

PRESS RELEASE

Islands without plastic bag – Making reuse a priority

From Tilos to Samothrace and from Alonnisos to Lipsi islands, in an area that spans across the Aegean Sea, the Network of Sustainable Greek Islands – DAFNI Network organized in collaboration with the Hellenic Recycling Agency an awareness-raising campaign in **49 island schools**.

The action **“Before throwing it away, think: Can I use it again?”** took place in the framework of the European Week for Waste Reduction – EWWR and engaged **1542 students** from **26 Greek islands**.

Teachers together with municipality representatives handed out ecological cloth bags to students, highlighting the importance of re-use for waste reduction – plastic in particular. During the action, participants delivered presentations and discussed the need for product re-use and repair, which will help islands transition into a circular economy path.

This is a particularly important for island regions, where **the** intense seasonal demand for services takes a heavy toll on both infrastructures and resources, making sustainable resource and waste management an imperative for sustainable local development.

Adding Greek islands on the EWWR map of areas that are frontrunners in waste reduction and responsible resource use is meant to also underscore the potential of islands to emerge as test-beds of smart and sustainable development, an idea that lies at the core of the **Smart Islands Initiative**.

The Initiative, coordinated by DAFNI Network and supported by over 200 EU islands, conveys islands’ significant potential to function as ideal test-beds that can host pilot projects and produce knowledge on smart and efficient resource and infrastructure management, tapping the synergies between energy, transport, water and waste.

DAFNI Network wishes to thank the teachers, the students and municipality representatives for the effort and time they put into making this action a success – and of course the sponsors for their kind support, ensuring the actions happen in the first place!

Organization



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