



## **Enhancing Litter Recycling System in Algeria Using the Green Label System**

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### **Abstract:**

The study aimed at exploring the extent to which the Algerian legislation tackles garbage recycling and the characteristics of the Green Label System as a suggested proposal to enhance litter recycling activity in Algeria. The study administered the descriptive inductive approach. A review of literature was conducted. The study reached the following findings; first, the Algerian legislation missed referring to the ways that encourage manufacturers to make products that can be recycled; second, the Green Label System is an effective means that stimulates manufacturers to design their products in a way that lessens generating garbage and helps recycling it after consumption. The study made the recommendation that the Algerian legislator ought to refer to the Green Label System to push forward the litter recycling activities in Algeria.

**Keywords:** Litter Recycling, the Green Label System, the Algerian Legislation.

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## Introduction

Praise be to Allah and Peace and Blessings of Allah upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, his companions and all who follow his guidance to the Day of Judgment .

(O, believers, be pious to Allah and care nothing but to die on Islam) (Surat Al-Imran, The Family of Imran, III, verse: 102).

(O, people, be pious to Allah Who created all of you from a male and a female and who created the female from the male and created all humans from both of them. O, people, be pious to Allah Who you will stand before for Judgment and He will question you about what you have done with your relatives. Remember that Allah observes you all) (Surat An-Nisaa, The Women, IV, verse: 1).

(O, believers, fear Allah and say what is right in order that Allah mend your deeds and forgive your sins. Whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger shall win a great victory) (Surat Al-Ahzab, The Confederates, XXXIII, verse: 70).

**To proceed** (Al-Albany, 2000, p.3):

It is observed that the litter problem has aggravated in many Muslim countries. Piles of litter heaps overflow the streets and waterways in most villages, towns and cities. This problem grows worse through human behavior. People dispose litter wrongly either by burning or burying paying no attention to environment safety considerations (Amina Shaht and Hafsa Darwish, 2022, p. 315). Moreover, a study confirms that the departments in charge of garbage collecting, separation and processing are lenient and undergo weaknesses that make them unable to achieve the targeted objectives (Zein A-Din Brush and Mariam Bu-Lumkhal, 2021, p. 412) beside the absence of the culture of environment preservation in the society (Khalid Shebly, 2014, p. 17). In spite of the legislations made by many Muslim countries – including Algeria (Ali Isa and Sarah Afnan, 2019, p. 41, Mukhtari Irshad A-Din, 2020, p. 7 and Haniya Sheriff, 2020, p.111) – to face waste generation for the protection of the environment on one side and for the maintenance of the public health on the other side, reality witnesses that this problem is growing worse day after day. Since traditional solutions bear no fruit, voices have raised demanding a change to the common attitude towards garbage. These voices ask to think of litter not as a problem but as an economic resource that ought to be used optimally in a way that is useful to the environment and the society and preserve the natural resources as well (Suheila Bu-Khamis and Awatif Bu-Tarfa, 2020, p. 1).

In the context of this new attitude towards litter, Algeria has sought to take over

the garbage re-use and re-cycling policy. In spite of this, this policy has not been given the due care. This is emphasized by a recent study that confirms that the reality of garbage recycling in Algeria is not as what is expected and it makes the recommendation that manufacturers ought to be urged to pursue the policy of garage recycling and put it into effect in a way that preserve the environment and maintain natural resources (Amina Shaht and Hafsa Darwish, 2022, p. 335). This is what makes the present study suggest the green label system as an aspired approach to instigate the recycling activity in Algeria so that the hopeful results can maximize. In this light, The study problem is put in the following main question;

**To what extent does the Algerian legislation consider the green label system and what is the characteristics of the this system as a suggested proposal to push forward the recycling activity in Algeria?** In view of the pre-mentioned questions, The study's main objective is to explore the extent to which the Algerian legislation considers the green label system and the characteristics of the this system as a suggested proposal to push forward the recycling activity in Algeria .Based on the pre-raised questions, the study's sub-objectives are exploring the extent to which the Algerian legislation considers the green label system, investigating the definition of the environmental label and its objectives, investigating the definition of the green label and its purpose and exploring he administrative body that is authorized to issue the green label and the procedures and the requirements needed to obtain it.

The study importance is shown in two aspects; first: theoretically ;the study seeks to bridge the gap in the area of recycling economy to develop what previous studies have come to in this field, and second, practically, the study suggests a push forward the recycling activity in Algeria .The study has used the proposal to descriptive analytical methodology to reach the targets in question. To gather the required data, a review of literature has been administered. The study has been planned to an introduction. Four sections, a conclusion and a bibliography. The coming lines will tackle these points in further detail as follows.

### **1. The Extent to Which the Algerian Legislation Considers the Green Label System**

The Algerian legislation necessitates taking due steps to avoid garage generation <sup>(1)</sup> in order to protect the environment <sup>(2)</sup>. Article six of the Algerian Act no. (1-19) for the year 2001 relating "garbage management, control and disposal" prescribes that: "Whosoever generates or owns garbage has to take necessary procedures so as to avoid garbage generation as far as possible especially through the following:

- Using and depending on techniques that generate less garbage.
- Stopping marketing materials that generate indecomposable garbage.
- Stopping using materials that are dangerous especially when manufacturing packing materials <sup>(3)</sup>.

The previous Act also makes it incumbent on the manufacturers <sup>(4)</sup> to take actions to re-use or re-cycle garbage. Article seven of this Act states that: "It is obligatory for whosoever generates or owns garbage to guarantee to recycle the garbage generated from the materials they import, market or manufacture" <sup>(5)</sup>. According to the previous article, every litter generator or owner <sup>(6)</sup> has to re-use or re-cycle <sup>(7)</sup> the garbage that is under their authority.

In spite of the importance of the obligation the Algerian Law puts on the garbage generators <sup>(8)</sup> or holders to re-use or recycle it, this action is not sufficient to push forward the activity of garbage recycling in Algeria, particularly with the growing economic attitude towards garbage that emphasizes viewing garbage as raw materials that are necessary in industry. The idea of looking for resources, manufacturing, consuming and disposing of them has been abandoned. There has been a new trend called the circular economy <sup>(9)</sup> that rests on recycling <sup>(10)</sup>, rationalization and viewing all that is manufactured whether it is metallic or decomposable can be re-used or re-cycled (Naseera Hary, 2019, p.1).

Thus, it is so important to create a legal system that motivates garbage generators and holders to re-use and recycle garbage, to increase the recyclable ingredients in the materials they manufacture and to limit generating industrial garbage. That's why the thought of environmental labels system in general and the green label system in particular have come into being.

## **2. The Definition and Objectives of the Environmental Label**

This section sheds light on the definition and the objectives of the environmental label as follows;

### **2.1. The Definition of the Environmental Label**

The environmental label is a known symbol granted by an independent organization and put on products that have obtained a license or certification that they meet the

specifications required to get this label. This label gives information about a given product or a service from an environmental viewpoint.

The process of issuing environmental labels is known as environmental labeling. The OECD, i. e., Organization of Economic Co-operation Development, defines it as: "granting environmental labels voluntarily through a private or a public body to inform the consumers about the products that are friendly to the environment in comparison with their equivalent that are not so.

The environmental label is used as a means to get an issue that a given product is environmentally better than their counterparts. Not only is it considered a certificate of quality granted to a given product, but it also gives information on the whole life cycle of this product including input generation, production and consumption processes and disposal of garbage <sup>(11)</sup>.

There are many environmental labels in different countries particularly the advanced ones that pay interest in environment and public health matters. The most well- known environmental labels are as follows;

Blue Angel

Green Seal

Energy Star

Dolphin Safe Label

Energy Saving Trust

Sustainable Seafood Eco-label

Although each environmental label of the above mentioned has got exclusive specifications, all of them have got the same purpose. That is, they all aim to protect the environment and preserve its natural resources from attrition.

## 2.2. The Objectives of the Environmental Label

The environmental label is considered a tool of assessment, documentation and standard specifications to what manufacturers tell about the environmental characteristics of their products to the consumers. The objectives of the environmental label are as follows;

- Protecting the environment and motivating sustainable development <sup>(12)</sup> and maintaining natural resources.
- Informing consumers about the environmental effects of products.
- Motivating manufacturers and importers to limit the adverse impact of products.
- Improving the environmental specifications of the products and encouraging environmentally excellent creative works.
- Granting manufacturers holding environmental labels competitive advantage in contrast to other manufacturers.

So, the purpose of the environmental label is to stimulate manufacturers to stop garbage generation and depend on recyclable materials in manufacturing so as to protect the environment, maintain the public hygiene and preserve natural resources to meet the needs of future generations.

### 3. The Definition and the Purpose of the Green Label

The green label is a type of the environmental labels. Clause (41) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act no. (202) for the year (2020) the green label as: "a certificate granted to manufacturers when designing their products in a way that stops garbage generation or helps recycling after consumption and put on the product to tell the consumers about the products that are friendly with the environment" <sup>(13)</sup>.

According to the previous definition, the extended responsibility of the manufacturer is emphasized. By virtue of this responsibility, the manufacturer fully or partially affords the cost of managing the product all over its life cycle including the processes post consumption such as garbage gathering, recycling and disposing <sup>(14)</sup>.

Article (52) of the Egyptian Act no. (202) for the year (2020), providing for the purpose of the green label, dictates that: "With the cooperation of the ministry of commerce and industry, the administration decides the green label system to instigate manufacturers to raise the percentage of recyclable input and to decrease generating industrial garbage" <sup>(15)</sup>. This means that there two main purposes for creating the green label system shown as follows;

**First;** motivating manufacturers to raise the percentage of the re-usable and recyclable ingredients. Attention ought to be given to both re-use and re-cycling of garbage taking into account that re-cycling is different from re-use. Garbage re-cycling is: "a process by which garbage is re-made to be used for a purpose other than that it is used for <sup>(16)</sup>, but re-use of garbage is another process by which garbage is re-made to be used for the same purpose it is used for <sup>(17)</sup>. This means that recycling agrees with re-use on the idea that both of them imply that the garbage material is re-used. However, they differ in two things;

- a. Recycling is a process through which the garbage material is re-manufactured <sup>(18)</sup>, but re-use is not.
- b. Recycling enables re-using the garbage material for a new purpose other than that it is used originally used for, but re-use is not.

**Second;** stopping generating industrial garbage that contains no dangerous material <sup>(19)</sup>.

Thus, the system of green label urges manufacturers to modify their products so as to guarantee the consumer's safety and maintain the environment. For this reason, the products that hold the green label is more likely to be re-used and re-cycled and less dangerous to the public health and the environment.

#### **4. The Administrative Body That is Authorized to Issue the Green Label and the Procedures and the Requirements Needed to Obtain It**

The present section highlights the administrative body that is entitled to issue the green label and the procedures and the requirements that are needed to hold It as follows:

##### **4. 1. The Administrative Body That is Authorized to Issue the Green Label**

Article (52) of the Egyptian Act no. (202) for the year (2020), providing for the administrative body that is entitled to issue the green label, dictates that: "With the cooperation of the ministry of commerce and industry, the administration decides the green label system to instigate manufacturers to raise the percentage of recyclable input and to decrease generating industrial garbage" <sup>(20)</sup>.

According to the pre-mentioned article, the administrative body that is entitled to issue the green label is the department of garbage management <sup>(21)</sup> with the cooperation of both the ministry of commerce and the ministry of industry.

#### 4.2. The Procedures Needed to Obtain the Green Label

The internal statute issued by the order decreed by the Egyptian Cabinet Council for the Act of Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the year (2020) determines the action that ought to be taken to get the green label. It has decided that the manufacturer has to submit a signed form to the department of garbage management to obtain the green label. Priority of granting the green label is given to manufacturers who design their products in a way that enables them to be partially or fully recycled without any side effects on the specifications of these products. Furthermore, the aim of the design that is considered is to make the product's ingredients easier to decompose in a way that limits generating industrial garbage.

#### 4.3. The Requirements Needed to Obtain the Green Label

The internal statute issued by the order decreed by the Egyptian Cabinet Council for the Act of Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the year (2020) stipulates set requirements in order to get the green label demonstrated as follows;

- The ingredients of the product have to be the least dangerous.
- The ingredients of the product are not to be harmful to health.
- The ingredients of the product are not to be harmful to the environment.
- The rational use of dangerous material.
- The rational use of natural resources such as water and electricity.
- The design of the product has to be smart. That is, it is designed in a way that lessens industrial garbage and helps recycling it.

It is noteworthy that the targeted purpose of the afore-mentioned requirements is to keep the environment and the public health safe and preserve natural reserves (Latifa Bahloul and Sarah Halimy, 2020, p. 493). In other words, the essence of these requirements is to fulfill the sustainable development through using the un-renewable natural resources in a way that does not result its depletion, deterioration or diminishing.

#### Conclusion

The study aimed at exploring the extent to which the Algerian legislation considers the green label system and the characteristics of the this system as a suggested proposal to push forward the recycling activity in Algeria . It came to the following findings;

1. The Algerian legislation has not paid due attention to garbage recycling activity in Algeria. Though it necessitates that manufacturers have to guarantee to re-use or re-



cycle garbage, it has no mention of the strategies that can motivate them to do so.

2. The green label system is an effective strategy to encourage manufacturers to pay due interest in garbage recycling activity.

Bearing the afore-mentioned findings in mind, the study makes the recommendation that the Algerian legislator ought to make a law that prescribes the green label system in order to push forward garbage recycling activity in Algeria. The study suggests **amending Article Seven of the Algerian Act no. - 01- 19 issued on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2001 relating garbage management, control and disposal and adding the following clause to**

- The green label certificate is to be granted to manufacturers when designing their products in a way that limits generating garbage and helps re-cycling after consumption.

The study suggests that the phrase of this added clause to be as follows;

"With the cooperation of the ministry of commerce and industry, the administration decides the green label system to instigate manufacturers to raise the percentage of recyclable input and to decrease generating industrial garbage. The internal statute is to decide this system' s requirements and the specifications as well as the stipulations that are demanded to obtain the green label certificate and its form'.

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## Margins:

(<sup>1</sup>) Garbage is "all residual litter from production, manufacturing or use processes which the owner or the holder seeks to dispose of or remove". Refer to: Article Three of the Algerian Law no. (01-19), passed on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2001, relating "Litter Management, Control and Removal". See: **The Algerian Official Gazette**, vol. (77), Year (38), 15<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

(<sup>2</sup>) The environment includes bio- and non-bio- natural resources such as air, water, soil, sub-soil, plants, animals, inherited legacy, places, scenes, landscapes as well as the interaction between these elements. Refer to: Article Three of the Algerian Law no. (03-10), passed on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2003, relating "Protecting the Environment in the Context of Sustainable Development". See: **The Algerian Official Gazette**, vol. (43), Year (40), 20<sup>th</sup> July 2003.

(<sup>3</sup>) Article Six of the Algerian Law no. (01-19), passed on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2001, relating "Litter Management, Control and Removal". See: **The Algerian Official Gazette**, vol. (77), Year (38), 15<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

(<sup>4</sup>) The product includes all that is manufactured, imported or distributed and subject to the extended responsibility. Refer to: Clause (18) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>5</sup>) Article Seven of the Algerian Law no. (01-19), passed on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2001, relating "Litter Management, Control and Removal". See: **The Algerian Official Gazette**, vol. (77), Year (38), 15<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

(<sup>6</sup>) The owner of the garbage is whosoever possesses it whether they hold it or not. ). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>7</sup>) Recycling is converting waste into reusable material. Refer to: Article Three of the Algerian Law no. (01-19), passed on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2001, relating "Litter Management, Control and Removal". See: **The Algerian Official Gazette**, vol. (77), Year (38), 15<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

(<sup>8</sup>) Garbage generators are whosoever does an activity that produces waste material. Refer to: Clause (19) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>9</sup>) The circular economy is that industrial activity that neither produces waste material nor pollutes the environment from the start of its designation and which contain two types of ingredients; first of which is biological ingredients that go back to the environment safely and; the second is technological ingredients that are designed to be recycled at a higher quality. See: Naseera Hary, 2019, p. 8.

(<sup>10</sup>) Recycling is a process that enables extracting materials and reusing them such as using waste material as fuel. The recycling activity passes the following stages:

- Collecting the waste materials that are meant to be recycled.
- Decomposing the waste materials.
- Processing the waste materials and re-manufacturing them.
- Marketing the recycled product.

See: Ahmed Abd Al-Jawwad, 1997, p. 40 and Fouad Ghadan, 2015, pp. 87 – 92.

(<sup>11</sup>) Garbage disposal is a process that is meant to get rid of waste material safely in an authorized place. Refer to: Clause (34) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>12</sup>) Sustainable Development is that kind of evolution that is based on the optimal use of natural resources in a way that leads neither to depletion nor full or partial deterioration. In other words, it refers to that type of development that meets the present needs from natural resources and at the same time maintains them for future generations. See: Halima Qamry, Ridwan Ansa'id and Mustaffa Ga'afar, 2021, p. 26.

(<sup>13</sup>) Clause (41) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>14</sup>) Clause (39) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>15</sup>) Clause (11) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>16</sup>) Clause (30) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>17</sup>) Clause (31) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>18</sup>) Clause (33) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020) states that recycling is: "Every physical, thermal, chemical or biological process results in a change to the characteristics or the components of the waste material in a way that enables extracting what is to be recycled, diminishing its pollutants or disposing it safely. See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

(<sup>19</sup>) The Egyptian Law defines the dangerous material as: "waste remained of different activities and processes that is likely to cause harm or injury and that has no main or secondary use such as waste

resulted from medicinal, clinical and pharmaceutical manufacturing processes or from making bio-solvents, inks, varnishes, dyes and paints. This is in contrast to non-dangerous garbage that is defined as: waste material that is not likely to cause harm or injury whether it is municipal, industrial or agricultural of its nature, building waste or the like. Refer to: Clause (19) of Article (4) of the Egyptian Act no. (4) for the Year (1994) relating the environment and that amended by Act no. (9) for the Year (2009). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (9) bis (b), 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1994, and Clauses (12) and (14) of Article (70) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

<sup>(20)</sup> The Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

<sup>(21)</sup> Clause (1) of Article (1) of The Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020) states that 'the department' refers to: "Regulating Garbage Management Service". This service is one of the bodies of the Egyptian ministry of environment. This body aims at regulating, following up, supervising, assessing and developing what all related to the activities of the garbage integrated management. It also aims to attracting and encouraging investments in the activities of the garbage integrated management in a way that guarantees reaching sustainable development in addition to following up the implementation of the required plans to regulate garbage management with the governmental bodies, local administrations, the private sector, the civil society organizations as well as the international bodies. Furthermore, it is aimed at strengthening the relationships between Egypt and foreign countries as well as international and regional organizations in the field of garbage management. Refer to: Clause (1) and (2) of Article (1) of the Egyptian Act for Regulating Garbage Management no. (202) for the Year (2020). See: **The Egyptian Official Gazette**, vol. (41) bis (b), 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.