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“CLEANER PRODUCTION INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD”

## Selective Waste Collection as a Public Policy Tool: The Sorocaba/SP Experience

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### Abstract

This study has the objective of demonstrating the implantation experience and evolution of a selective waste collection program performed in a Brazilian city of approximately 600.000 inhabitants – Sorocaba/SP. The “Selective Waste Collection Program – Recycling Lives” begun in the year of 2007 and was incorporated as a city public policy means through the execution of Partnership Terms between the Public Administration and the Civil Organizations involved and through the insertion of the program as a Priority Program for the Municipal Government. To carry out the research a document investigation was brought about in order to expose information about the city legislation regarding local public policies related to selective waste collection and to obtain documents and data related to the evolution of the program. Moreover, a field research involving visits to the recycling cooperatives was conducted to obtain real data relevant to the collection and sorting of the materials, the work methods applied and the results obtained by each of the cooperatives involved with the system. The studies performed show that the evolution process of the program can be characterized by three well-defined stages. The first concerns the legal and institutional compilation of the program and the start of the cooperatives’ operational activities. The second involves the mechanization of the system, which resulted in a growth in the selective waste collection’s productivity. The third stage is defined by a productive expansion of the system, which promoted significant growth in profit and in the number of workers in the selective waste collection Program.

**Keywords:** *Recycling, selective waste collection, recycling cooperatives, municipal public policies.*

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