



-The RECP methodology-

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) is the integrated and continuous application of preventive environmental strategies to **processes, products, and services** to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment. RECP is all about producing with fewer resources while minimizing environmental impacts and increasing overall productivity. For **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)**, the RECP methodology is an effective instrument to lower production costs whilst improving the SMEs' competitive advantage and applying environmentally friendly practices. As well, RECP is considered an effective tool to introduce and promote Circular Economy principles among SMEs.

PRODUCER OF BRIQUETTES

Company overview

Key products: briquettes

Main markets: local market



This Georgian company was part of the EaP GREEN programme in 2013-2017 and the 2019-2020 RECP monitoring under the EU4Environment Action.

The company recycled food products and turned them into biofuel which was afterwards used in the production of briquettes. In 2016, the enterprise produced 356 tonnes of sawdust briquettes, for which it used 89,100 m³ of natural gas and 62,500 kWh of electricity. Motivated to decrease its energy consumption, improve its environmental and technical performance, and reduce the costs associated with production (whilst expanding to new markets), the company joined EaP GREEN in 2015. This publication shows the company's experience reported after the monitoring exercise conducted in 2020, five years after the programme ended.

Benefits

- Implementation of one RECP option focused on energy efficiency
- Short payback period for the required investment (less than one year)
- Reduction of thermal energy consumption per tonne of product: 59%
- Energy savings that generated a reduction of 102.5 tonnes of CO₂-eq per year



The project's approach

During the **RECP monitoring**, the production site was examined and one RECP option with a short payback period was taken forward:

Technology upgrade by replacing the old dryer with a new one. In order to decrease the excessive consumption of energy resulting from the drying process, the company replaced its old and inefficient dryer with a modern one.

Saving achievements

RECP MEASURES

RECP option: Replacement of the old dryer with a modern one



ECONOMIC KEY FIGURES

	Investment (Euro)	Saving (Euro/year)	PBP (years)
RECP option:	3,575	14,400	0.2



RESOURCE SAVINGS

	Fuel (natural gas) (kWh/year)
RECP option:	507,500

TOTAL POLLUTION REDUCTION

	CO ₂ -eq (t/year)
RECP option:	102.3



Company insight

Thanks to the participation in the RECP Demonstration Project, the company was looking forward to increase its production capacity. Alongside it, the members of staff were looking into the possibility to increase the quality of the briquette production, boost overall awareness, and improve the management system in key areas: energy, resource use, and the minimization of waste.

The motivation to join the RECP Project stemmed from the company's need to address its excessive energy consumption, especially when it came to overconsumption in the drying process (used for the production of briquettes). Thanks to this experience, the company staff learned more about the importance of resource efficiency and how to use it to improve production quality and capacity.

The introduction of RECP has been part of the EU-funded programmes: **EaP GREEN** (2013-2017) and **EU4Environment Action** (2019-2022) executed by UNIDO. In this context, the company joined the RECP training and assistance programme under EaP GREEN, and was monitored under EU4Environment. Follow-up visits have also been conducted under EU4Environment, to check on the implemented RECP options after the EaP GREEN Programme ended. EU4Environment helps the EU's Eastern Partnership countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

For more details, visit: www.eu4environment.org



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