



# **Urban Circular Bioeconomy Webinar Series**

Involvement of Murcia in Circular Economy Projects.
ValueWaste and HOOP

#### **Manuel Valls Sevilla**

Industrial Engineer. European Programmes Department

Murcia City Council 5/05/2021

# INDEX





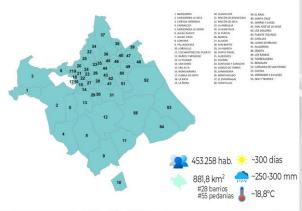
## 1. Introduction





- 459 403 inhabitants
- 514 hab/km<sup>2</sup>
- 881.8 km<sup>2</sup>:
  - Urban → City
  - Non urban → Other districts (Pedanías)
- Economic sectors:
  - Services (the 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Food, agriculture
  - Metal, mechanic





## 1. Introduction





#### **Extreme weather conditions**

- 300 sunny days per year
- Low precipitations (250-300 mm/y)

Seasonal waste variability winter/summer,

Important focus on water recovery

### Influence of agriculture:

- The Orchard of Europe (La huerta de Europa)
- Local producers









### 2. Local Context





#### **Circular Economy Strategy of Murcia Municipality**

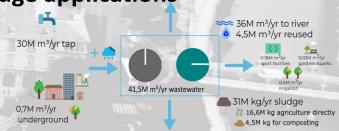
Diagnostic ready: https://www.estrategiamurcia.es/upload/2020/09/Diagnostico-del-estado.pdf

Plan of action under development (2021)

Participative process

Reference in water treatment and reuse/sewage sludge applications

Number of circular economy related initiatives



663,165 Kwh/vr

6.5M Kwh/vr

Active stakeholder engagement initiatives and social activity



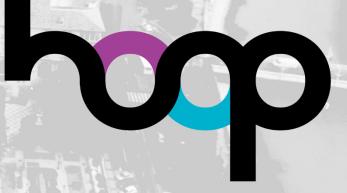
# 2. Local Context











# 2. Local Context





### Selective collection in bins (apart from mixed urban waste bin):

- Paper
- Plastics and metal
- Glass



OFMSW selective collection using bins (since 2020) → 1,4 ton/day currently

**Ecopuntos (collection points)** 



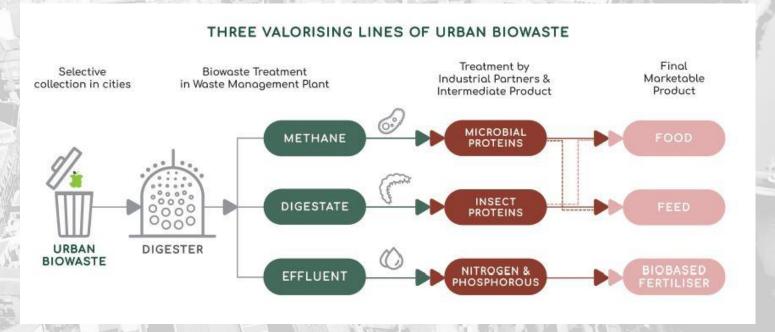
### 3. VALUEWASTE PROJECT





Valorization of streams from anaerobic digestion into high added value circular value chains

Started operation with 1.5 ton/day. First results expected soon



### 3. VALUEWASTE PROJECT





- We envisage to reach the goal of 1.800 tonnes of organic waste
- Produce 60 tonnes of protein flour
- Upgrade the Municipal Treatment Plant
- New lines of business regarding circular economy
- Citizen awareness campaign
- Implementation the new container for organic waste

# 3. VALUEWASTE PROJECT













### 3. HOOP: AT A GLANCE





- The HOOP project supports 8 lighthouse cities and regions in developing large-scale urban circular bioeconomy initiatives to valorise OFMSW (Organic Fraction of Municipal Solid Waste) or UWWS (Urban Wastewater Sludge) with the aim of obtaining safe and sustainable bio-based products.
- How? By providing technical, economic, legal, feasibility studies and business assistance through a PDA to the cities/regions
- Murcia City council is one of the lighthouse cities/regions in HOOP receiving project development assistance
- Our investment commitment: 1,750,000 euros

## 3. HOOP: AMBITION





#### 1) Water:

- Achieve a more circular use of this resource
- Obtain high value products from urban wastewater sludge (UWWS; 31,000 tonnes per year)
   which currently is either applied directly to the land (50%) or composted (50%)
- Interested in the acid fermentation of UWWS in a mixed culture to produce volatile fatty acids (VFAs) and their subsequent purification by membrane technologies

#### 2) VALUEWASTE, HOOP and other bioeconomy projects:

Act as demonstrators for other cities, to share and replicate the so-called "Murcia experience" (e.g. selective collection strategy, communication campaigns, VALUEWASTE solution...)





