



CirBioWaste

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STUDY TOUR: SEPARATE COLLECTION OF BIO-WASTE IN SARDINIA

Region of Sardinia – A Success Story

<https://cirbiowaste.interreg-euro-med.eu>

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zero.





Region of Sardinia



The Autonomous Region of Sardinia (population: ~1.6 million, area: 24,100 km²) is the second-largest island in the Mediterranean and one of Italy's most remarkable waste management success stories.

In 2003, the region's separate collection rate stood at a mere 4%. Through strong political commitment and a simple but effective system of *penalties for underperforming municipalities and rewards for high performers*, Sardinia leapt to over 75% separate collection in just a few years, becoming the 3rd-ranking region in Italy (76.6% in 2023, behind Emilia-Romagna and Veneto).

This extraordinary transformation is driven by the widespread adoption of door-to-door collection across most municipalities.



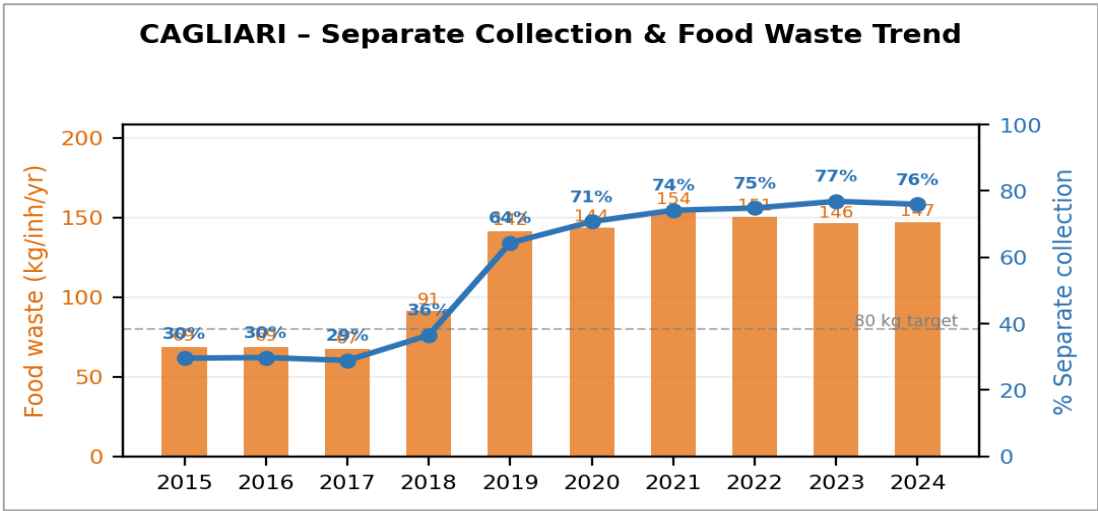
Cagliari – Door-to-Door and PAYT in a large and dense city



Cagliari, the regional capital (population: ~147,000; density: ~1,760 inh/km²), made a decisive shift from road containers to a full door-to-door separate collection system starting in April 2018, with completion across the entire city by May 2019.

All 82,000 domestic and 13,000 commercial users were provided with RFID-tagged bins, enabling a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) tariff.

The results were dramatic: separate collection jumped from around 29% in 2017 to over 76% by 2023, while food waste capture rose from 67 to 147 kg/inhabitant/year – well above the 80 kg benchmark indicating full citizen and tourist participation.



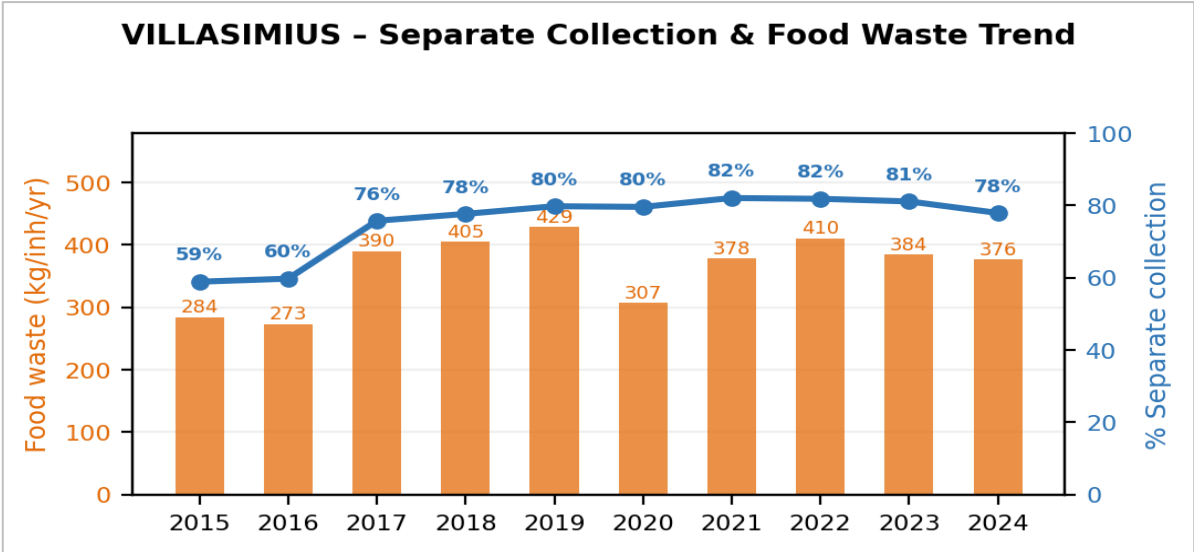


Villasimius – Tourism Excellence Meets Waste Management



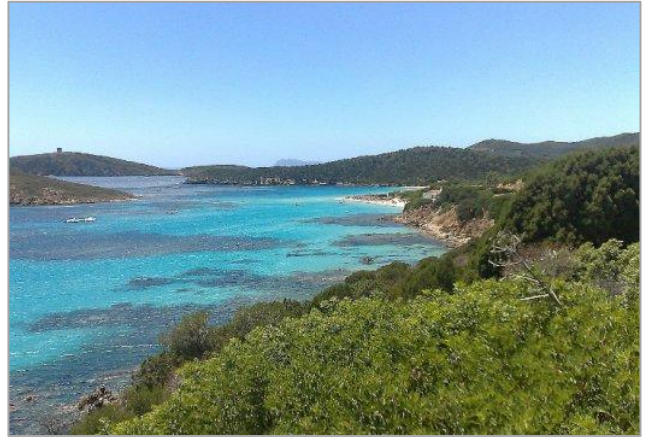
Villasimius (population: ~3,720; density: ~65 inh/km²) is a renowned coastal tourist destination in south-east Sardinia, home to the Natural Marine Protected Area of Capo Carbonara and some of the most spectacular beaches in Italy.

Despite massive seasonal population fluctuations, the municipality has achieved outstanding waste management results: separate collection reached 81% in 2023, with food waste capture at an extraordinary 384 kg/inhabitant/year – reflecting the very large tourist contribution. These figures confirm that virtually all residents and visitors actively participate in the collection system.



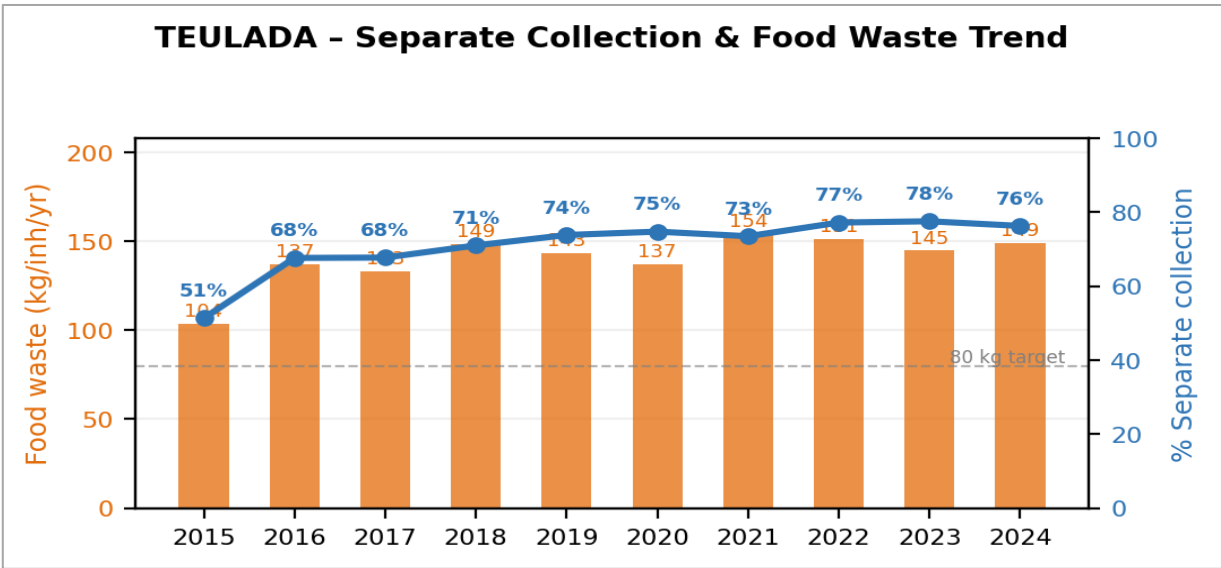


Teulada – Rurality and Long Distances



Teulada (population: ~3,190; density: ~13 inh/km²) is a small rural municipality in south-western Sardinia, characterised by its remoteness, vast territory, low population density and stunning coastline including some of Sardinia’s most beautiful beaches.

Despite the challenges of long distances to treatment facilities and dispersed settlements, Teulada has maintained a separate collection rate above 76% since 2022, with food waste capture consistently around 145–149 kg/inhabitant/year. The municipality has recently changed its waste collection company to GESENU.





Carbonia – Verde Vita Composting Plant



The composting plant in Carbonia is operated by [Verde Vita S.r.l. Società Benefit](#), a company deeply rooted in the local community with a strong focus on sustainability and circular economy.

The facility processes separately collected food waste and green waste from the surrounding municipalities, producing quality compost for local agriculture.

Verde Vita is a member of the CIC – Consorzio Italiano Compostatori (Italian Composting and Biogas Association), Italy's leading organisation for the promotion and quality assurance of composting and anaerobic digestion of organic waste.

A visit allows participants to see the complete biowaste treatment cycle, from reception of separately collected organic waste to the production of quality compost.

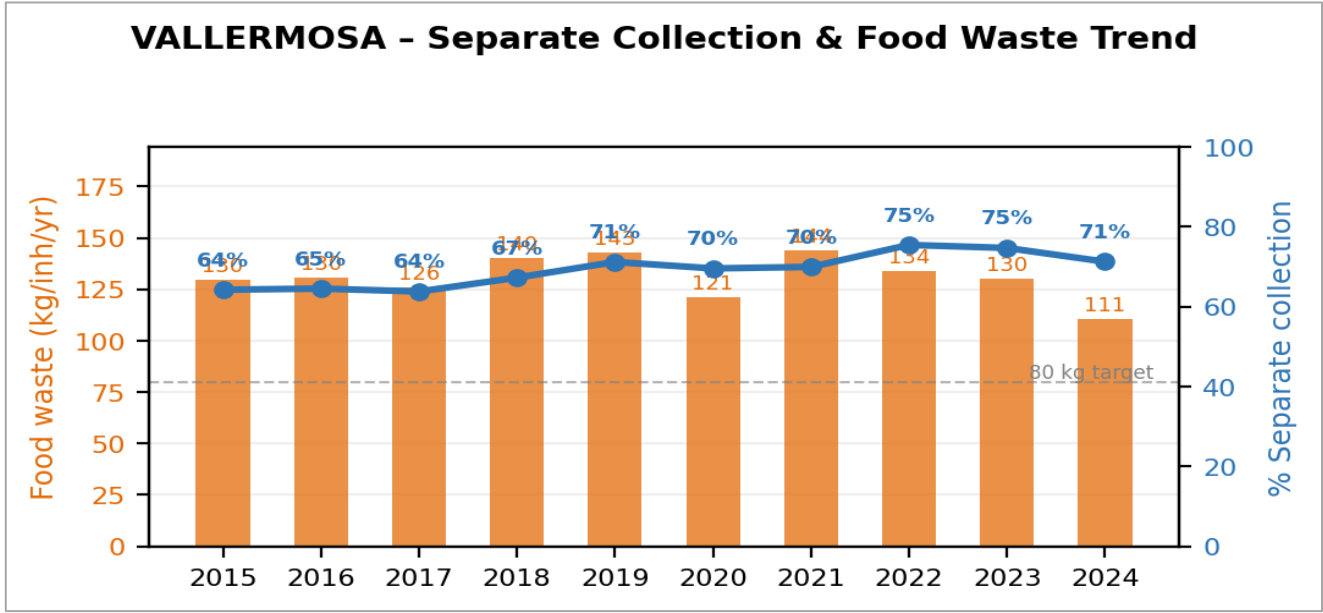


Vallermosa – Where It All Began



Vallermosa (population: ~1,795; density: ~29 inh/km²) is a very small municipality in the Province of South Sardinia that played a pioneering role in the region’s waste revolution.

Almost 20 years ago, under the initiative of a visionary councillor – now 90 years old, who was present during our visit – the municipality was among the first in the area to introduce door-to-door separate collection. Separate collection has been consistently above 64% since 2015, reaching 75% in 2022, with food waste capture around 110–144 kg/inhabitant/year.





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