

VALORIZING HORSES FOR WASTE COLLECTION

In France it is ever more increasing the trend to create and innovate systems for collecting garbage from streets in the cities through the use of horses. It is estimated that nearly 250 cities of France adopted this solution which allows to reduce 35% of CO2 emissions. These practices are adopted also in other countries of northern Europe.



In France the [Territorial Horse](#) role was formalized in 2003 as part of a national event. The Territorial Horse was presented as a major player for the communities, able to provide services to citizens within a sustainable development perspective. With the support of [national and regional associations](#) created to promote animal traction and [Equiterra](#), a wide range of practices, across the Country, were carried out to enhance the use of horse in different territorial services, such as: maintenance of green spaces and protected natural areas, transportation of people and children to school, beach cleaning, gardening, eco-tourism and finally for waste collection.



It is estimated that by 2015 these practices were held in over 300 cities of different sizes in France with high impact results in terms of efficiency and satisfaction of the population.



The urgency of reducing global CO2 emissions and reducing air pollution in the cities, and the need to find alternative energy sources, as an international strategic objective, makes these practices of horse re-valorization become more and more estimated as time passes by.

In France, the promoters of urban garbage collection with horses estimate that this solution brings the following benefits:

- It reduces CO2 emissions by 35%. This percentage may be even more significant if the horse is harnessed to a diverse set of services for citizens.
- It reduces the dependence on traditional energy sources betting on renewable energies: a garbage truck consumes about 140 liters of diesel x 100 km.
- It progressively lowers urban waste collection service costs. For example, in the city of Trouville it has been estimated that the annual investment for an animal traction system is three times lower than for a truck.



- It generates an increase in classified collection of waste. France's cities show that people participate more and that the scheduled glass, paper, cardboard, batteries and other categories of wastes pickup reaches more impressive results than the truck anonymous system;
- It recovers old trades, which had vanished, linked to horses (blacksmiths, leather workers etc.) and other necessary management experts of stables, feed, veterinary health.
- It creates new jobs in this management line of waste collection, including appropriate training processes;
- It restores and enhances in each territory local dying out horse breeds, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity as a key resource for development;
- It enhance the beauty of urban context and the welfare of population: the satisfaction of the people has been demonstrated in all experiments under way in France.

As the [European Draught Horse Federation](#) associated with the European Technology Platform TP Organics underlines, draft horse is being re-evaluated as a source of energy that has been used for thousands of years, being at the same time renewable and eco-friendly. Compared to other green technologies developed by man, animal traction is one of the most modern solutions conceivable.

To know more

[Equiterria website](#)

[Fédération Nationale Chevaux Territoriaux](#)

[Fectu-Federación Européenne du Cheval de Trait](#)

[Article in Le Figaro](#)

[Chevauxterritoriaux.wordpress.com](#)

[Article in Actu-environnement.com](#)

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[Article in Lavoixdunord.com](#)

[Article in emag.suez-environnement.com](#)

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