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## Advancing resource efficient and cleaner production in Azerbaijan

### 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 means to lower production costs whilst improving the SMEs' competitive advantage and applying environmentally friendly practices. RECP is also an effective tool to introduce and promote Circular Economy principles among SMEs.

### BLISS GROUP LLC - MATTRESS PRODUCTION



#### Company Overview

**Location:** Sumgayit

**Key products:** mattresses, foam rubber, and other products based foam rubber

**No. of employees:** 34

**Main markets:** Azerbaijan

“Bliss Group” LLC is located near the Sumgayit Industrial Zone and specializes in the production of various polyurethane (foam rubber) and spring mattresses. The company operates two production workshops: one dedicated to foam rubber production, with an annual turnover of approximately 3,000 cubic meters, and the other focused on mattress manufacturing, producing around 10,000 mattresses annually. Motivated to address production costs and waste, the company participated in the RECP Demonstration Project under EU4Environment (2019-2024). This publication details the company's experience reported after the assessment exercise conducted in 2024.

### BENEFITS



Action implemented by:

# The project approach

The RECP team examined the production site and identified several options, out of which the following two were prioritised by the company:

**RECP Option 1. Insulating the warehouse for storing raw materials:** The raw materials used in the production of foam rubber must be maintained at a precise temperature of 20-21°C, regardless of external conditions. Currently, in the absence of proper thermal insulation, a 2.4 kW air conditioner operates around the clock throughout the year to maintain this temperature. Experience in the Absheron region shows that by applying external thermal insulation with a thickness of 5-6 cm, power consumption can be reduced by at least 50%. This would result in a significant reduction in electricity usage, potentially lowering it by 10,000 kWh annually.

**RECP Option 2. Recycling and disposal of mattresses:** Approximately 50,000 mattresses are sold annually in Azerbaijan. Given the relatively stable population growth rate (around 1% per year), it can be assumed that a similar number of mattresses are discarded each year. The components of these mattresses, primarily wire and foam, are recyclable and can provide economic benefits. By implementing a recycling and disposal programme, the company could contribute to environmental sustainability while also generating additional revenue from the sale of recyclable materials.

## SAVING ACHIEVEMENTS

### RECP measures

OPTION 1

Insulating the warehouse for storing raw materials

OPTION 2

Recycling and disposal of mattresses

### Economic key figures

RECP OPTIONS	INVESTMENT (EUR)	SAVINGS (EUR/YR)	PAYBACK PERIOD (YR)
Total:	11,200	11,100	1

### Resource savings

RECP OPTIONS	ELECTRICITY (KWH/YR)
Total:	10,000

### Total pollution reduction

RECP OPTIONS	CO <sub>2</sub> -EQ (TON/YR)
Total:	2.17

“ Our main goal for participating in the RECP programme was to identify opportunities for reducing resource use, save energy, minimise production waste, lower environmental impact, and explore options to have more circular production processes. Our analysis revealed that our current production structure does not meet industry standards. Hence, by participating in this project, and by collaborating with different specialists, we were provided with a strong incentive to adopt energy and material-saving technologies in our production processes, said Mr. Ruslan Semikhov, CEO of Bliss Group LLC. ”

The introduction of RECP has been part of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action and executed by UNIDO. In this context, **Bliss Group LLC** joined the RECP Demonstration Project to be monitored under EU4Environment. Follow-up visits have also been conducted to check on the implementation of the recommended RECP options. 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](http://www.eu4environment.org)

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