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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.

"A+CO" OJSC

PRODUCTION OF SOFT DRINKS AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES



Company Overview

Location: Baku

Founding year: 1997

No. of employees: 752

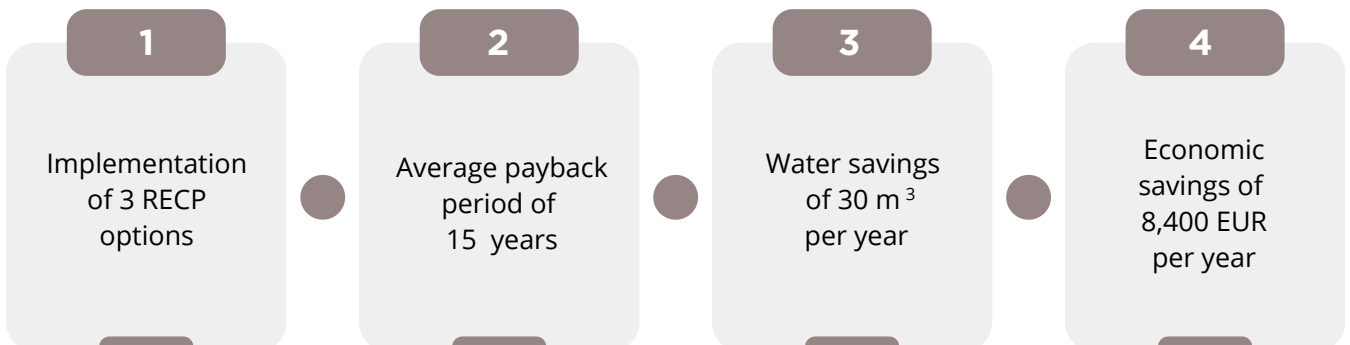
Key products: soft drinks and alcoholic drinks (vodka, wine, brandy)

Main markets: Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Qatar, China, Belarus, Russia



"A+CO" OJSC began its operations in 1997, initially focusing on producing pomegranate juice. Today, it produces a variety of beverages, including soft drinks, iced teas, 8% alcohol cocktails, and 5% alcoholic bottled cocktails. The company's production line also includes wine, vodka, whiskey, cognac, and other alcoholic beverages. Additionally, the company serves as the official distributor of "Pancofee" products in Azerbaijan. Motivated to address production costs and waste, the company participated in the RECP Clubs 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 assessment examined the production site and identified several measures, out of which the following three were prioritized and implemented by the company staff:

RECP Option 1: Improving waste management: This consisted of storing, sorting, and transporting the waste generated during the production processes, following international standards and the current national environmental regulations. This enabled waste to be stored in designated areas that do not interfere with other factors, with the sorting process beginning immediately upon exiting production.

RECP Option 2: Investing in modern equipment to recycle steam: This measure entailed the installation of modern, technologically advanced, cooling devices to minimize steam loss during the cooling process.

RECP Option 3: Minimizing atmospheric emissions: This measure consisted in the installation of special condensers to reduce the release of gases and chemical compounds into the atmosphere.

SAVING ACHIEVEMENTS

RECP measures

OPTION 1	Improving waste management
OPTION 1	Investing in modern equipment to recycle steam
OPTION 1	Minimizing atmospheric emissions

Economic key figures

RECP OPTIONS	INVESTMENT (EUR)	SAVINGS (EUR/YR)	PAYBACK PERIOD (YR)
Option 1:	2,000	3,800	0.5
Option 2:	58,000	2,000	20
Option 3:	53,000	2,600	20

Resource savings

RECP OPTIONS	MATERIAL (T/YR)
Option 1:	1
	WATER (M ³ /YR)
Option 2:	30

The introduction of RECP has been part of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action and executed by UNIDO. In this context, "A+CO" OJSC joined the RECP Clubs training and assistance programme 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

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