



EWWR good practices and case studies

Waste Away - waste reduction week in Wedding

1. Details of Action:

Coordinators: Verband kommunaler Unternehmen e.V.

Action Developers: Projecthouse baumhaus, intercultural community garden himmelbeet and transition town neighborhood initiative WeddingWandler

Name of nominated action: Waste Away – waste reduction week in Wedding (District of Berlin)

Town: Berlin

Region: Berlin

Country: Germany

Website: <http://www.baumhausberlin.de/> ; <http://himmelbeet.de/> ; weddingwandler.de/abfallvermeidung

Nominee category: Other

Dates of action: 23.-28.11.

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 2015: Dematerialisation: Doing more with less?

- Yes
- No

4. Description of the nominated action:

In Berlin, district of Wedding, three local cultural institutions gathered to organize a full week of waste reduction: The “Baumhaus” is a collaborative cultural project with the goal to implement an indoor tree house open for different events in Berlin. “Himmelbeet” is a community garden with the focus on intercultural exchange within the district of Wedding. “WeddingWandler” ist the neighborhood transition town initiative from Berlin Wedding.

In total the initiatives organized 10 different events during the EWWR. These are as such:

- Zero Waste Challenge: A life without waste, is that possible? WeddingWandler wanted to experience it by themselves and invited everyone to join. From Monday to Saturday they tried to get along without producing any waste. All participants documented their results and shared what was easy going, how they dealt with difficulties and what other tips and tricks they came up with. By the way, everyone decided on his or her own if to participate one day, two or the whole six.
- Talk “Hacking our Wastefulness”: In her talk, Alice Grindhammer of Circular Economy Lab demonstrated how it is possible to end the vicious circle of non durable products, environmental damages and waste production. As the co-founder of the project "Wasteland" and former employee of ALBA Services, she is an expert on waste, its production, its prevention. The speaker gave an insight



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in circular economy, waste management and ideas to reduce your own pile of rubbish.

- Games Upcycling with children: No matter if it's at the selfmade football, the skittle alley or one of their board games: The youngsters from the Erika-Mann elementary school were beating the organization team everywhere during their upcycled games afternoon. All the games were self made by the pupils in the last years term. Product designer Sylvia Klink supervised them during the whole process and will herself be present. Every child in Wedding was invited to join the round!
- Visit of a waste-to-energy-plant in Berlin: What happens to materials that are worn-out after being recycled several times? Where does the waste go that we could not avoid? The Berliner Stadtreinigung (BSR) opened the doors to its waste-to-energy plant for 25 participants explaining the advantages of waste incineration on the ground.
- "Use not Own" - a guided tour in Berlin-Wedding: Our neighborhood offers a lot of opportunities for common use. WeddingWandler went exploring and visiting places where one can buy used, borrow and repair. The tour ended with the visit of the Repair Café Soldiner.
- Repair Café Soldiner: During the Repair Café experts volunteered to help people repairing defective devices or fix your bike or sew your pants. Together with mechanics or electricians participants brought fresh air into broken things while reducing a lot of waste.
- Bokashi Workshop: You don't need your own garden to compost your organic waste. A hermetically sealed container will do. The Bokashi kitchen compost bucket has Japanese roots and is used to ferment kitchen waste and neutralise odours. Participants were building their own Bokashi kitchen compost bucket together with Joachim, founder of Kompost Kreis.
- "Waste-free Wedding" - a guided tour in Berlin-Wedding: Fruit in plastic bags , milk in Tetra Pack and coffee in paper cups ... the garbage ends up in the gutter or stacks up in your own home. But the Wedding offers alternatives and low-waste shopping opportunities. WeddingWandler showed where! The tour ended with a visit to one of the oldest food cooperatives of Berlin: Here participants learned how a food cooperative works and how you save money and waste by collaborative shopping.
- Cleanliness on Playgrounds – a workshop: Between cigarettes, glass, candy wrappers and rats - himmelbeet invited everyone in Wedding for a workshop "Cleanliness in playgrounds" in the event room of the districts management.

Zero Waste Party: The organizers invited to a big party at the end of the eventful week and especially - of course - the empty rubbish bins. This was also the end of the Zero Waste Challenge, where the "WasteWatchers of Wedding" were nominated.

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

Willingness to cooperate with other waste reduction initiatives (such as The tiffin Project, Original unverpackt!, Greenpeace, Müllverwandler, etc.) for future collaboration.

Baumhaus, himmelbeet and WeddingWandler are more than happy with the outcome of their waste reduction week. They received only positive feedback from participants and partners - without exception. The number of participants was fully conforming to their expectations. The willingness of people from the neighborhoods to volunteer and the willingness of local companies to donate, for example for the Zero Waste Prizes, was immense. PR, organization



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and time management within the completely on volunteer basis working team was reportedly excellent. The organisers want not only to continue participating in EWWR, they want to broaden up their engagement in 2016, with more workshops and events.

6. Reasons why the action has been selected for the EWWR 2014 Awards:

a) Visibility and communicational aspects

The Baumhaus-initiative was outstanding, as they were one of the very few, if not the only action in Germany, that made its way to an over regional radio show. Listen to the Interview in German here: <https://soundcloud.com/kokolotte/weddingwandler-abfallvermeidung>

Beside, they created creative posters and distributed the EWWR posters wherever possible within the district of Wedding. On twitter, facebook and through Newsletters, networks, online calendars and through their partners, they invited people to show up to their events.

They published 13 Facebook-Posts with an outreach of 300 to 700 people each. The website weddingwandler.de/ experienced a record of 2549 within the month of November.

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

Due to the fact, that the organisers created such a diverse mix of events and with topics, involving experts from different backgrounds, they managed to basically make the first 2 r “reduction” and “reuse” alive within the city and especially in the district. Even the visit of a waste to energy plant in this context was a useful initiative, because it makes sure that all aspects of waste and waste reduction are covered up.

Through the participative format of the week all participants made sure they learned how to actively change their behaviour towards less waste. That’s why it was the perfect mix of information, fun and practical tips for your own way of living.

a) Originality and exemplarity

The organizers showed that reduction of waste can be fun! All their events were organised to be participative, to activate people and to give new ideas. The basic idea of turning your head around and see what is offered in your very own neighbourhood is simple and genius at the same time. You don’t have to travel the city to reach a local market to avoid plastic wrapped food and you don’t have to go to Media Markt and buy a new electrical device, because just around the corner there might a repair café. The cultural initiatives made the districts offers for waste reduction visible to the people, thats highly original and simple at the same time. The „innovative” and mostly creative character was made by every event through the background of the speaker/workshop leader.

b) European reproducibility

Baumhaus’, himmelbeets and WeddingWandlers participative waste reduction week is highly recommended to be reproduced in other cities, villages or districts. It is simple, because people are shown, what is right there close to where they live. It is shown, that it is not difficult to change behaviour and that there are existing opportunities. All is



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needed is such a motivated group of local cultural initiatives to organize a waste reduction week like this in favour of their own district and for the people.

c) Lasting impact

The organizers want to continue cooperating with other initiatives along the topic of waste reduction and collaborative consumption. After their EWWR week they were invited to use a special event room for their workshops for free. The initiative is continuously exchanging experiences about their projects such as the Bokashi-Compost Bins. After the EWWR week the food cooperative received new registrations, new participants for the repair café and new people interested in events such as the excursions to organic farms and the waste to energy plant. Baumhaus, Himmelbeet and WeddingWandler want not only to continue participating in EWWR, they want to broaden up their engagement in 2016, with more workshops and events.

d) Motivation

What I loved about the action week is that it was created participative for everyone! Every citizen of Wedding was invited and all events were activating the people, it was never just a formal speech or discussion, but always an invitation to change your old behaviour to a more waste avoiding and sustainable one.



Repair Café Soldiner

Visit of a waste-to-energy-plant in Berlin



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