



# EWWR good practices and case studies

(There is no planet B ornheim)

## 1. Details of Action:

Coordinator: German Association of Local Utilities  
Action Developer: Europaschule Bornheim  
Name of nominated action: There is no planet B ornheim  
Town: Bornheim  
Region: North Rhine-Westphalia  
Country: Germany  
Website: <http://www.europaschule-bornheim.eu>  
Nominee category: Educational Establishment  
Dates of action: 21 to 25 November 2016

## 2. Action's theme:

- Reduce – Strict avoidance and reduction at source
- Reuse – Preparing for reuse and reuse
- Recycle – Waste sorting and Recycling
- Let's Clean Up Europe!

## 3. Action related to the Prevention Thematic Days 2016: Packaging waste – Use Less Packaging?

- Yes
- No

## 4. Description of the nominated action:

After successfully abolishing paper bags for food in our school last year EWWR, we, the SV (students representatives) of the European School of Bornheim, have set a few more targets for waste prevention and environmental awareness in our school. For starters we wanted to introduce reusable materials which we use to avoid garbage. For example, instead of using disposable plastic dishes for muesli for breakfast or cous-cous for lunch, now, by pupil's initiative, plastic dishes and spoons are used, which are rinsed and reused. Likewise, we have provided, together with the parents association and friends of the school, a drinking fountain to promote the use of reusable bottles and to reduce the use of disposable bottles. Nevertheless, we have arranged a collection box for deposit bottles since we have found out that very often the deposit bottles are unnecessarily thrown into the garbage. The money that we have earned through the collected bottles is donated to the organization "PLANT FOR THE PLANET" which, with the help of our money, can plant trees in Central America to reduce CO2 in the atmosphere. In addition, we have already achieved that the plastic covers for coffee-to-go cups have been abandoned. For the EWWR, we wanted to completely abolish the coffee-to-go cups, or at least to reduce them by means of an increased range of pots, as well as the offer of self-developed thermo-cups we will sale, or by a reduction in the coffee price for people who bring their own thermo-cups.



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During the EWWR therefore we informed the pupils about the problem of to go cups through information events and screens. Since EWWR 2016 to go cups cost 20 cents more than reusable cups. The experiment is going to be evaluated to see, if the single use cups can be fully abandoned soon.

To further support that, we encouraged the school café to join the organization "Coffee to go again". In collaboration with the biology intensive course, we informed about the global footprint, its criteria and dimensions through a project day. In order to provide information crossing the boundaries of our school, we reported about our project and on our goals and successes in the local newspaper to encourage the residents in the area to rethink and act as a role model for them. On a larger scale, we will also do this at the national level by describing our profiles of the projects "Schools of the Future" and the "Climate Protection School Atlas".

## 5. Type of evaluation conducted and outcome of the evaluation:

- Number of visitors/participants
- Feedback from visitors/participants (willingness to change their behaviour)
- Quantity of waste avoided/collected
- Amount of CO2 avoided
- Other indicators

Outcome of the evaluation:

All pupils and teachers of our school (more than 1.500 pupils) were involved into the actions during EWWR. The feedback was mainly positive so that we, the pupils representatives, want to continue realizing environmental projects in our school. Through abolishing single-use paper bags, coffee-to-go cups and plastic packaging for muesli and salads we could reduce the amount of waste by around 40% - which means a reduction of CO2 through less production of packaging. Through the collection of refundable bottles we collected deposit and donated it to PLANT FOR THE PLANET. The new plants produce new O2 which is good for our environment.

## 6. Reasons why the action has been selected for the EWWR 2016 Awards:

### a) Visibility and communicational aspects

The school used all kind of different ways to communicate the waste reduction during EWWR: They worked with a lot of self-made information posters. Further they produced a short explanation film about the necessity to reduce to go cups to present it at the TV screens in the school building. Through a Christmas market open for everyone, newspaper articles, e-mailings and information on the schools homepage they informed the whole city of Bornheim about their projects during EWWR. In addition the pupils visited different bakeries and cafés in Bornheim to motivate the owners to take part in the campaign „coffee to go again“. By doing so the pupils reached people within the schools structures and even beyond.

### b) Quality of content and focus on waste reduction, products reuse or materials recycling

The quality of content is high because of various reasons:

- The pupils became active out of their own motivation.
- By developing and implementing projects such as the water fountain or the reduction of single use plastic packaging in the school canteen they learned how to manage little environmental projects.



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- The project groups calculated the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> through the reduction packaging and through this learned about the carbon footprint.

## c) Originality and exemplarity: What makes the action original or innovative?

The action is original because of many different aspects:

- The pupils developed the 2015th EWWR action further by implementing more waste reduction measures within the school. The total amount of waste reduction activities is impressive.
- The pupils want to involve the citizens of Bornheim as well. That is why they for example motivated bakeries and cafés to take part in waste reduction action activities such as „coffee to go again“.
- Waste that was not reduced such as refundable plastic bottles is being compensated by donations for PLANT FOR THE PLANET. The 20 Cent for single use to go cups is donated to PLANT FOR THE PLANET as-well.
- The whole project is original due to its various facets and the many people involved.

## d) European reproducibility: How can other entities adapt the action to other contexts or European regions?

Each school can decide to run projects together with the students. The time and effort is manageable, when the students are motivated to participate. Students often develop easy and creative ways to reduce waste on their school. Single use plastic packaging at schools is one example: it can be abandoned from the schools café or canteen.

## e) Lasting impact: In what way is the action designed to have a lasting impact?

- The pupils want to continue to promote the reusable coffee to go cups
- At school wide events there will be held speeches and presentations about the waste reduction efforts so that also new pupils get in touch with the topic right from the start.
- The project teams regularly search for new members and new ideas to develop new waste reduction projects.

## f) Motivation: How will your action motivate its target audience/the general public?

Due to the various waste reduction measures there were reached all pupils in the school as well as the teachers. Also visitors of the school and the citizens of Bornheim came in touch with the topic of waste reduction.



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Information poster about reusable coffee to go cups. Students show their self created reusable school cups.



Water fountain installed on the school