



— Recycle —

**RE
CYCLE**



Loop project - National research
INTERVIEWS: Entry # 28



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GIUSEPPE ROMANO

is Roma Costruzioni's manager



Recycling and giving back,
photo by Jack Church on unsplash

Giuseppe Romano

was born in 1970 and he studied at the local Surveyor Institute. In 1991 he founded Roma Costruzioni Srl, a company from Gela, which operates in the field of ecological services and the recuperation of areas with the removal of waste and its relocation to approved landfills, which now operates in different cities of Sicily, like Alcamo and Noto.

WHAT recycling activities do you undertake on a regular basis?

We had the pleasure to interview Giuseppe Romano, Roma Costruzioni Srl's manager, who told us a lot of interesting things about the recycling process. Recycling is one of the most important processes in order to achieve a sustainable lifestyle.

Roma Costruzioni Srl is a company from Gela that has been operating for twenty-eight years in the field of Environmental Hygiene Services and the reclamation of areas with the removal of waste and its transfer to authorized landfills.



Compost waste recycle, photo by Nareeta Martin on unsplash, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1611284446314-60a58ac0deb9?ixid=MnwzMjA3fDB8MHxwaG90bylWYVdlfi-Hx8fGVufDB8fHx8&ixlib=rb-1.2.1&auto=format&fit=crop&w=870&q=80>

Professionalism and transparency are the basis of all the activities performed both in favor of local authorities and private individuals.

This has allowed Roma Costruzioni Srl to mature and consolidate over time a significant experience in the resolution of any problem, becoming a valid and attentive interlocutor, but also an active promoter of the diffusion and expansion of separate waste collection in the territories in which has found itself in the past and is now operating.

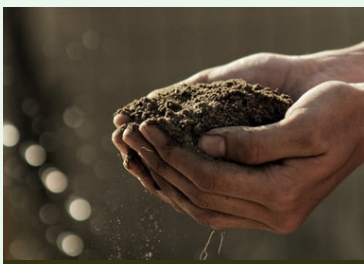


Fertilizer, photo by Markus Winkler to unsplash, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1592841388006-d03c14ba2c89?ixid=MnwXvjA3fDB8MHxwaC90bylWYVdlfHx8fCVufDB8fHx8&ixlib=rb-1.2.1&auto=format&fit=crop&w=870&q=80>

In the area of services of interest, the company promotes the introduction of technological innovations, such as the waste traceability system, also thanks to the training and constant updating to which the technical and operational staff are subjected.

“I carry out material recovery activities,” said Giuseppe Romano.

“We create fertilizer for agricultural or nursery use, starting from human food waste or tree pruning. It is a complex process but it is a very rewarding activity because it allows us to recover the “bad” part of the waste produced in houses, the one that attacks nature most by producing a very dangerous liquid called “leachate”, which we instead transform into suitable soil to make the agricultural soil is fertile.”



Soil on the hands, photo by Gabriel Jimenez on unsplash, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1492496913980-501348b61469?ixlib=rb-1.2.1&ixid=MnwXvjA3fDB8MHxwaC90bylWYVdlfHx8fCVufDB8fHx8&auto=format&fit=crop&w=387&q=80>

With the term leachate, intended (not exclusively) in the context of environmental sciences, we define a liquid that mainly originates from the infiltration of water into the mass of waste or from the decomposition of the same. To a lesser extent, it is also produced by the progressive compaction of waste. The leachate produced by the controlled landfills of municipal solid waste is wastewater with a more or less high content of organic and inorganic pollutants, deriving from biological and physical-chemical processes inside the landfills.

For the law, the leachate must be collected and appropriately treated at the landfill site itself or transported to ad hoc plants duly authorized for the disposal of liquid waste. The catchment system consists of a series of slotted pipes immersed in a layer of draining gravel just above the waterproofing layer.

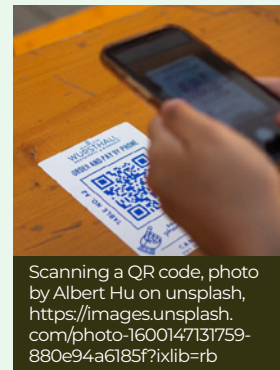


HOW DID YOU INTEGRATE

knowledge or technological processes to encourage a better circularity of your work?

Giuseppe Romano told us a lot of interesting innovations that are working right now and the ones that are going to work in the next future. In particular, he agrees that many points of view, especially those of young people, are very important in order to reach a sustainable lifestyle. In fact, it is mainly for young people that environmental issue is now discussed. But “discussed” does not mean “acted”!

Roma Costruzioni’s manager said: “It is a cycle of continuous improvement: from the basic idea, that of composting, already practiced by our grandparents on their farms, we have integrated the latest technological advances, which allow us to conduct a fast, safe, controlled, risk-free process for the environment and for man. Finally, the final product is sold to farmers and nurserymen, thus closing a virtuous circle: the products consumed on our tables come from agriculture, which produce the waste that we process. Once treated, the final product returns to agriculture to fertilize the land.”



Scanning a QR code, photo by Albert Hu on unplash, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1600147131759-880e94a6185f?ixlib=rb>

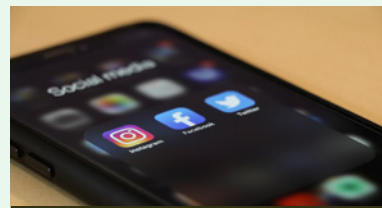
In addition, Giuseppe Romano also talked about modern features that were added in their work: “Another technology we use to involve citizens to recycle is the practice of the QR code. In the city of Noto, where we are the waste recyclers, each garbage bag is equipped with a QR code that corresponds to a specific family/individual. Insiders scan the QR code of the properly recycled waste bag and this will produce a waste tax deduction for those who have properly recycled the waste. By means of this practice, the citizen is encouraged to recycle waste, as it “saves” money.”



A plastic bottle in the environment, photo by Bukola Oduntan on unplash, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1617717712332-d4634b35110e?ixlib=rb>

Furthermore, Roma Costruzioni’s manager talked about the use of social media accounts from this agency in order to advise citizens: “Another thing could be our continuous updates in our social media accounts. In fact, we publish weekly the recycling calendar for a particular city and some advertisements posts about the correct way to recycle something. However, it is not all!

In addition, our social media accounts are used in order to share some links, which open you a website page in which there are some tips about how recycling or reusing something that you do not need anymore.” In fact, Roma Costruzioni Srl gives also tips about how to reuse an old object. Giuseppe Romano told us that, for example, we could reuse empty plastic bottles as bowling pins in order to have a fun bowling challenge!



Social media apps, photo by dole777 on unsplash, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1579869847557-1f67382cc158?ixlib=rb>

A tennis ball will suffice to knock them down. To increase the resistance just fill them with sand, ground, or gravel.



WHAT INNOVATIVE FUTURE

projects or objectives does it arise in relation to recycling and the potential that this has in its economic activity?

Giuseppe Romano, told us what projects they are going to give life in the future and he asked us what we think about these projects and if we have any other ideas in order to improve the recycling process. “We have big projects and small ones: the next goal we set ourselves is to produce renewable fuel from waste treatment,” said Giuseppe Romano.

“We want to produce biogas that will be able to power the automotive sector or house heating, without adding carbon dioxide (CO₂) to what is already produced in nature.”

But their minds are still active, in fact, Roma Costruzioni’s manager also said: “Furthermore, something other is moving in our minds. As concerning small projects, we obviously need help from everyone in order to recycle in the correct way. Thus we were thinking that could be a good idea making a video or something else more suitable for people (or improving what we are doing in our social media accounts), with the objective to help people to distinguish different types of waste.



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As a matter of fact, a lot of people are not able to recognize what type of waste something is: therefore someone does not know if the greaseproof paper has to be put in the paper bin either in the plastic one or in the unsorted bin.



Biogas plant, pixabay license, https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2015/10/15/15/09/biogas-989479_1280.jpg

The same thing happens for the receipt: has it to be put in the paper bin or in the unsorted one? Did you know that clean toilet paper has to be put in the organics bin and not in the paper one? And we can still continue.

We were thinking to give some little digital tips, simple to read and easy to be understood. These tips could be short slides in which there are simply words and some images with which to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling and some curiosities about how a bottle tip could be transformed into a tent.”



Social media, photo by Timothy Hales Bennett on unsplash, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1517292987719-0369a794ec0f?ixlib=rb>



United Nations flag, photo by Mathias PR Reding on unsplash, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1590274853856-f22d5ee3d228?ixid>

He also told us many things about the 2030 Agenda: “The United Nations approved the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related 17 Sustainable Development Goals, divided into 169 Targets to be achieved by 2030. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the close link between human well-being, the health of natural systems, and the presence of common challenges that all countries are called to face:

from the fight against hunger to the elimination of inequalities, from the protection of natural resources to affirmation of sustainable production and consumption models. The starting point is the recognition of the unsustainability of the current development model. The idea that sustainability is only an environmental issue is definitively overcome and a broader and more integrated vision of the idea of sustainable development of society is assumed.”

RECYCLE

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the so-called “circular economy”?

A	B	C
80%	10%	10%

2. Do you believe that a more sustainable economic system can be equally productive than the current one?

A	B	C
10%	90%	0%

3. Which of these consumer choices have you decided to implement in the last 10 years to protect the environment?

A	B	C
20%	60%	20%

4. How will the so-called “circular economy” affect the job market?

A	B	C
0%	100%	0%

5. In your work, how many strategic choices related to sustainability have been made in the last 10 years?

A	B	C
62,5%	25%	12,5%



6. Which of these 4 “Rs” is more important to ensure a better future for humanity?

A	B	C	D
Reuse - 10%	Reduce - 10%	Recycle - 70%	Redesign - 10%

7. Which of these 4 “Rs” is most present in your family’s daily life?

A	B	C	D
Redesign - 0%	Reduce - 10%	Recycle - 70%	Reuse - 20%

8. In your opinion, what link is there between technology and the “circular economy”?

A	B	C
90%	10%	0%

9. Do you think we will be able to change the way we consume so as not to affect the environment and its limited resources?

A	B	C
0%	100%	0%

10. Are you familiar with the UN 2030 Agenda or have you ever heard of SDGs?

A	B	C
10%	80%	10%

QUESTIONNAIRE

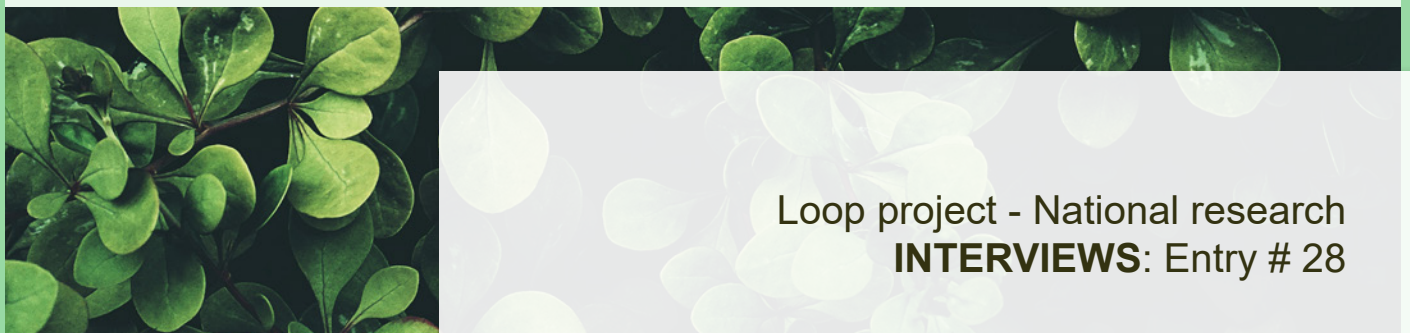
QUESTIONNAIRE

11. Do you think that the economy in the past was more sustainable than it is today?

A	B	C
100%	0%	0%

12. Which of these 3 statements do you consider the most true and important?

A	B	C
0%	100%	0%



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