



"The Water Path" Visit to water treatment and selective waste sorting sites

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Within the framework of the 2nd Eco-Cities of the Mediterranean Forum, Marseille Provence Métropole Urban Community offers to visit three sites:

The Saint Marthe Site: The first of three treatment plans was built in 1934. Sainte Marthe has a nominal capacity of 420,000 m³/day and an annual production of some 50 million m³.

Water is produced and distributed by gravity to 500,000 inhabitants generating only the equivalent of a 100 population in CO2 emissions. The plant uses sand filters with a 450,000 m³ sedimentation basin, for a filtering surface of 45,000 m². Water is disinfected through ozonization and stored in reservoirs with a capacity of 28,000 m³. Chlorine is added to preserve effective disinfection. Sensors are used to guarantee water quality throughout the different stages of the treatment. A test based on the behavior of trouts, "truitotest", is used to control the quality of raw water. The plant may be controlled not only on the site, but also from a remote management center to which all alarms are forwarded.

The GEOLIDE Site: The largest underground plant for wastewater treatment worldwide (30,000 m²), it treats annually 90 million m³ of wastewater. GEOLIDE operations are consistent with a sustainable approach aimed at preserving the beaches and the seabed of Marseille's coves and guarantees discharge levels that are better adapted to the submarine flora and fauna of the Mediterranean.

Designed with the latest wastewater purification technology, the site makes a point of effectively preserving the local environment over the long term. GEOLIDE meets the objective of no noise and no visual or odor nuisance.

Selective Waste Sorting: The site manages selective waste sorting for the 18 municipalities of Marseille Provence Métropole, or the contents of yellow and other sorting containers. The site handles packaging waste, paper, newspapers and magazines. A total of 18,000 tons of waste were sorted for Marseille Provence Métropole between June and December 2010.

Recyclable waste is carefully sorted and classified in separate groups before sending them to waste re-use centers.

Using the latest optical sorting technology, the sorting center is extremely efficient. It is part of the ambitious strategy engaged by the urban community of Marseille Provence Métropole to improve waste sorting and to reduce waste.

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