Integration of RDF into the waste management system in Albania

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

Given the policy background thus far in Albania, RDF is regarded as an umbrella term encompassing all alternatives used to convert household waste to energy, whether through incineration, burning, or processing to alternative fuel.

➔ RDF in public documents in Albania
RDF principles are partially integrated solely into the policies of waste management. The approved policies, including investments in infrastructure as well, have a lack of inter-connection with policies in other sectors. Specifically, RDF is integrated on the below-listed public documents:
2. DCM with no. 652 approved on 14.09.2016 “Regulations and criteria for the management of waste derived from used tyres”

➔ The amount of waste used for RDF in Albania (2019 – 2021)
- 2019 ≈ 0.9 % of generated households
- 2020 ≈ 1.1 % of generated households
- 2021 ≈ 2.0 % of generated households

➔ The waste hierarchy in Albania
Household waste that are subject to RDF (incineration, process, burning) are those which remain unprocessed throughout the waste hierarchy process. In the waste hierarchy, RDF/energy recovery is the last scale of waste treatment.

➔ Data on RDF and development of RDF policies in Albania
- Data gap on the energy produced through waste (incineration, waste as fuel, organic waste, etc) in Albania, even though that only few facilities operate in the country.
- Policy-making initiatives and RDF targets set for Albania till 2035 are not based on a proved baseline value. In a small country like Albania, policy development or infrastructure for RDF could not be used due to the generated waste that could be subject to this scale of waste hierarchy.
- Albania lacks a common framework that assembles environmental, energy, and public health sectors to ensure a functional and reasonable ‘waste to energy’ system in Albania.

➔ The application of RDF and its nexus with SDGs
The National Strategic Document on the integrated waste management is based on the three overarching SDGs, but not targeting specific indicators, namely: SDGs with no. 11, 12, and 14 – related to sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, protection and sustainable management of oceans and water resources. The document lacks an adept analysis of the impact or progress of SDGs accomplishment in case of further policies or infrastructure will be undertaken for the RDF application in Albania.