



Tasks and Activities of the Verpackungskoordinierungsstelle (VKS)

VKS should be understood as a unit which has to coordinate the interest of the different parties in the field of collecting packaging waste

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Introduction

- Legal basis § 30a AWG (Austrian Waste Management Act 2002)
- The foundation of the VKS was necessary due to the liberalisation rules of the EU in the field of collecting packaging waste.
- The formal foundation of the VKS took place in June 2014 followed by the setup of the completely new organisation. The official start of its first activities was in January 2015.



Organisation

- The VKS is owned by the Umweltbundesamt GmbH (the Umweltbundesamt GmbH itself is owned by the Federal Republic of Austria).
- The VKS has a Supervisory Board of 5 members.
- The VKS has 1 Managing Director and 4 employees.
- There are members of 7 stakeholders in a consulting committee.

Business Mission

- The VKS sees itself as a neutral service provider for all packing waste collection and recycling systems in Austria which has also to ensure fair competition between the different collecting and recycling systems.

Activities of the VKS (I)

- Household Sector
 - Coordination how users (consumers) have to be informed about packaging waste collection
 - To organize and coordinate the necessary analysis of household packaging waste
 - Collaboration towards cost-effective packaging waste collection
 - To organize and coordinate the controls of those who have to pay the duty for waste collection (= licence fees of first distributor on the market of packaging material)
 - If necessary: to create arbitration procedures if there are different opinions between the collecting and recycling systems or other stakeholders (e. g. communities, municipalities, ...)

- Commercial Sector
 - To create and provide a so called „Anfallstellenregister“ (this is an electronic database where commercial users can register and report type and mass of packaging waste they expect to have as necessary settlement data for disposal companies)
 - To organize and coordinate the necessary analysis of the commercial packaging waste
 - To organize and coordinate the controls of those who have to pay the duty for the waste collection
 - If necessary: to create arbitration procedures if there are different opinions between the collecting and recycling systems or other stakeholders (e. g. communities, municipalities, ...)

Activities of the VKS (II)

- The concrete activities and the funding of the VKS are based on a contract between the VKS and the packaging waste collecting and recycling systems. This contract has to be approved by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW).
- The packaging waste collecting and recycling systems have to sign this contract with the VKS otherwise they do not get an authorisation to operate a collection and recycling system.
- The activities of the VKS are mainly in the fields of coordination, organisation and controlling of third party activities (e. g. the waste analysis, ...).
- The packaging waste collecting and recycling systems have to pay 0.5% of their licensing revenues for waste prevention projects (approx. EUR 800,000.00 per year). The VKS takes over the task to find projects which should be supported and to organise the payment and therewith controlling of the chosen projects.