



European  
Commission

# Green Sinks

Recycling rubble into new sinks

PLADOS  TELMA  
THE SINK THAT BREATHES



Delta Ltd substitutes raw materials with recycled waste when manufacturing kitchen sinks in Montecassiano, Italy.

Photo: Green Sinks

## OUR STORY

As millions of tonnes of building materials are dumped in landfills each year, Delta Ltd has proposed a sustainable solution for manufacturing kitchen sinks. Since 2013, we have recycled polymers and quartz from discarded sinks to reduce the environmental footprint of new ones, shifting their production towards a truly circular economy.



Waste reduction



Circular economy



Environment

## Larger with Life

From 2013-2015, the EU LIFE Programme has invested over €750 000 in the €1.5 million Green Sinks project to commercialise the first kitchen sink built exclusively from recycled materials.

The product does away with mining and shipping primary resources. It also reduces energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from assembly lines. These savings lower production costs, cutting prices for a growing number of ecologically-minded consumers.

## EU added value

- Raw material costs reduced by 15%
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions down 60%
- Energy consumption down 50%

## Prospects

- Recruitment up 6% in three years
- Profits to rise 7% in three years
- Save up to 490 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year

## Achievements

- Built the first kitchen sink out of **100% recycled** plastic and quartz
- Demonstrated the economic feasibility of a new **circular manufacturing** process
- Formulated 12 new **composite materials** for the production of future products
- Turned an estimated **140 tonnes of plastic and quartz** waste into new products in 2018
- Halved the **energy demand** and carbon footprint of manufacturing kitchen sinks

## Policy support

- **Recover raw materials** in line with the EU strategy for plastics in the circular economy
- Turn **green ideas into new products** as set out in the EU innovation union
- Empower **European companies** in markets covered by the industrial policy strategy

## Contact

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Environment  
& Climate  
Action



# LIFE supporting companies



The **LIFE Programme** has financed green innovation and clean tech solutions since its start in 1992. One of today's key priorities for LIFE is to support close-to-market projects delivering innovative environmental solutions, ensuring that they are sustainable and capable of being widely taken up by society in general, and the economy in particular.

The **Close-to-market initiative's** aim is to help and assist the LIFE projects with market potential to develop towards successfully maintaining project results via commercialisation and upscaling of the proposed innovative solutions.

## How can LIFE support beneficiaries with close-to-market activities?

- Expert review of the close-to-market stage of your project and assessment of the close-to-market potential.
- Help with determining milestones and action points based on project readiness and assisting you with their progress during your project's whole lifecycle.
- Flexibility to use the LIFE project budget to get the necessary expertise including market analysis, detailed business plan preparation, coaching etc.
- Linking you with a network of advisers including the Enterprise Europe Network, coaches and accelerators.
- Assistance with financing and contacts with the investor community through events, introducing you to the SME Instrument and the European Investment Bank Group.
- Networking opportunities through LIFE platforms in order to build business partnerships with other key players.
- Gaining additional publicity for your innovative green solutions through the Innovation Radar platform and via dedicated handouts promoting close-to-market activities of LIFE.

*“LIFE can help you to sustain and thrive even after the end of the LIFE project.”*

## LEARN MORE

[ec.europa.eu/life](https://ec.europa.eu/life)  LIFE programme  
[@LIFEprogramme](https://twitter.com/LIFEprogramme)  LIFE programme

## HOW TO APPLY FOR LIFE FUNDING

The European Commission organises annual calls for proposals.

Full details are available at [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-calls-proposals\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-calls-proposals_en)

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-close-market-projects\\_en#how-to-apply-for-funding](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-close-market-projects_en#how-to-apply-for-funding)

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