

Management and Implementation of Recyclable Waste: The Case of Karaman Province

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Abstract:

Recycling is a fundamental component of sustainable development, offering significant benefits such as conservation of natural resources, energy savings, and the prevention of environmental pollution. Today, waste management and recycling hold strategic environmental and economic importance in both developed and developing countries. Turkey has also developed various legal regulations and practices in this field, particularly aiming to increase recycling rates through the Zero Waste Project launched in 2017. This study focuses on the recycling and waste management practices in Karaman, a province in the south of Turkey known for its industrial, agricultural, and trade activities. In recent years, recycling systems have been implemented more effectively in Karaman, thanks to the efforts of local authorities and increasing environmental awareness. Initiatives such as waste separation at source, mobile collection centers, and public awareness campaigns have contributed to positive changes in waste management practices. However, challenges such as infrastructure deficiencies, insufficient public participation, and systemic difficulties continue to pose significant barriers to achieving sustainable waste management goals. This study evaluates current practices, analyzes challenges, and offers recommendations for improving recycling in Karaman, with findings expected to guide other similar local governments.