

Advancing resource efficient and cleaner production in Armenia

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 can effectively 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.

"SNEKARM" LLC - FOOD PRODUCTION

Company overview



Location: Yerevan

Key products: dry bread, potato chips, sweet corn sticks, and various types of pastries

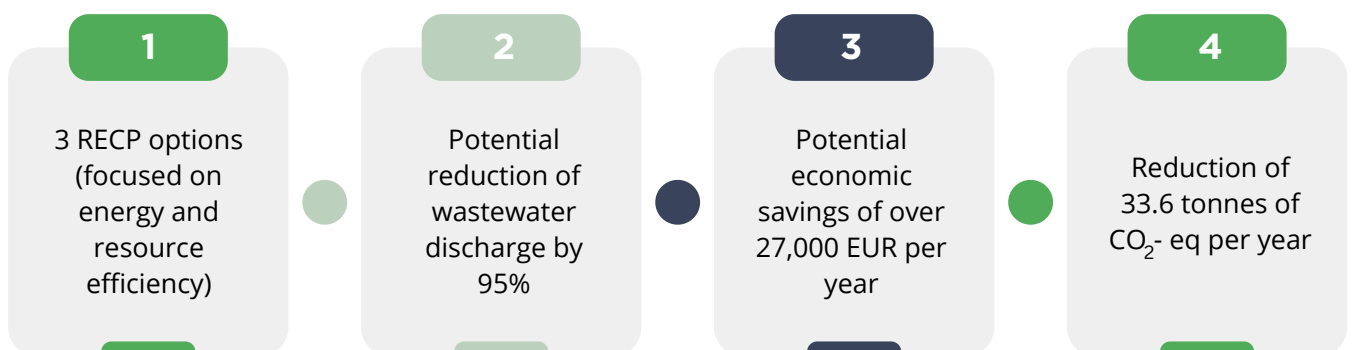
No. of employees: 10

Main markets: Armenia

Founding year: 2006

Established in 2006, "Snekarm" LLC is a food producer of dry bread, potato chips, sweet corn sticks, and various types of pastries, with a total production volume of 9 tonnes of products per month. Before joining the RECP Project, the company did not have any environmental policies in place. Hence, one of its main goals was to start the development of an environmental policy and identify RECP measures (such as the installation of solar PV panels, and means to recycle plastic waste) to increase its environmental performance and outlook. Motivated to achieve a more energy-efficient production, the company participated in the RECP Demonstration Project under EU4Environment (2019-2024). This publication shows the company's experience reported after the monitoring exercise conducted in 2022-2023.

BENEFITS



Action implemented by:

The project's approach

The RECP assessment examined the production site and identified several RECP options, out of which the following three were prioritised by the company, with the last one already being implemented:

RECP Option 1. Installing a wastewater treatment plant: This would allow for the treatment and reuse of 20-30% of the wastewater generated from production. To save more water, a complete replacement of the system would be required (a proposed wastewater treatment plant could include multi-filtering/processing stages (aerobe, anaerobe, ultraviolet, precipitation, etc.)). Here, the company's potential economic savings would be around 6,000 EUR per year.

RECP Option 2. Installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels: This consists of substituting the use of natural gas with electricity and gaining independence from the national grid. The measure would simultaneously solve the company's economic and environmental challenges, as renewable electricity would cover the company's entire energy needs.

RECP Option 3. Establishing a plastic waste management system: This focuses on collecting and transporting plastic waste to a plastic collection company within the framework of the EU BSB 1138 APRA programme.

SAVING ACHIEVEMENTS

Main RECP actions

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| OPTION 1 | Installing a wastewater treatment plant |
| OPTION 2 | Installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels |
| OPTION 3 | Establishing a plastic waste management system |

Economic key figures

| RECP OPTIONS | INVESTMENT (EUR) | SAVINGS (EUR/YR) | PAYBACK PERIOD (YR) |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| All options: | 110,385 | 27,115 | 4.1 |

Resource savings

| RECP OPTIONS | MATERIALS (TONNES/YR) | ELECTRICITY (KWH/YR) |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| All options: | 108 | 2,290 |

Total pollution reduction

| RECP OPTIONS | TOTAL CO ₂ -EQ (TONNES/YR) |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Total: | 33.6 |

Company insights

Thanks to the RECP Demonstration Project, the company is already witnessing tangible improvements in its production processes, recycling, working conditions, as well as a reduction of its overall carbon footprint. So far, the company successfully implemented one RECP option (establishing a waste management system to collect and transport plastic waste, within the framework of the EU BSB 1138 APRA programme) and is working to implement the remaining two RECP measures which will help it expand to larger markets and achieve business, social, and environmental benefits.

The introduction of RECP has been part of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action and executed by UNIDO. In this context, **Snekarm** 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

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