



Fork to Farm – Friends of the Earth Slovakia factsheet



Organisation:
Friends of the Earth – SPZ, Slovakia
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The municipalities we have worked with: Partizánske, Úľany nad Žitavou, Košeca and Chochoľná-Velčice

OVERVIEW

In our participating municipalities, we have implemented a range of activities during the two years of the project.

In **Partizánske**, we introduced kitchen waste collection in three city districts in family houses: Štrkovec, Centrum-Baťovany and Šimonovany (3,428 inhabitants).

In **Úľany nad Žitavou**, we introduced kitchen waste collection in family houses (2024) and apartment buildings (2025) throughout the municipality. We conducted an analysis of kitchen waste cleanliness in October 2025 with very pleasantly surprising results from the analysis of the purity of collected kitchen waste: in family houses with contamination 0.06%, and in apartment buildings with 0%!

In **Košeca**, we conducted an analysis of the mixed (residual) waste (2024), the result of which, 40% of kitchen waste being found in the mixed waste bin, led to the decision to introduce kitchen waste collection throughout the municipality. We provided expert advice on the preparation of kitchen waste collection to the municipality.

In **Chochoľná-Velčice**, we conducted an analysis of mixed waste (2025), the result of which, 43% of kitchen waste found in the mixed waste, led to the municipal decision to introduce kitchen waste collection throughout the municipality. We provided expert advice on preparing households for kitchen waste collection.

Lastly, during the project we gained significant media coverage on the topic of bio-waste, its collection, good examples, home composting, proper sorting of kitchen waste, illegal disposal of biological waste, etc.





CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

During the project, we did not meet some of the targets we had set for 2025 within the planned deadline. These include the introduction of kitchen waste collection in Košeca, which was planned for the second half of 2025 and subsequently postponed to April 2026. Košeca received a grant for the introduction of kitchen waste collection, including the purchase of collection containers, bins, and compostable bags, a vehicle, and an information campaign. Slovak public procurement legislation is very time-consuming, and the municipality has not been able to procure all the collection tools and is therefore forced to **postpone the introduction of kitchen waste collection** until April 2026. As compensation for not meeting this point, we are currently working on preparing kitchen waste collection in Chochoľná-Velčice, which was not planned in the original project objectives. The launch itself will take place on January 1, 2026.

Similarly, we planned to support the introduction of kitchen waste collection in the Šimonovany part of Partizánske in the spring of 2025. Due to the **city's limited budget** for development activities in 2025, kitchen waste collection in the Šimonovany district (680 households) is only now being prepared (collection tools are being distributed) and will be launched on January 19, 2026.

SUCCESSES AND VICTORIES

We consider it a success that this year we managed to convince the management of the town of Partizánske and its representatives that it is necessary to **continue introducing kitchen waste collection in other parts of the town** with family houses, and thus throughout the town, despite the fact that they are currently in a financially difficult situation. We are currently presenting the conclusions of the Concept for the Introduction of the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) System throughout the city, and at meetings with city representatives and counselors, there is a strong need to introduce kitchen waste collection throughout the city so that the PAYT system is well set up, effective, and, above all, well received by residents.

What pleasantly surprised us in the village of Chochoľná-Velčice was that after analysing mixed waste in April 2025, which showed that 43% of mixed waste was kitchen waste, a decision was made to immediately introduce kitchen waste collection throughout the village in 2025. The village is currently procuring collection tools and an information campaign from its own resources. Preparations for the introduction of kitchen waste collection are currently in full swing, with the launch scheduled for January 1, 2026. We are actively cooperating in the preparation of kitchen waste collection, primarily by providing expert advice.





SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OR COMMUNITY

We are currently working on analysing the situation regarding kitchen waste collection in family houses and apartment buildings in Úľany nad Žitavou. We do not have comprehensive results yet, but we are already pleasantly surprised by the results of the analysis of the **cleanliness of the collected kitchen waste**: in family houses, the contamination is 0.06%, and in apartment buildings, it is 0%! We really like the direct communication between the municipal leadership and the residents. For example, if a household puts out other waste along with its kitchen waste, the municipal workers who collect the waste will refuse to take the contaminated kitchen waste and explain why on the spot. If the residents are not at home, they will leave a note with an explanation. This has worked very well!

PARTIZÁNSKE

Population size: **20,397 inhabitants** | Type: **Mixed**. This project involves three city districts in family houses.

Focus: The project focused on introducing kitchen waste collection in three city districts (out of a total of seven in the city) with family homes. It has already been introduced in apartment buildings.

We provided expert advice, participated in the amendment of local legislation, attended meetings with city officials and councilors, and conducted information campaigns.

During 2024, kitchen waste collection was introduced in two city districts (a total of 780 households, 1,760 residents), and we have just started introducing it in a third city district (with 680 households, 1,668 residents). The collection itself in the third district will begin on January 19, 2026. At the end of this grant, we finally convinced the city leadership of Partizánske, together with city councilors, to introduce kitchen waste collection in family homes throughout the entire city. In 2026, the city will gradually continue in the remaining four districts.

We conducted an analysis of kitchen waste purity in November 2025, which showed the **excellent quality of the collected kitchen waste**. Contamination was 0.23% in family homes and 0.11% in apartment buildings. This contamination was found in only five compostable bags, so we assume that it was produced by only five households. In total, we analysed 162.94 kg of kitchen bio-waste with 0.14% contamination.

A detailed economic analysis of biological waste management throughout the city is currently underway in Partizánske. As our initial case study shows, across Partizánske **a net 9,000 euros gain was made in the public budget for 2024**, due to the savings made compared to the investment made in bio-waste management.





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Engagement local community: When introducing kitchen waste collection in 2024, we **prepared leaflets** for two city districts (780 households, 1,760 residents) explaining the new kitchen-waste collection system and promoted it in local media. **City staff were trained** to run the household information campaign ahead of launch.

A **door-to-door campaign** followed, with 10-minute visits to each home to explain the system and answer questions. We distributed leaflets and collection tools (bucket, basket, compostable bags) to 472 households (60.5%, 1,236 residents). Of these, 279 households (59%, 731 residents) now participate regularly. Kitchen waste is collected twice a week; non-participants (39.5%) use home composting. Information was also shared [on the city's website](#) and Facebook page.

Since 2014, the city has been running a programme to develop home composting, with 88% of households in the two city districts declaring that they compost independently at home. Since 2025, garden waste has been collected from family houses throughout the city during the season (a total of six times a year). A total of 852 tons were collected.

We have prepared [a study](#) on successful kitchen waste collection in apartment buildings, which is published on the Zero Waste Europe website. In March 2025, we held the second annual conference: Zero Waste Municipalities 2025, where we presented the successful example of Partizánske.

Stories from the community

Residents appreciate the introduction of a separate kitchen-waste collection. Kitchen waste is now picked up twice a week, while mixed waste is collected once every 14 days. Many report that unpleasant odours have disappeared, since food scraps were the main source of smell. An additional benefit is that the new system has encouraged people who previously sorted poorly, or not at all, to start separating their waste correctly.

People are demanding that the city of Partizánske introduce fair fees (PAYT system) for municipal waste, it is widely agreed and accepted that those who sort waste should pay less than those who do not. We are delighted that the pressure to introduce the PAYT system is coming directly from the people, an excellent impact of our work.

“We are happy, but we are still not satisfied!”
Andrea Bencelová, Head of the environmental section at the Partizánske City Hall



Last year, kitchen waste collected from apartment buildings on one street was disappearing. When workers prepared bags of collected kitchen waste by the roadside, which were to be taken away within 1 to 2 hours, the bags managed to disappear. After some time, it was discovered that a local pig farmer had stolen them. When the police asked him why he stole the kitchen waste, he said it was excellent material for feeding pigs.





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PARTIZÁNSKE

Data collection on impact

Metric	Baseline (pre-project) 2023 (Jan-Sept)	Current (post-implementation) 2025 (Jan-Sept)	% change
Separately collected organic waste (by target group e.g. households, businesses, total city?) (tonnes/year)	0 tonnes	36.27 tonnes 49.62 kg per resident	
Volume of waste sent to landfill (looking at only the 2 pilot districts)	244.77 tonnes	149.5 tonnes	-38.92%
Compost produced (tonnes/year)	0 tonnes	410 tonnes (across entire municipality)	
Number of Households/Businesses engaged	0	472 households participated in the collection. 279 households regularly unload their kitchen waste bins. The remaining households use home composting.	
New jobs or roles created	0	3 workers for collection and 2 workers at the composting plant	



Information campaign through personal meetings with residents.





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ÚĽANY NAD ŽITAVOU

Population size: **1,284 inhabitants** | Type: **Mixed** but 2.91% is urban and 97.09% rural.

Focus: Introducing kitchen waste collection throughout the municipality in both family houses and apartment buildings. The system launched in family houses on 15 July 2024 and expanded to apartment buildings in February 2025, ensuring full coverage. Collection runs once a week from November to April and twice a week from May to October.

We supported the municipality with **expert guidance** and **a street-level information campaign**, and we continue to analyse system performance. A cleanliness check in November 2025 showed exceptionally low contamination: 0.06% in family houses and 0% in apartment buildings, results we are very proud of.

Engagement local community: Before launching the kitchen-waste collection programme, we trained municipal staff in Úľany nad Žitavou to run a door-to-door information campaign, covering both logistics and key topics such as the importance of kitchen-waste collection, local legislation and waste-fee rules.

The household campaign took place in July 2024. During 10-minute visits, **we delivered a bucket, basket and leaflet to each home**. We visited 603 households (1,545 residents); 453 households (1,160 residents) accepted the tools (75%), and 223 households (49%, 571 residents) now participate regularly. Collection started on 15 July 2024. Non-participants (51%) use home composting, which the municipality has supported since 2018, with about 90% of households composting independently.

In February 2025, kitchen-waste collection was extended to apartment buildings. We visited all 16 households and provided tools; four households (10 residents) participate regularly.

In March 2025, we presented the Úľany nad Žitavou example at the second annual [Zero Waste Municipalities conference](#).

Stories from the community

Residents have responded positively to the introduction of kitchen-waste collection. With the municipality operating a PAYT system, people appreciate being able to separate another waste stream, especially food scraps that are unsuitable for home composting or that they prefer to have collected for practical reasons.

We particularly **value the strong involvement of the mayor**, who actively supports and participates in our work. Together, we conducted analyses of mixed waste and cemetery waste, and he also joined the door-to-door information campaign. His engagement sets a clear example for municipal staff and the wider community.





Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

ÚĽANY NAD ŽITAVOU

Data collection on impact

Metric	Baseline (pre-project) 2023 (Jan-Sept)	Current (post-implementation) 2025 (Jan-Sept)	% change
Separately collected organic waste (by target group e.g. households, businesses, total city?) (tonnes/year)	0 tonnes	36.537 tonnes 62.89 kg per resident	
Volume of waste sent to landfill	182.26 tonnes	155.78 tonnes	-14.53%
Biogas produced (tonnes/year)	0 tonnes	3,653.7 to 5,480.55 m ³ The municipality transfers kitchen waste to an external company for biogas production. This total is based on the calculation that processing 1 ton of kitchen waste can produce 100 to 150 m ³ .	
Number of households engaged	0	469 households participated in the collection. 230 households regularly unload their kitchen waste bins. Other households use home composting..	
New jobs or roles created	0	2	



Kampaň od dverí k dverám





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CHOCHOLNÁ-VELČICE

Population size: **1,666 inhabitants** | Type: **Rural**

Focus: Chocholná-Velčice joined the project in 2025 with the goal of analysing its mixed waste stream. The audit, carried out in April 2025, revealed that 43% of mixed waste consisted of kitchen waste. Based on this finding, the municipality decided to introduce separate kitchen waste collection.

Since June 2025, we have been providing technical support for setting up the new system. The municipality is currently purchasing collection equipment and preparing an information campaign using its own budget. Preparations are well underway, and the launch of kitchen waste collection is planned for 1 January 2026.

Stories from the community

We have been cooperating with the municipality for 15 years and with Mayor Ľubomír Škriečka for 11 years. Since 2012, he has been a strong advocate of home composting. He claimed that "everyone in the village farms and composts. There will be no kitchen waste collection!" However, the latest results of mixed waste analyses in other ZW municipalities and, finally, the analysis of mixed waste in his municipality confirmed that 40% of kitchen waste is still in the mixed waste bin... He immediately decided that the municipality would start collecting kitchen waste.

KOŠECA

Population size: **2,826 inhabitants** | Type: **Mixed**

Focus: In April 2024, we carried out a mixed-waste analysis in Košeca, which showed that around 40% of the residual waste stream is still made up of kitchen waste. Although the municipality has promoted home composting since 2014, the findings highlighted the need for an additional collection system. Based on the results, the municipality decided to introduce separate kitchen waste collection and scheduled it within the 2025 project framework.

In May 2024, we supported the preparation of the grant application and developed a proposal for the new collection system. At the start of 2025, the municipality was informed that the grant had been approved and subsequently began procuring containers, vehicles, and other necessary equipment. Because procurement procedures in Slovakia are lengthy, the launch had to be postponed. The separate collection of kitchen waste is now planned for April 2026.





Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

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[Zero Waste Europe](#) is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards the prevention and elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems; for the redesign of our relationship with resources; and for a global shift towards environmental justice, accelerating a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and the planet.



[Friends of the Earth-SPZ](#) (founded 1996) is a Slovak non-profit defending people and nature. They reduce pollution from waste and toxics, support wider sustainable solutions, oppose harmful activities, and promote positive, long-term alternatives. The organisation is fully independent of government, political parties, and vested interests.



The campaign forms one part of our broader work within the [European Methane Matters Coalition \(MMC\)](#). The coalition aims to ramp up ambition at the European Union level and within key European countries to reduce methane emissions across the energy, agriculture, and waste sectors by 2030.



In 2024, [#ForkToFarm campaign](#) made impressive advances, especially at the local level. The campaign empowered 541,366 people across six European countries with better bio-waste solutions, from separate collection to community composting.

