



The Formentera Office of Environment (*Conselleria de Medi Ambient, CMA*) reports it has concluded the annual period of organic waste pickup, which, this year, due to covid-19, began in June instead of May as in years past. The public health situation rendered pickup impossible in 2020. The 295,385 tonnes of organic matter collected will be made available to the local farmers' co-op to fertilise fields. The last push took place in 2019 and logged 704.1 t, compared to 541.8 t the previous year and 100 t in 2017.

Whether crockery, cutlery, plastic containers, paper film, hand wipe wrappers, tiles or kitchen utensils, between seven and ten per cent of the collected material, by weight, did not belong with organics and had to be removed by hand.

Roughly fifty hometown businesses joined the effort this year, with Environment Councillor Antoni J. Sanz conceding that, although participation in 2021 was lower than two years ago, when around 150 businesses took part, "it's crucial that island businesses large and small remain environmentally aware" and underscored the need to "work towards better waste management". Sanz also thanked businesses involved in the collection for their collaboration.

Sanz predicted the Consell-backed initiative would gain greater traction with entry into force of the island's new waste contract, which will provide for organics pickup at public streetside bins. The environment chief called it "one step closer" to achieving the objective enshrined in 2019 legislation on waste and contaminated soils, which states that recycled and/or reused material must account for half of total pickup volume.

Home composting course

The Consell de Formentera wishes to organise a course on home composting if demand exists among islanders. Interested parties should contact the CMA by email at mediambient@conseildeformentera.cat or by telephoning 971 321 210 ext. 1. The course will be programmed when quorum is reached.

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