

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:

1. **National Strategic Document for the Integrated Waste Management 2020 – 2035**
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.**