



Project Information Sheet

Marine debris removal and preventing further litter entry (MarineClean)

Programme area: CIP-EIP-2010.4.16 Environmental management systems
 CIP-EIP-2010.4.14 Waste management and end of life management

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 Klaipeda Science and Technology Park, Lithuania
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 Drava water management company Ptuj, d.d., Slovenia
 EcoCortec d.o.o., Croatia
 Technology centre PoliEko, Slovenia
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Website: www.marineclean.eu

Benefits (max. 150 characters incl. space): waste minimization, reuse of waste, material recycling, reduced energy consumption, collecting floating litter, biodegradable packaging, lobbying

Keywords: Preventing marine litter, biodegradable, compostable, edible, packaging
Sector: Water
Type of solution Product

Duration: 01/11/2011 – 31/10/2014
Budget: 1.171.789 € *** (EU contribution: 49.92%)
Contract number: ECO/I01277396/SI2.601543

Summary

Project MarineClean (11/2011 – 10/2014) involves partners from Slovenia, Croatia and Lithuania. The project deals with decreasing of marine litter – one of the major ecological threats – in four areas of action:

1. collection of marine litter with new light equipment produced at Turna;
2. edible and biodegradable packaging produced at EcoCortec that will help to reduce the quantities of in marine litter due to degradability;
3. fishing nets produced at Turna and TC PoliEko that can be easily traced, collected and recycled when lost;
4. networking of products' users and lobbying at national and EU decision-makers to promote and enlarge eco-friendly products usage as well as for intensified surveillance in the return of ship waste and for grants and/or discounts with edible and biodegradable packaging will be formed.

Proposed solutions will have positive effect on marine ecology: decreasing of marine litter in tested areas, higher number of cleaning groups/areas, higher share of edible/biodegradable packaging on ships, and a few of law changing proposals. All project products will be widely disseminated through web platforms and demonstration sessions in each participating country.



Expected and/or achieved results

At the end of the project, project partner EcoCortec markets several different biodegradable and/or compostable plastic film materials (EcoFilm, EcoOcean and EcoWorks). One material in particular, EcoOcean, is biodegradable also in marine conditions and is certified according to ASTM D7081-05. This material was widely promoted during the MarineClean project for packing goods that are used on cruisers, boats and in the coastal regions. Although it is not intended to come into contact with food, EcoOcean material can be used for packing lots of other things. Injection moulding grade EcoOcean material is under development and some applications are already determined. Before the MarineClean, the EcoOcean material existed only as extrusion grade. EcoCortec's material suitable for food contact are EcoFilm and EcoWorks that are also promoted via MarineClean project. Until the end of the project more than anticipated 30 tons of packaging material was produced all together.

The marine litter removing equipment was successfully tested by two project partners. The equipment can be used either as standing net for protection of e.g. swimming areas, or as trawling net for cleaning tight areas on sea (e.g. small harbours, marinas) or on inland waters. The use of this equipment was demonstrated to possible end-users (e.g. port and marina's operators, resort owners and hotels) at several demonstration events in Slovenia, Croatia and Lithuania. Turna, as producer of this equipment, prepared the marketing strategy and business plan for launching this product on market.

The consortium was very active also on networking and lobbying on national and international level. The consortium is still lobbying for:

- Reducing plastic litter accumulation in marine environment and for higher use of biodegradable/edible packaging in coastal areas
- Stricter legislation - intensified surveillance in the garbage return from ships, mainly passenger ships;
- grants and/or discounts of higher use of edible and biodegradable packing materials, that would end up in less waste;
- equal rules on European and national/international level protocols for reuse/recycling of waste.

Very positive feedback on our lobbying was received from decision makers on national and European level as well. The majority of events is listed on the MarineClean's web site. Despite the formal end of the project, wide dissemination is still in progress.

The information sheet will be published in the [Eco-Innovation website](#). The EACI reserves the right to edit the information sheet for content and length