companies.

- To raise awareness of global planning.

- To allocate resources to projects that have been approved by specialists.

- **Management.** Manages operations, appointed by the President.

* The Catalan Waste Agency's governing bodies are detailed in article 55 of Law 6/1993. The composition of the Steering Committee meets the requirements of the first final provision of Law 3/1998 on the overall intervention of the Environmental Authority.

Towards an environment that everyone’s responsible for

Only by means of a joint commitment, undertaken with a sense of responsibility by the Catalan government and citizens as well, will it be possible for us to achieve truly positive results in making improvements to waste management. Mindful of this, the Catalan Waste Agency has organised information and communication campaigns and initiatives to involve the public, and has also made investments in the form of grants and the signing of accords in order to achieve its goals.

INFORMATION, THE FIRST STEP

The Catalan Waste Agency invests in making full information on waste management available to the public. By using new technologies and various systems for attending to the public, the Agency has the tools it needs to respond to the enquiries it receives. As a result, it is able to make progress in increasing the understanding of sustainable development.

INFORMATION REQUESTS, ANSWERS TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT

More than 40.500 information requests concerning administrative procedures and the management of industrial and municipal waste were dealt with during 2004. In addition, the Catalan Waste Agency Web site received an average of 766 daily visits.

A total of 36,549 telephone enquiries. More than 3,300 enquiries sent in by e-mail and post. 866 personal visits. 280,524 visits to the Web site.

• *See table on page 30.*

www.arc-cat.net, information just a click away

• *See table and graphs on page 31.*

PARTICIPATION. SUSTAINABILITY, A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY

The Catalan Waste Agency believes in sharing views with others as a means to arrive at an effective approach to managing and preventing waste. Seminars and information sessions provide the opportunity for dialogue between the various organisations involved in this commitment to the environment. Only through participation will it be possible to attain global, self-sufficient sustainability.

SECOND SEMINAR ON PREVENTING MUNICIPAL WASTE, CONSENSUS AS A WAY FORWARD

The Catalan Recycling Centre of the Catalan Waste Agency organised the Second Seminar on Preventing Municipal Waste in Barcelona as a means to encourage participation. One of the seminar’s main conclusions was that there is a need to rapidly establish a legal framework on preventing waste. It is a matter of defining goals and specific measures to create a more sustainable approach to manufacturing and consumption, and of establishing useful indicators to measure and monitor waste prevention.

One of the other main features of the Seminar was the view that prevention is a joint responsibility, a belief that calls for consensus in introducing measures based on the commitment and involvement of all the social and economic agents that play a part in preventing waste.

The Catalan Recycling Centre.

Was set up to encourage and foster the recovery and recycling of waste generated in Catalonia. Its various initiatives are aimed at waste generators such as companies, manufacturers and private individuals.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES, CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

It is essential that new technologies be adopted if we are to achieve our goal of effective, quality waste management. This being the case, over the course of 2004 the Catalan Waste Agency invested in the creation of new operating systems and in improving its own operations and channels of communication. By making management more flexible, the Agency is contributing to sustainable development.

SDR, A NEW TOOL FOR MANAGING INDUSTRIAL WASTE

The new Waste Document System (SDR) represents a step forward in simplifying the paperwork processes involved in managing industrial waste. It is now possible to process waste declarations, acceptance forms, monitoring sheets and levy self-assessments and rebates via the Internet. This new tool is quicker and more effective for waste generators and managers who are listed in the appropriate registers and for waste transporters.

The Catalan Waste Agency’s efforts in designing and implementing the SDR has been recognised through the award of a prize by the Institute for Resources Sustainability - Spanish Waste Club.

New Waste Document System (SDR) Tangible results

· Some 23.900 users have signed up

· More than 6.000 tasks completed

NEW INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR A SPEEDIER AND MORE EFFECTIVE CATALAN WASTE AGENCY

Over the course of 2004, the Catalan Waste Agency invested in improving its information systems in order to ensure the provision of quality services and resources to all those agents that work and have contact with the Agency.

IMPROVEMENTS IN GENERAL MANAGEMENT

- Replacement of the server in order to improve project development, trials and testing.
- Renewal of all the microcomputing equipment.
- Production of the Master Plan for the 2005-2007 Catalan Waste Agency Information Systems Department. This plan, which identifies and prioritises projects for the coming three years, is based on the needs and strategies of the Catalan Waste Agency.
- Creation of the first version of the Catalan Waste Agency’s Intranet, focussed on the area of human resources.

PROGRESS IN THE TREATMENT OF LIVESTOCK FARM WASTE

Particularly important in this sphere is the Study on the factors that play a part in determining the quality of compost. This initiative evaluates the quality of compost produced from organic matter in municipal and livestock farm waste and its impact on the sales market for the product. This study came about as a result of the collaboration accord with the Barcelona School of Agriculture, reached in 2004.

An agreement on reducing the nitrogen content in slurry through changes to animals’ diet was also reached. Among other aspects, this action promotes the study of the meal fed to animals in order to reduce the level of nitrogen, phosphorus and other minerals in slurry.

The Study into technologies to treat livestock farm waste was extended. This initiative was set up to define a new form of operations for stockbreeding businesses and was strengthened by the publication of the Guide on Treatments for Livestock Farm Waste and Experimental Output, which is intended to raise awareness of the new technologies applicable to this form of waste and to nitrogen separation activities.

PROGRESS IN THE QUALITY OF ORGANIC MATTER

The Catalan Waste Agency conducted specific monitoring of the quality of the organic waste collected separately in all the municipalities in Catalonia. This study included a description of the quality and the level of inappropriate material in the organic matter in 18 collection facilities (composting plants and ECOPARCS) in Catalonia. A total of 428 reports on the characteristics of organic waste were drawn up, with an average of three reports per municipality.

• *See graphic on page 25.*

The investment in this descriptive work was euros 175.000. The initiative produced a specific description of the organic matter in waste. With the support of the Technical University of Catalonia, the results of these descriptive reports will be evaluated to see whether the approaches to collection currently in operation and the type of municipality have an impact on the quality of the organic matter or the level of inappropriate waste in it.

The results of the study.

Description of the characteristics of the organic matter. The average value of impurities found was 14,2%, though the weighted value is 23,8%.

PROGRESS TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Asphalt made using recycled material. A 40-m stretch of new asphalt containing 10% recycled material (2% ash from solid urban waste incinerators and 8% chopped tyres) has been laid as a trial on Montjuïc.

The use of rubber in asphaltting processes has increased from 2% to 8%, thereby significantly improving the prospects for the recovery of used tyres.

Technical studies and guidelines on methodologies related to soil contamination. The purpose of this work was to identify the baseline values and overall levels of metals applicable to Catalonia. The progress made in 2004 was principally in establishing:

- The background and baseline values of metals of geogenic origin in Catalonia.
- The overall baseline levels of metals depending on the use of the land, bearing in mind the need to safeguard human health.

This research effort was set up in order to furnish new instruments for use in decision-making and standard operating procedures that will enable us to make progress in the management of contaminated soil.

Changes in approaches to managing urban waste (neru-1).

The Catalan Waste Agency has participated in a project that analyses a new legislative scenario and which defines the strategies required to adapt approaches to urban waste management to achieve an optimal balance in the socio-economic and environmental cost-benefit ratio.

COMMUNICATION, MESSAGES ON WASTE AS A RESOURCE

INFORMATION SESSIONS ON THE WASTE LEVY, A TAX TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

The Governing Body of the Waste Management Fund organised a series of sessions to inform local bodies in Catalonia on the way self-assessment of the new levy works and on the functioning of the levy on the disposal of waste, which came into force on 1 January 2004.

These information sessions were held around the country to bring them closer to the various bodies and hence make them easier to attend. A total of 209 different local bodies took part, benefiting from this initiative to raise awareness of this new financial instrument to introduce sustainable management of waste.

- See table on page 33.*

Levy rebates

More than 30 million will be returned to local bodies as an incentive to encourage separate waste collection.

INFORMATION SEMINAR ON SCRAPPED VEHICLES. NEW ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES IN FORCE

This seminar was organised by the Directorate General for Traffic, the Catalan Recovery Guild and the Catalan Recycling Centre to raise awareness of the new Scrapped Vehicles Management system in the vehicle breaking sector. Held on 30 March 2004 in the Directorate General’s offices, the seminar provided information on the administrative and environmental aspects of this new procedure. The Catalan Recycling Centre participated in the form of a talk on the environmental aspects of managing scrapped vehicles and during the subsequent debate.

A new procedure that gets results

More than 105.000 destruction certificates issued by authorised treatment centres have been received and monitored.

The Catalan Waste Agency invests constantly in improving its own operations to manage and prevent waste and in promoting an awareness of sustainability in every sphere of activity and in the daily lives of the Catalan population through agreements, financial grants, displays, communication campaigns and participative activities.

INITIATIVES ON PREVENTION AND SEPARATE COLLECTION

The Catalan Waste Agency was successful in encouraging the prevention of waste and separate collection through agreements and grant orders. In addition, the Catalan Recycling Centre played an active part in some of the Catalan Waste Agency’s initiatives, as well as in activities on managing waste at an international level.

In accordance with the **Agreement on preventing municipal waste**, a CD was recorded containing material **about preventing municipal waste**. The CD is aimed at public and private bodies that apply the principles of sustainability by preventing waste. The contents of the CD are grouped together by target audience segment.

The **Catalan Recycling Centre** also participated in workgroups to prevent municipal waste. As members of the Board of Directors of the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling (ACR+), it **collaborated in talks and attended events at home and abroad**.

In addition, it is important to note the **Agreement reached with the Federation of Andalusian Cultural Bodies in Catalonia** (FE-CAC). The main initiatives involved equipping the stands at the April Fair with bins to enable glass, light packaging, paper and cardboard, organic matter and oils used for frying to be collected separately. A pilot test was also set up to reduce waste by replacing disposable glasses with returnable glasses and eliminating the use of plastic glasses.

Projects were also set up to provide events and stands at popular festivities or events for particular sectors of society.

Positive results

Separate collection up to 49,8% at the April Fair in Catalonia. An increase of 3,78% over 2003. Separate collection targets met

With regard to the **Grant Orders for communication purposes**, the Catalan Waste Agency continued throughout 2004 to invest for a better future. It continued to provide finance and advice to local bodies on campaigns to implement, extend and reinforce the separate collection of organic waste. By the end of the year, 75 local bodies had received grants totalling €2.025.974. Grants amounting to 300,000 were also given to initiatives on waste run by 15 not-for-profit associations working in the sphere of waste and whose efforts are intended to help people join the labour market and to encourage employers to take on the underprivileged.

- See report on page 35.*

15 NGOs; € 300.000 in grants

A double investment for the future

INFORMATION AND TRAINING FOR A JOINT COMMITMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

As in previous years, the Catalan Recycling Centre organised the third **“Design for Recycling: The Recycled/Recyclable Product” Awards**. On this occasion, the Industrial Design and Decorative Arts Association (ADI-FAD), Barcelona Design Centre (BCD) and the ECOMED POLLUTECH Energy and the Environment Exhibition collaborated in making the awards.

Prize categories, advancing in different areas

- Products marketed, made or distributed in Catalonia.
- Product projects.
- Strategies.

Notable within the sphere of sustainability was the **“Buy Recycled” seminar** organised at the Museum of the History of Catalonia by the Catalan Recycling Centre. Aimed at green schools, the purpose of the seminar was to encourage various industrial sectors to adopt environmentally-friendly purchasing policies.

Other action in the area of information provision included the publication of the **“Guide** for the prevention and recycling of waste not separately collected in industry”, and a summarised version in a number of different languages; **The Display** of the travelling exhibition of recycled products organised through the Catalan Recycling Centre; and the **Communication Campaign** “Your small gesture can change the world”, which continued the Centre’s work to raise the public’s awareness of proper waste management in Catalonia.

In addition to work in the field of information, efforts were also directed towards **training**. In collaboration with the Department of Health, a range of material was published and courses were arranged to train health personnel in **managing medical waste**.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION, DEVISING THE TOOLS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

In 2004, the Catalan Waste Agency produced a number of new exhibitions and other information material to be loaned to local bodies.

The Inflatable Giant proved to be an effective way to promote the separate collection of waste and went out on more than a hundred excursions in 2004, appearing at various events around much of the country.

As part of its ongoing work to encourage the public to respect the environment, the Catalan Waste Agency devised a number of **exhibitions**. **“Igloos”** was a new travelling exhibition on preventing waste and approaches to managing the separate collection of waste. And the display of huge letters that spell the word **“Orgànica”** appeared in campaigns to introduce the separate collection of organic matter at local gatherings and activities and at a range of places visited by large numbers of people, such as Barcelona Airport.

- See report on pages 36 & 37.*

Another of the initiatives in this sphere was the award of the **Separate Collection and Waste Reduction Prizes**, given in recognition of environmental responsibility and to reward local bodies, retail, distribution and services businesses and public service and civic bodies that have distinguished themselves in their correct management of waste and in particular in their recovery and minimisation activities.

The prizes were given in recognition to the most committed municipalities:

- Recovering more waste per resident.
- The implementation of separate organic waste collection throughout the municipality.
- Obtaining especially high rates for the separate collection of organic waste per inhabitant.

And to the retail, distribution and services establishments that have revealed particular concern by:

- Recording the best results for recovering their own waste.
- Undertaking action that has contributed to and promoted the reduction in waste.
- Selling consumer products that respect the environment.

Lastly, it is important to note the action taken to **raise awareness of waste as a resource** and the importance of contributing to environmental sustainability. One example of this is the ongoing **programme of visits** to public waste treatment plants **organised for schoolchildren** and other groups. Other examples include the visits by **foreign delegations** from Japan and Morocco to share experiences in waste management, and the participation and stands at internationally important **trade fairs** and exhibitions.

Visits from abroad, a different perspective on waste management

Separate waste collection, closer to home

- Participation in trade fairs and exhibitions**
- Multi-sector exhibition in Constantí.
- Ecoviure Exhibition in Manresa.
- Mediterranean fair in Tarragona.
- Olot Fair.
- TV3 Super Club Festival.
- Barcelona Airport.
- Barcelona Port.
- Children & Youth Festival.
- Bioculture Exhibition in Barcelona.

CAMPAIGNS WITH INTEGRATED SYSTEMS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2004, the Catalan Waste Agency implemented a number of specific programmes related to the various integrated systems to treat waste such as Sigfito, a programme for collecting and subsequently managing pesticide packaging.

The **campaign with Sigfito** was presented as an initiative aimed exclusively at farmers and was intended to promote the recovery of pesticide product packaging.

Work was also done on SIGRE (Pharmaceutical Industry Integrated Packaging and Packaging Waste Management System) and a new publicity campaign was **launched to encourage the separate collection of waste medicines**. The campaign and its slogan “Look after your health, look after nature” featured in all the media, including posters and leaflets for pharmacists’ shops, on the radio and in TV adverts.

As part of this work, the Catalan Waste Agency continued to promote and provide advice on local campaigns on the **separate collection of packaging** among the local bodies that are signatories to the ECOEMBES AND ECOVIDRIO CAMPAIGNS (companies running integrated systems to manage packaging and glass packaging, respectively).

- See table on page 39.*

LEGAL ADVICE, WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE WASTE RESPONSIBLY

The Catalan Waste Agency has a **Legal Advice Service that performs an important task by providing legal advice and support on the issue of waste at the request of other departments and authorities and of companies and the general public**. **Through accords and direct grant orders, the Legal Unit, in collaboration with other units in the Catalan Waste Agency, ensures that waste-related targets are met. In addition, it is responsible for processing sanctions for violations and permits for waste hauliers, as well as paperwork concerning by-product declarations, direct grants, laboratory accreditations, cancellations of acceptance records and injunctions to prevent, remedy and improve waste management.**

COLLABORATION ACCORDS

An important part of the work of the Catalan Waste Agency is performed through the signing of collaboration accords with the various public and private bodies involved in managing waste. **Twenty-six such accords were signed, between them constituting a key tool for achieving the goals established in regulations on waste and programmes on waste management.**

Accords, detailed below by sphere of action, were reached with:

SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

- Agreement with the Technical University of Catalonia on co-ordinating the work to describe the characteristics of the **organic matter** in municipal waste generated in Catalonia during the year 2004.
- Agreement with Rovira i Virgili University on conducting a **study** to determine the changes in **levels of heavy metals, dioxins** and in the area around Tarragona.
- Agreement with the University of Vic on extending the 2004 study on technologies to **treat livestock farm waste** of potential use in Catalonia.
- Agreement with the Barcelona Industrial School Consortium, which is part of the Technical University of Catalonia, to conduct a **study on the quality of compost in Catalonia**.

DISTRICT COUNCILS

- Agreement with Garrotxa District Council and Osona District Council, commissioning them to co-operate in managing inspections of the production and management of waste that can potentially be applied to the land and so be of benefit to **agriculture**.
- Agreement with Solsonès District Council on establishing a model to manage **municipal waste** in the district.
- Agreement with Anoia District Council on the strategic **programming of waste infrastructure** in the district and on controlling the operations and monitoring of the existing waste management facilities to ensure that their development is environmentally sustainable and to guarantee optimum management of the waste.
- Agreement with Vallès Occidental District Council on the construction of a **biomethanation plant for organic waste**.

OTHER BODIES

- Agreement with Girona Provincial Council, Gironès District Council and Girona City Council on **drawing up a strategic plan to treat municipal waste** in the Gironès district in order to reach the targets set out in the 2001-2006 Catalan Municipal Waste Management Programme (PROGREMIC).
- An agreement was also signed with the Sub-Directorate General of Human and Financial Resources of the Secretariat of Penitentiary Services, Rehabilitation and Youth Justice on setting up an **Environmental Management System** at Girona Penitentiary Centre.
- Agreement with Lleida Provincial Council and Pallars-Sobirà District Council on **improving the infrastructure and facilities** to manage waste generated in the district.
- Agreement with the Municipal Waste Management Consortium of the districts of Ribera d’Ebre, Priorat and Terra Alta and L’Aldea Town Council on the temporary management of **municipal waste** managed by the Consortium at a controlled landfill site.
- Agreements with the town councils of Castellolí, Hostalets de Pierola i Pont de Vilomara and Rocafort on financing **municipal facilities**.
- Agreement with L’Aldea Town Council on closing and **improving the controlled municipal waste** landfill site and on the construction of facilities to manage municipal waste.

COMPANIES AND OTHER BODIES

- Agreement with the Federation of Andalusian Cultural Bodies in Catalonia (FECAC) on promoting the proper management of **municipal waste** at the April Fair and the El Rocio festival by implementing a management plan and a communication and awareness-raising plan.
- Agreement with the *Spanish Association of Electronics and Information and Telecommunications Technology Companies* (AETIC) on establishing the conditions for collaboration on implementing a pilot project to collect and recycle waste **electrical and electronic goods** generated at distribution points in Catalonia.
- Agreement with the Catalan Farmers’ Union on updating the main map on the capacity of the farming industry in Catalonia to **accept secondary organic matter** and on devising the review based on the current livestock farm register as an integral element of the Master Plan on the Sustainable Use of Secondary Organic Matter (USMOS).
- Agreement with the Industrial Design and Decorative Arts Association (ADI-FAD) to give the Catalan Waste Agency a role in the **incorporation of the environment** as a criterion in the conditions and the assessment of submissions to the 31st Delta Prizes 2005.
- Accord with ECOVIDRIO on establishing **agreements with local bodies** on the running of the Integrated Management System proposed by ECOVIDRIO.
- Agreement with the company Ecoembalajes España, SA on **regulating the running of the Integrated Management System in Catalonia** in order to guarantee compliance with Law 11/1997, which regulates packaging and packaging waste.
- Agreements with the Metropolitan Board of Water and Waste Treatment Services on specific projects and other initiatives to be run in conjunction with other bodies:
- Management of rubble and other construction** waste in facilities belonging to the Barcelona Port Authority. (Extension of the agreement with the EMSHTR and the Maritime Management of Land and Rubble [AIE].)
- An **information and monitoring protocol for the ECOPARC** in Montcada i Reixac. (Agreement with the EMSHTR and the local town council.)
- Pilot project consisting of the **controlled disposal in the controlled landfill** site at Vall d’en Joan of 40.000 tonnes of municipal waste. (Agreement with the EMSHTR.)

Towards a sustainable environment

If we are to achieve a sustainable environment, it is essential that we manage all the waste generated in Catalonia effectively. As a result, the Catalan Waste Agency promotes separate waste collection, has established monitoring mechanisms to ensure that industrial, livestock farm and construction waste are properly managed, and works to maintain the soil in Catalonia in good condition. The goal of this ongoing effort is to ensure the quality of the environment.

SEPARATE WASTE COLLECTION

As a whole, Catalonia generates 36 million tonnes of municipal, industrial, construction and livestock farm waste, the equivalent of 14 kg of waste per person per day. Given these figures, the Catalan Waste Agency took action to boost separate collection, increasing it by 17.64% in comparison with 2003. In global terms, 1.056.076 tonnes of all types of waste were collected separately.

The increase in separate waste collection is a result of the efforts made by the Catalan Waste Agency to support local bodies in their attempts to improve and boost the quality and quantity of organic matter.

LET'S TALK ABOUT MUNICIPAL WASTE

In 2004, 4.130.823,43 tonnes of municipal waste were generated in Catalonia, an increase of 4.7% over 2003. The average waste per resident per day now stands at 1.66 kg, meaning that each citizen in Catalonia generates 606 kg—more than half a tonne—of domestic waste a year.

- See graphic on page 46.*

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25% of municipal waste was collected separately.

The increase in separate waste collection is a result of the efforts made by the Catalan Waste Agency to support local bodies in their attempts to improve and boost the quality and quantity of organic matter.

It should be noted that recycling also increased during 2004: 25,42% of municipal waste is now collected separately around Catalonia.

- See table on page 47.*

In pursuing its goal of introducing separate collection of municipal waste, the Catalan Waste Agency announced and awarded grants to promote the separate collection of organic matter. The subsidies, amounting to a total of€**5.300.000**, **supported initiatives such as composting buckets and bags for homes, containers for collecting organic matter separately**, communication campaigns and other ventures strictly connected with the separate collection of organic matter such as the promotion of composting at home and waste for transfer. A total of 81 bodies benefited from these grants.

The increase in separate waste collection is a result of the efforts made by the Catalan Waste Agency to support local bodies in their attempts to improve and boost the quality and quantity of organic matter.

€ 5.300.000 to promote the separate collection of organic matter

THE SEPARATE COLLECTION OF ORGANIC WASTE

A total of 178.072.73 tonnes were collected in 2004, 18,45% more than in 2003. By 31 December 2004, **197 municipalities** had begun to collect part or all of the organic matter in their municipal waste separately. It is estimated that 2.200.000 residents now have organic matter collected separately.

LEGAL ADVICE, AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING TASK

The work of the Catalan Waste Agency's Legal Advice service goes beyond the signing of agreements and the awarding of grants. Through the various tasks it performs, it verifies in an effective manner that waste in Catalonia is properly managed.

Given the vital importance of **monitoring the transport of waste**, the Legal Advice service processes permits for companies authorised to transport waste, the documents related to the **declaration of by-products** and **papers on improper waste management processing**.

Legal Advice, an all-encompassing task

- 728 resolutions authorising waste transport.
- 60 dossiers processed on by-product declarations.
- 258 sanctions processes initiated.

The increase in separate waste collection is a result of the efforts made by the Catalan Waste Agency to support local bodies in their attempts to improve and boost the quality and quantity of organic matter.

Another of the service's functions is to ensure that the recovery and disposal of waste are conducted in such a way as to protect the environment. This calls for the appropriate authorisation mechanisms to be put in place. One of these measures is the **authorisation of waste managers**, which are listed in the Catalan Waste Managers Register, thereby guaranteeing close control and respect for the law.

In addition, the Legal Service **processes sanctions** imposed in response to improper waste management. The financial penalties include remedying the problem and restoring the situation to its original state.

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OTHER GRANTS

Resolutions were passed in 2004 awarding 15 direct grants.

- Direct monetary grant to Noguera District Council amounting to a maximum of € 168.811,85 to finance the construction of a **new access route to the controlled municipal waste** landfill site and the district collection centre.
- Direct grant to Baix Ebre District Council amounting to a maximum of € 72.447,16 **to construct three collection centres** for the separate collection of municipal waste in the municipalities of Ametlla de Mar, L'Ampolla and Camarles.

- Direct grant to L'Aldea Town Council amounting to a maximum of € 205.451 to finance the works **to close the controlled municipal waste** landfill site in the municipality of L'Aldea and the installation of a gas treatment system.
- Direct grant of to La Selva District Council amounting to a maximum of € 58.921,86 to finance works **to close the Vas II of the controlled municipal waste** landfill site in the district.
- Direct monetary grant to Reus City Council amounting to a maximum of € 7.671,08 to implement **the project “The Less Waste, the Better”**.
- Direct monetary grant to the Municipal **Waste Management Consortium** of the districts of Ribera d'Ebre, Priorat and Terra Alta amounting to a maximum of € 140.000.

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GRANT ORDERS

Agreements are key to achieving a sustainable environment and grant orders are equally essential in tackling specific problems by giving grants to responsible bodies in those areas where improvement action is required.

GRANTS TO OPEN COLLECTION CENTRES

Grants for setting up municipal waste collection centres were announced in 2004. **Initiatives to open collection centres were given grants totalling € 3.316.000**.

GRANTS TO CLOSE TIPS

Initiatives aimed at closing municipal tips no longer in use and municipal tips for rubble and other construction waste no longer in use were given grants totalling € **2.800.000**.

GRANTS FOR PREVENTION PROJECTS

Projects to prevent municipal waste received grants totalling € 999.726.44.

GRANTS FOR MINIMISATION PROJECTS

Grants amounting to € 1.906.338,89 were awarded to waste minimisation initiatives. Work in this sphere involved calling for applications for grants available to projects seeking to prevent municipal waste and to not-for-profit organisations helping people to join the job market by running initiatives on waste.

GRANTS FOR MANAGING LIVESTOCK FARM WASTE

Grants were announced to finance the infrastructure required to introduce, monitor and follow up plans on livestock farm waste. The total awarded amounted to € **1.420.430,44**.

GRANTS FOR SEPARATE COLLECTION

Grants were announced in 2004 to promote the separate collection of the organic component of municipal waste. The amount of grant aid awarded totalled € **5.300.000**.

Of the total tonnes of organic matter collected separately:

- 130.831 tonnes were collected from household waste routes (some of this waste came from commercial sources). The remaining 47.034 tonnes, 26,41% of the total organic matter collected, came solely from commercial routes.
- The organic matter contains 14,2% impurities. The weighted value, based on gross tonnes, is 23,8%.

OTHER GRANTS

Resolutions were passed in 2004 awarding 15 direct grants.

Progress in the collection of organic matter. In one year, the number of municipalities playing a part in the separate collection of organic matter rose from 144 to 197

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As part of its activities in this area, the Catalan Waste Agency worked to set up collection centres in municipalities with between 2,000 and 5,000 inhabitants, to create neighbourhood collection centres, and to improve those collection centres already in operation and mobile collection centres.

This effort has resulted in 22 new collection centres being opened, 15 projects to improve existing collection centres and nine mobile collection centres. A total of € 3.316.000 was allocated to setting up and improving collection centres.

- See table on page 49.*

A new levyy on waste deposited in landfill sites came into force on 1 January 2004 and provides a strong incentive for local, municipal and supramunicipal bodies, as well as federations and consortiums, to increase separate waste collection.

THE NEW LEVY, NEW MOMENTUM FOR SEPARATE COLLECTION

A new levy on waste deposited in landfill sites came into force on 1 January 2004 and provides a strong incentive for local, municipal and supramunicipal bodies, as well as federations and consortiums, to increase separate waste collection.

The new levy is intended to reduce the amount of waste deposited in landfill sites and to promote separate collection. The rebates via the Management Fund back to local bodies are distributed on the basis of the following concepts and amounts:

- Treatment of the organic fraction in municipal waste collected separately: € 32,50 per metric tonne.
- Separate collection of the organic fraction in municipal waste: € 11,20 per metric tonne
- Collection of paper and cardboard at recycling points and collection centres: € 27 per metric tonne
- Separate collection of waste at collection centres: € 0,50 per resident served
- Treatments to reduce the quantity or to improve the quality of waste deposited in controlled landfill sites: € 1,60 per metric tonne

• *See table on page 50.*

* The amounts detailed above may be altered by correction coefficients depending on the quality of the organic matter and the type of town.

The 143.989,55 tonnes of glass represented 3,49% of all municipal waste generated (SC/MW).

GLASS, PAPER-CARDBOARD AND LIGHT PACKAGING. POSITIVE RESULTS IN SEPARATE COLLECTION.

There has been a positive increase in the separate collection of **ordinary municipal waste**. With regard to glass, the figure of **143.989,55 tonnes** was achieved, 10,06% more than in 2003. As regards **paper-cardboard**, the number of tonnes collected rose to **335.713,31 tonnes**, an increase of 23,81%. And the amount of light packaging collected separately increased to **60.596,59 tonnes**, a rise of 4,36% and 1,47% of all municipal waste generated. Citizens' contribution to promoting the separate collection of light packaging amounted to 6,90 kg/resident/year. It should be noted that the figures for these three types of waste include waste collected at recycling points/door-to-door service, commercial municipal collection, collection centres and commercial collection not associated with any particular municipality or district.

• *See tables on page 51 and 52.*

The 143.989,55 tonnes of glass represent 3,49% of all municipal waste generated (SC/MW).

Citizens' contribution to promoting the separate collection of glass amounted to 21,13 kg/resident/year.

The 335.713,31 tonnes of paper and cardboard collected separately make up 8,13% of the total municipal waste generated (SC/MW).

Citizens' contribution to promoting the separate collection of light packaging amounted to 6.90 kg/resident/year.

Encouraging residents to separate paper and cardboard waste has resulted in 49,27 kg per person per year being collected.

Citizens' contribution to promoting the separate collection of light packaging amounted to 6.90 kg/resident/year.

The year saw another significant rise in the general level of separate collection connected with collaboration accords with the Integrated Management Systems in Catalonia. The work done in conjunction with ECOVIDRIO, for example, resulted in the collection of 93.139 tonnes of glass, an increase of 11% over 2003. In addition, the accord with ECOEMBES led to the separate collection of 140.352 tonnes of paper and cardboard, an increase of 9% in comparison with the previous year. The 40.321 tonnes of light packaging collected represents a fall of 9%.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN CATALONIA, WORKING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
This year saw another significant rise in the general level of separate collection connected with collaboration accords with the Integrated Management Systems in Catalonia. The work done in conjunction with **ECOVIDRIO**, for example, resulted in the collection of **93.139 tonnes of glass**, an increase of 11% over 2003. In addition, the accord with **ECOEMBES** led to the separate collection of **140.352 tonnes of paper and cardboard**, an increase of 9% in comparison with the previous year. The **40.321 tonnes** of light packaging collected represents a fall of 9%.

The excellent results achieved by means of the Integrated Management Systems has led the Catalan Waste Agency to make improvements to the agreements it has reached with the various agents.

Improvements to the accord with ECOEMBES

- Recognition of all the packaging collection and recovery systems, looking ahead to the contribution made by door-to-door collection.
- Financial improvements:

– Establishment of a fixed payment to reduce the financial risk for local bodies.

– The introduction of a different payment for the indirect or management costs that local bodies have to bear.

– Allowance made for the payment of different amounts for each collection system.

– Inclusion of light packaging transfer as a category.

– Reduction in the minimum distance (from 50 km to 40 km) after which compensation is payable for transporting light packaging.

The **improvements to the agreement with ECOVIDRIO** centred around the possibility that the Integrated Management System should itself be responsible for the separate collection of glass, with financial contributions made to cover management costs and improvements to the system.

The collection of unwanted household medicines continued through the Pharmaceutical Industry Integrated Packaging and Packaging Waste Management System (SIGRE), which was set up in 2001. Since then, 2.937 retail chemists' have signed up to this collection programme. In 2004, 375.85 tonnes of medicines and packaging were collected, 20,4% of which came from health clinics while the remaining 79,6% came from chemists'. Collection from chemists', which is now firmly established, rose significantly thanks to the communication campaign "Look after your health, look after nature", designed to encourage people to check their first aid kits and medicine cabinets.

SEPARATE COLLECTION OF SPECIFIC WASTE

The collection of unwanted household **medicines** continued through the Pharmaceutical Industry Integrated Packaging and Packaging Waste Management System (SIGRE), which was set up in 2001. Since then, 2,937 retail chemists' have signed up to this collection programme. In 2004, **375.85 tonnes** of medicines and packaging were collected, 20,4% of which came from health clinics while the remaining 79,6% came from chemists'. Collection from chemists', which is now firmly established, rose significantly thanks to the communication campaign "Look after your health, look after nature", designed to encourage people to check their first aid kits and medicine cabinets.

The separate collection of empty **pesticide** packaging continued to rise in 2004. Conducted through the SIGFITO Integrated Management System, this work resulted in **148.259 kg** being collected, an increase of 34% over the previous year. Efforts also continued to standardise and deploy more collection points. Catalonia now has 152 such points, mainly in farming cooperatives and points of sale for pesticides.

Approximately 85% of the batteries that enter the centre are of household origin. In contrast, approximately 65% of the fluorescent lamps received come from industry.

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The Alcover treatment plant received 28.648 tonnes of **used oil** from car mechanics' workshops and industry. Following treatment, the used oil produced 31,201 tonnes of regenerated base oils. With regard to the recycling of **fridges**, the Pont de Vilomara i Rocafort Treatment and Recycling Centre took in 80,236 units, 27,6% more than in 2003.

The separate collection of **batteries and fluorescent lamps**. Though the weight of batteries dealt with at the Pont de Vilomara i Rocafort Treatment and Recycling Centre was, at 576 kg, slightly down in comparison with 2003, the separate collection of fluourescent lamps rose 3,7% to a total of 662 tonnes.

• *See table on page 54.*

The appropriate tools are required for quality recovery and treatment of waste. For this reason, the Catalan Waste Agency invested in 2004 in new initiatives, in opening new facilities and in closing those that could no longer meet the established regulations regarding environment responsibility.

NOTEWORTHY EXPERIENCES

IN SEPARATE COLLECTION,

FOSTERING THE SPIRIT OF SUSTAINABILITY

In addition to the separate collection conducted through established channels, the Catalan Waste Agency also placed special emphasis on setting up and boosting initiatives that foster sustainability through greater public involvement.

The collaboration accord between the Generalitat de Catalunya and the company FEMAREC, SCCL, which is responsible for **collecting paper waste from the offices of the Generalitat**, is a prime example. Their joint venture resulted in 1.230 tonnes of **paper being sent for recovery**. Moreover, efforts continued to promote the separate collection of paper and cardboard from offices, schools and other organisations through the distribution of 5.120 cardboard bins especially for this purpose.

The Catalan Waste Agency also directed efforts towards encouraging certain sectors of society to adopt environmentally-friendly approaches. 2004 saw the start of a project, run in conjunction with the Department of Justice, to introduce **environmental improvements at the penitentiary centres in Catalonia** in the future. It is planned that work will be done to implement separate collection in the Girona Penitentiary Centre as a pilot test.

Equally worthy of note is the collaborative work done with the Federation of Andalusian Cultural Bodies in Catalonia (FECAC). For the fourth consecutive year, **separate collection was promoted at the April Fair, Andalusia Day and the El Rocio festival**, with evident positive results:

Results of separate collection at the April Fair
59% of the waste generated during the ten days of the April Fair was collected separately. The total 132.450 kg of waste generated broke down into individual types as follows:

• *See report on page 55.*

Results of separate collection at the 2004 El Rocio festival. Approximately 25 tonnes of organic waste and other recyclable waste.

RECOVERY AND TREATMENT, WASTE AS A RESOURCE

The appropriate tools are required for quality recovery and treatment of waste. For this reason, the Catalan Waste Agency invested in 2004 in new initiatives, in opening new facilities and in closing those that could no longer meet the established regulations regarding environment responsibility.

• *See graphs on page 56.*

The Catalan Waste Agency, working for effective waste management

The Catalan Recycling Centre was set up by the Catalan Waste Agency in 1999 to encourage and increase recovery and recycling. It has a consultative Advisory Committee that provides it with guidance and assistance. It promotes prevention as well as the reuse and recycling of consumer goods and by-products, and encourages the sharing of recycled materials to prevent the disposal of recoverable waste in landfill sites.

FOR QUALITY RECYCLING

The **Catalan Recycling Centre** was set up by the Catalan Waste Agency in 1999 to encourage and increase recovery and recycling. It has a consultative Advisory Committee that provides it with guidance and assistance. It promotes prevention as well as the reuse and recycling of consumer goods and by-products, and encourages the sharing of recycled materials to prevent the disposal of recoverable waste in landfill sites.

In accordance with Order INT/249/2004, a new set of **regulations on scrapped vehicles**, vehicles no longer required are to be taken to authorised treatment centres for decontamination. This process must be documented by means of a certificate of destruction, which is essential for the vehicle to be removed from the Vehicles Register.

Another important action is **the management of waste as by-products**, which is done by technically evaluating each of the cases presented. Waste that can be used instead of commercial products and/or raw materials and which can be recovered without the need for any kind of treatment is termed a by-product.

The **treatment and management of waste electrical and electronic appliances** (WEAEA) was the subject of a study conducted in 2004. The accord signed with ELECTRORECYCLING on treating and collecting domestic WEAEA in collection centres was monitored, as was the agreement reached with the Spanish Association of Electronics, Information Technology and Telecommunications Companies (AETIC) in order to conduct a pilot test on collecting WEAEA through distribution centres and retail outlets. Another pilot test was also set up on treating 20 tonnes of air-conditioning equipment. In addition, an initiative was organised in collaboration with the SISOCAT foundation to use recycled equipment to promote the use of new technology among the underprivileged.

Lastly, action was taken to recover the greenhouse plastic waste generated by intensive farming and to improve the management of waste at marinas through the setting up of grant-aided recycling points.

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RECOVERY AND TREATMENT OF MUNICIPAL WASTE
The Catalan Waste Agency devoted efforts to extending, improving and landscaping municipal waste recovery and treatment facilities. The collection centre service expanded with the opening of 11 new facilities around Catalonia: Begues (EMSHTR), Cervelló, Canyelles, Blanes, Bossost i Gessa, Pla de Santa Maria, Hospitalet de l'Infant, St. Joan de Vilatorrada, Vilassar de Mar and a neighbourhood collection centre in Barcelona. There are now 318 collection centres in Catalonia, of which 267 are fully operational, 43 are in progress and eight are under construction.

• *See report on page 58.*

LIGHT PACKAGING SORTING PLANTS
There are currently 15 municipal waste sorting plants in Catalonia, ten of which sort light packaging.

These plants and the work they do are extremely important in ensuring that waste is properly treated, as a result of which a series of initiatives were undertaken in 2004. A new light packaging sorting plant opened in Hostalets de Pierola while the plant in Mollet del Vallès closed. In addition, the packing sorting plants in Constantí and Santa Maria de Palautordera were extended and improved through the installation of automatic systems.

The ten light packaging sorting plants treated a total of more than 49.200 tonnes of such waste from separately collected municipal waste.

BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT PLANTS
The recycling of organic waste is a priority for the Catalan Waste Agency, as it constitutes a considerable part of the waste generated in Catalonia. This being the case, it is important to note the situation of the existing infrastructure to recover organic matter and to highlight the fact that work on the composting plants at L'Espluga de Francolí, Tremp and Olot, as well as the expansion of the plants in Santa Coloma de Farners and Jorba, was completed at the end of 2004.

• *See tables on page 59.*

The effective management and proper maintenance of controlled landfill sites are of fundamental importance to the Catalan Waste Agency in order to prevent local environmental pollution. As a result, grant orders totalling 2,800,000 were approved for initiatives to close municipal tips that dealt with demolition and other construction waste.

CONTROLLED LANDFILL SITES

The effective management and proper maintenance of controlled landfill sites are of fundamental importance to the Catalan Waste Agency in order to prevent local environmental pollution. As a result, grant orders totalling 2,800,000 were approved for initiatives to close municipal tips that dealt with demolition and other construction waste.

The effective management and proper maintenance of controlled landfill sites is of fundamental importance to the Catalan Waste Agency in order to prevent local environmental pollution. For this reason, work was begun to close and adapt the sites at Benabarre and Oliana, and to close the site at Serrallarga and improve the landscape at the Bufalvent municipal waste treatment centre in Manresa.

In addition, work continued to **extend** the controlled landfill site and leachate and gas treatment plant at Pedret i Marzà (Alt Empordà) and the controlled landfill site and gas treatment in Bellver de Cerdanya. 2004 also saw the completion of the extension work to the landfill site and leachate and gas treatment plants in Tremp and the landfill sites and gas treatment in Borges Blanques, Cervera and Balaguer.

A new controlled landfill site and leachate and gas treatment plant opened in L'Espluga de Francolí, while the site at Vila-seca was closed and the landscape restored.

Environmental improvements at controlled landfill sites 10.233 m³ of leachates treated.

Another initiative set in motion in 2004 by the Catalan Waste Agency in relation to controlled landfill sites was to exploit alternative energy by installing units to produce electricity from the biogas at the Pedret i Marzà (Alt Empordà) and Serrallarga (Lleida) landfill sites. These join the units already in operation at the landfill sites in Garraf and Solius. The total electricity production using alternative energies (biogas, wind and photovoltaic cells) at controlled landfill sites reached 81,168,662 kWh.

Another initiative set in motion in 2004 by the Catalan Waste Agency in relation to controlled landfill sites was to exploit **alternative energy** by installing units to produce electricity from the biogas at the Pedret i Marzà (Alt Empordà) and Serrallarga (Lleida) landfill sites. These join the units already in operation at the landfill sites in Garraf and Solius. The total electricity production using alternative energies (biogas, wind and photovoltaic cells) at controlled landfill sites reached 81,168,662 kWh.

ENERGY RECOVERY PLANTS

Agreements reached with the local bodies that own incineration plants and plants to recover energy from municipal waste provided the means to adapt these plants to meet the **European Waste Incineration Directive and the Law and appropriate regulations**.

Work was undertaken to adapt the incineration plants in Mataró, Tarragona, Sant Adrià de Besòs and Girona. Eighty per cent of the finance for this work was provided by the European Union Cohesion Fund and the rest by the Catalan Waste Agency.

The incineration plant at Montcada could not be adapted to meet current regulations and so was closed.

METHANATION PLANTS

Methanation plants make it possible to use organic waste by exploiting the biogas produced as it decomposes and by turning the solid waste into compost.

Given the importance of this type of infrastructure, the Collaboration Protocol between the Ministry of the Environment, the Catalan Waste Agency and the Metropolitan Board of Hydraulic and Waste Treatment Services was continued in order to develop **two methanation plants and one composting plant**. The **Montcada i Reixac – ECOPARC 2** metropolitan complex to manage municipal waste was also completed during 2004.

The initiation of works for a new plant in Terrassa is another example of the investment made in this sphere and came about as a result of the accord reached with the Vallès Occidental District Council.

Lastly, it is important to note the accord signed by the Catalan Waste Agency and the Metropolitan Board of Hydraulic and Waste Treatment Services, agreeing the finance for pre-treatment and methanation facilities and improvements to the energy recovery system at Sant Adrià del Besòs. Works also continued on the **ECOPARC 3** sorting and methanation plant in Sant Adrià de Besòs.

SYSTEMS OF DEPOSITS AND REFUNDS ON RETURN, AN ALTERNATIVE TO TREATING PACKAGING

The Catalan Waste Agency **promotes the introduction** of Systems of Deposits and Refunds on Return of packaging (SDDR) in order to increase the number of companies who express an interest in setting up such systems by contacting the appropriate body. Thirty-seven companies have now established such systems that encourage the reuse of packaging, that reduce the generation of packaging waste and which guarantee the necessary monitoring and traceability of such packaging.

Furthermore, in order to guarantee proper management of waste, the Catalan Waste Agency **inspected those companies that have not signed up to the SDDR or Integrated Management Systems**, the two ways stipulated by law to achieve correct waste management. The purpose of these inspection visits is to oblige those companies that do not comply with the prevailing regulations to make the appropriate changes in order to do so.

A series of improvements were made to the Alcover Used Oil Treatment and Regeneration Plant during 2004 and a new waste water treatment plant with oil separation, evaporation, bioreaction and ultrafiltration systems was added to the site. Another advance is the new cooling tower that will allow the closed water cycle to operate to its fully capacity. And lastly, work was done to reduce the visual impact of the facility and to improve working conditions and technical aspects. Together, these improvements required a total investment of 2 million. In addition, the Rovira i Virgili University continues to monitor the plant's activity to reduce the episodes of bad odours.

For a sustainable environment: Improvements to energy recovery plants. New methanation plants. Promotion of Systems of Deposits and Refunds on Return of packaging (SDDR).

RECOVERY AND TREATMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE

In the recovery and treatment of industrial waste, it is essential to control the work of waste managers in Catalonia by means of efficient mechanisms and to ensure that new initiatives respect the environment.

- See graphs and map on pages 62 and 63.*

The number of companies registered in the General Register of Waste Managers in Catalonia rose continuously during the period 1995-2004.

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PUBLIC SERVICES, WORKING FOR QUALITY RECOVERY

Over the course of 2004, the Catalan Waste Agency invested in improving and optimising public services connected with the recovery of certain types of waste. By contracting operators, it works to guarantee the proper maintenance of these facilities

- See graph on page 64.*

A series of improvements were made to the **Alcover Used Oil Treatment and Regeneration Plant** during 2004 and a new waste water treatment plant with oil separation, evaporation, bioreaction and ultrafiltration systems was added to the site. Another advance is the new cooling tower that will allow the closed water cycle to operate to its fully capacity. And lastly, work was done to reduce the visual impact of the facility and to improve working conditions and technical aspects. Together, these improvements required a total investment of 2 million. In addition, the Rovira i Virgili University continues to monitor the plant's activity to reduce the episodes of bad odours.

It is also essential that the storage of hazardous waste be monitored. For this reason, 72 technical reports were produced during 2004, giving rise to 60 special permits to store waste. In addition, the Catalan Waste Agency participated in drawing up an inventory of polluting emissions and sources of contamination in Catalonia (EPER-CAT 2004).

Tools used by the Catalan Waste Agency to monitor projects and facilities: Managers' Permits. Technical Evaluations. Reports to monitor hazardous waste storage. Regulation on the deduction for investments intended to protect the environment.

With regard to the **treatment and recycling of batteries and lamps**, work was done resulting in an increase of 3.7% in the total volume of waste treated. This rise in effectiveness was also to be seen in the **treatment and recycling of refrigerators**, with an increase of 27,6% in comparison with 2003. Considerable effort was also made in 2004 to collect, classify, analyse and despatch incinerable special waste.

TECHNICAL MONITORING OF PROJECTS AND INSTALLATIONS

The Catalan Waste Agency has a range of tools at its disposal to ensure that industrial waste is properly managed.

- See graphs on page 65.*

Managers' permits are one of these tools. The General Register of Waste Managers in Catalonia allows the Catalan Waste Agency to control those responsible for these tasks in an effective way. In 2004, 27 permits were extended.

Technical evaluations of projects in accordance with the Law on Integral Intervention in Environmental Management ensure that new initiatives respect the environment. The Catalan Waste Agency evaluates and processes projects from the waste vector. In 2004, 1.707 projects were evaluated, 200 of which were submitted by waste managers. In the same year, 918 projects were deemed to be satisfactory, 168 of which were from waste managers.

It is also essential that the **storage of hazardous waste** be monitored. For this reason, 72 technical reports were produced during 2004, giving rise to 60 special permits to store waste. In addition, the Catalan Waste Agency participated in drawing up an inventory of polluting emissions and sources of contamination in Catalonia (EPER-CAT 2004).

Lastly, in the sphere of the technical control of facilities and projects, **the regulation on the deduction for investments to protect the environment** is particularly worthy of note. In order to benefit from this deduction, a certificate from the appropriate authority is required. During the course of 2004, 149 applications for these certificates were received, of which 41 were approved.

MONITORING THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE

The Catalan Waste Agency has established a series of measures and procedures to ensure that industrial waste is effectively managed.

One of these mechanisms is the **Annual Industrial Waste Declaration** (DARI) made by companies registered in the Register of Industrial Waste Producers. In 2004, 22.521 of these declarations were requested, an increase of 0,71% over 2003. Half the companies that made this declaration used the PADRI help programme to do so, and of these 63,9% presented their declaration via the Internet using the Waste Document System (SDR). The waste declared totalled 6.231.302 tonnes, an increase of 6,24% in comparison with the previous year. It should be noted that 64,55% of this waste was managed using recovery methods.

As required by law, the **Documentary Pcb's Inventory** was updated to better control equipment containing PCBs. As a result, 65 of the 987 companies that own such equipment were removed from the list, while 22 were added. There are now 944 companies that still use equipment containing PCBs and 3.873 of the initially inventoried 4.319 units remain active.

As another means to guarantee the proper management of industrial waste, producers are obliged to arrange **acceptance records** for the management of the waste with an authorised manager. This additional monitoring tool has resulted in a total of 4.539 validated records.

The **response to complaints and inspection visits** are other measures to ensure waste is properly managed. Priority is given to activities involving disposal or the treatment of special waste. As a result of this supervision, 1.114 inspection dossiers were instigated, leading to 3.915 inspection and monitoring visits and 620 injunctions. In total, there were 3.367 inspection visits related to waste management activities.

With regard to complaints, 455 complaints were dealt with, leading to 141 visits and 347 summonses, and 377 official visits were made to waste producers.

64.55% was managed using recovery methods.

- See table on pages 67.*

With regard to the **emergency response programmes**, the Catalan Waste Agency continued to work with the Catalan Operations Co-ordination Centre (CECAT) to provide a rapid response in situations where waste presents a danger. The programme provides a service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2004, 70 alerts were received.

Lastly, there are a number of measures to control waste transport. Firstly, there is the validation of the **monitoring sheets** that travel with the waste being transported. The Catalan Waste Agency receives a copy of these forms, which are processed for every agent involved, be it the producer, the manager or the haulier. In 2004, some 350.000 monitoring forms sheets and around 50.000 itinerant monitoring sheets were received.

In addition, the **cross-border waste transport permits** make it possible to regulate this activity in accordance with the regulations. The Catalan Waste Agency, as the competent authority on the import/export of waste to and from other countries, authorised the export of 68 shipments of waste to EU countries, the import of ten shipments and 21 shipments connected to the Principality of Andorra. With regard to the **authorisation of waste transport between autonomous communities**, 4.916 notifications were checked, of which 4.872 were accepted.

ANALYTICAL ACTIVITY, A CHAPTER APART IN MONITORING INDUSTRIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT.

There was a clear increase in the volume of analytical work in comparison with 2003. The number of samples rose by 84% and the analyses themselves by 100%. The main goal of the Catalan Waste Agency laboratory is to provide analyses for the organisation's various departments to guarantee that the results it provides are endorsed by a quality assurance system, in other words, a system accredited by the Spanish National Accreditation Board (ENAC) as complying with ISO 17025, which establishes the technical and management competence of analytical laboratories.

- See table on pages 67.*

Recognised professionalism
The technical competence of the Catalan Waste Agency laboratory was recognised in 1999, when it was awarded ISO 17025 accreditation by ENAC.

As in previous years, the laboratory participated in a number of comparative exercises with other laboratories at home and abroad in order to evaluate its own technical competence. The results of this quality assessment were very positive.

As in previous years, the laboratory participated in a number of comparative exercises with other laboratories at home and abroad in order to evaluate its own technical competence. The results of this **quality** assessment were very positive. The professionalism of the Catalan Waste Agency laboratory was officially recognised in 1999, when it was awarded ENAC accreditation for the physicochemical analysis of waste according to the criteria of ISO 17025. Furthermore, the laboratory satisfactorily passed its re-evaluation audit, a process similar to an initial accreditation audit. The goal for the future is to retain this ENAC accreditation in order to continue to guarantee and demonstrate the technical competence of the laboratory.

Another of the laboratory's tasks is to **monitor the management of external laboratories** accredited by the Catalan Waste Agency to analyse the physicochemical nature of waste.

In 2004, work was done to accredit a further laboratory (AGBAR), meaning that there are now ten accredited laboratories. In addition, the granting of ENAC accreditation to three laboratories accredited by the Catalan Waste Agency was monitored. As part of this work, intended to guarantee the maximum technical competence at all times, the Catalan Waste Agency laboratory and the MAT CONTROL laboratory of the Autonomous University of Barcelona organised intercomparative exercises that the laboratories accredited by the Catalan Waste Agency were obliged to take part in. The objective now is to continue to organise these exercises in order to meet the requirements of ISO 17025.

Should **problems arise**, the Catalan Waste Agency takes the appropriate steps and performs analyses to ensure such situations are properly handled. In the case of the **Racó de la Pubilla de Flix** landfill site, the Catalan Waste Agency felt it necessary to agree two collaboration accords to comply with the request from the Nuclear Safety Council, which required more detailed studies to be conducted. These accords to describe each of the components in the waste, were reached with the Scientific Research Centre (CSIC) and the Institute of Advanced Energy (INTE).

The laboratory demonstrates its technical competence in each of its undertakings. As a result, it often provides support to the Department of the Environment and Housing by responding to enquiries on the regulations regarding waste analysis. In addition, it directs its efforts towards security and prevention and each year undergoes an audit/safety visit to ensure that it remains at all times in optimal conditions.

THE RECOVERY AND TREATMENT OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE

In order to minimise construction waste, the Catalan Waste Agency works **to stimulate the recycling market**. This initiative takes the form of promoting the use of recycled aggregate in the building and civil projects undertaken by the various bodies of the Generalitat responsible for public works.

The existing facilities for managing construction waste were monitored during 2004, with favourable reports issued by the Catalan Waste Agency on the controlled landfill sites at Jorba, Albons and Gandesa. The recycling plants in Manresa, Far d'Empordà, Artesa de Segre and Ulldecona and the rubble sorting and transfer plants in Sant Quirze del Vallès and Tarragona were also given positive evaluations. In addition, more than 50 monthly visits were made to controlled landfill sites that handle rubble in order to guarantee that their operations are conducted properly.

There are now 59 facilities authorised to manage construction waste. The waste managed in 2004 totalled 6.671.139 tonnes.

The controlled landfill sites that take in rubble at Seva and Llinars del Vallès were added to the General Register of Waste Managers in Catalonia in 2004, whereas the soil and rubble landfill sites at El Papiol, Albatàrrec and Reus were closed as they had reached their maximum capacity.

See tables and map on page 68.

One of the most important areas of work was the action taken to **close former municipal tips** and municipal construction waste tips no longer in use. Twenty-seven fly-tipping spots in 13 municipalities were closed and cleaned up. This work was given grant aid totalling € 587.116,26.

See table on page 69.

In 2004, approval was given to the payment of works to close the landfill sites in Garraf (EMSHTR), Sant Esteve Sesrovires, Rubí, Bellvei, Selva del Camp, Santa Coloma de Farners and Roses. The Catalan Waste Agency spending on this totalled € 1.648.205,73.

Other work in 2004 included the **drafting of projects and contracting of works** to close municipal tips that formerly handled demolition and other construction waste and which were no longer operating. These undertakings were given grant aid in the second resolution of the 2003 call for applications for grants.

• See table on page 69.

The tendering process for works to close tips awarded grants in 2003 totalling € 391.321,75 was also held in 2004.

• See table and graphs on page 69 and 70.

TREATMENT AND RECOVERY OF LIVESTOCK FARM WASTE

The Catalan Waste Agency continued in 2004 to pursue a series of actions aimed at establishing a sustainable management approach to the livestock farm sector.

In order to perform this work, four collaboration accords were signed:

- One with Garrotxa District Council and another with Osona District Council, commissioning them to co-operate in managing inspections of the production and management of waste that can potentially be applied to the land and so be of benefit to agriculture.
- Agreement with the University of Vic on extending the 2004 study on technologies to treat livestock farm waste of potential use in Catalonia.
- Agreement with the Catalan Farmers' Union on updating the main map on the capacity of the farming industry in Catalonia to accept secondary organic matter and on devising the review based on the current livestock farm register as an integral element of the Master Plan on the Sustainable Use of Secondary Organic Matter (USMOS).

Grants were awarded in 2004 to finance the infrastructure required to produce, monitor and follow up livestock farm waste plans. These grants totalled 1,420,430.44 and were given to 163 beneficiaries following the submission of 144 applications.

The **new approach to managing organic and mineral fertilisation**, proposed jointly by the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Farming and Fisheries and the Department of the Environment and Housing, is another initiative working towards sustainable development. This project seeks to help the livestock farming sector in Catalonia adapt to a new model that is more viable and which respects the environment.

With regard to **livestock farm waste management plans**, the Catalan Waste Agency called for bids for grants to draw up such plans. During 2004, the Organic Matter Management Department issued around 1.100 favourable reports, releasing the grants approved in 2002-2003.

In addition, the Farming Resources Evaluation Section of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Farming and Fisheries passed some 340 livestock farm waste management plans to the Catalan Waste Agency.

The Catalan Waste Agency also worked in 2004 to manage livestock farm waste by setting up facilities such as collective storage tanks and treatment plants.

• See table and map on page 71 and 72.

A step forward
A new approach to managing organic and mineral fertilisation will make it possible for the livestock farm sector to adapt to a model that pays greater heed to the needs of the environment.

SOIL RECOVERY, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Waste management demands that the principles of responsibility and environmental quality be applied at all times. Only thus will we be able to achieve true sustainability. In its pursuit of this goal, the Catalan Waste Agency has put in place measures to prevent the contamination of soil and aquifers in Catalonia and to remedy contamination that has already occurred.

FOSTERING A SENSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Catalan Waste Agency seeks to ensure that everyone involved in managing waste complies with their obligations. For example, it works to check that those responsible for contamination have acted properly in order to solve any problems identified by issuing **evaluations of studies and research projects and the recovery of contaminated sites**. During 2004, the Agency issued 121 such reports. The Agency produced a total of 22 reports evaluating projects presented within the framework of the Law on Integral Intervention in Environmental Management.

Another important measure in controlling environmental responsibility is the **monitoring and control of infrastructure works**. The purpose of this monitoring is to ensure that the works comply with their Environmental Impact Declarations as regards soil contamination. During the course of 2004, advice was provided to 13 recovery initiatives, which the Agency also monitored.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTION, MEASURES TO TACKLE CONTAMINATION

The Catalan Waste Agency takes complementary action at contaminated sites where an unacceptable environmental risk that also presents a danger to third parties has been identified. These are situations in which the Catalan Waste Agency decides to act itself once the administrative route has been exhausted to ensure that those responsible for the contamination or who own the site take the required steps to remedy the pollution.

The costs of these complementary actions are subsequently reclaimed from those responsible for the contamination.

Four initiatives of this nature were undertaken on contaminated sites in Catalonia in 2004.

STATISTICAL RESULTS

• See tables on pages 75 to 132.