



EWWR good practices and case studies

1. Details of Action:

EWWR Organiser: WasteServ Malta Ltd
Country/Region: Malta
Name of nominated project developer: St. Clare College Girl's Secondary
Name of nominated action: Sustainability Club
Place: St. Clare College Girl's Secondary School
Town: Pembroke
Region: na
Country: Malta
Website: na
Nominee **category**: Educational Establishment
Dates of action: 23rd, 24th, 25th November 2011

2. Please select the **theme(s)** highlighted in the action:

- Too Much Waste
- Better Consumption
- Better Production
- A Life for Products
- Less Waste thrown Away

3. Type of Action

- Action open to general public
- Action open to a target group
- Action based on the production of communication tools
- Other, please specify: *school children and professionals*



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4. Please give a detailed and precise description of the action

The Sustainability Club at St Clare College Girl's Secondary School is training students to be more environmentally conscious by teaching them to be creative with things that are regarded as waste and which normally end up in the landfill – a major concern for Malta due to land scarcity.

One of the most popular things happening in this club is the collection of used jars that students and teachers bring from home instead of throwing them away. The students start by sorting and washing them and then removing their labels. On some jars the students do glass painting and transform them into ornaments, like vases, canister sets and many more. The initiative is registering a great success since there is a big demand for these ornaments and a line of standing orders for gifts for special occasions like Birthdays, Christmas, St. Valentine's, Easter and Mother's Day.

Jars which are not decorated are used as containers for the preservation of fruit and vegetables or jams and marmalade. These fruit and vegetables are normally given to the club by greengrocers when there is an abundance and they have an excess of it, thus contributing to the reduction of organic waste which would otherwise go to the landfill. These preserved foods are also well sought after because they have a low sugar and salt content and augur well for people with health problems. Moreover, the peel and remains of all fruit and vegetables is discarded into a compost bin to be later used as soil/ fertiliser for the potting of plants and trees in the school grounds. The initiative taken by the Sustainability club is therefore holistic because it encompasses all aspects of the production of these preserved foods.

The items created in the sustainability club are given to people against a donation and all money is presented to childrens' homes. At the centre of this exciting club, St. Clare College has become very popular with parents, students and teachers and also the community for the useful things they are creating out of items which are generally considered as waste and discarded with the normal waste stream.

In order to showcase this initiative during the European Week for Waste Reduction, the Sustainability Club opened its doors for other schools and students' parents and relatives to witness their sustainable practices. People and other students could watch students prepare and paint the jars and also observe the preparation of jams and marmalade. For the purpose of this event, the students created Christmas hampers with their products by putting them into containers which they created from used plastic bottles and used newspapers, wrappers and magazines. The main aim of the event was definitely reached and people, students and teachers present commented that they were surprised how a little creativity can lead to substantial waste reduction.

Other students and staff attending the school were also invited to visit the club in order for them to receive an explanation about the importance of waste reduction and how this can be reached with a little bit of goodwill.



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5. Please describe the target audience and how the action motivated its public/target audience, as well as the number of participants

The action targeted students and staff at St. Clare College as well as from other schools. People who have some form of affiliation with the same college such as parents and relatives were also informed to visit by word of mouth. Moreover, the college invited other schools to visit during this week by sending them an email to inform them about the upcoming activity. The event was also promoted during the Youth in Action seminar attended by the teacher in charge.

The total number of persons visiting the activity throughout the three days was around 360 persons. People were motivated to attend since different aspects of waste reduction (reusing glass jars, composting, reduction in fruit and vegetable waste from greengrocers, promotion of storing/ using surplus of local vegetable and fruit produce, reusing plastic bottles and newspapers/ wrappers/ magazines) were presented in a highly interesting manner. Moreover, the topic of organic waste reduction to students and other persons is highly appealing in itself.

6. Please explain why you have decided to nominate this action for a EWWR Award, following the main criteria listed here below

- 1) visibility and communicational aspects
- 2) good practice, originality and exemplarity
- 3) quality of content and focus on waste prevention,
- 4) European reproducibility
- 5) follow-up in long-term and lasting impact

People attending could witness first hand the whole process of all activities taking place within the Sustainability Club. In fact, those visiting could observe the members of the club busy preparing the fruit and vegetables to be made into jam or to be preserved, the painting of jars, the weaving of baskets from waste materials to be used as hampers and the discarding of organic remains for compost. Thus, those present could observe how all these activities led to one common issue- waste reduction. At the same time, everyone could actually perceive the resources being created from waste as well as make out the amount of waste being avoided. In fact, during the European Week for Waste Reduction, the following amounts were prevented from being turned into waste:

500 used jars
78 newspapers
100 snack wrappers
150 plastic bottles
200 kilos of fruit and vegetables.

One important aspect which arises from this activity is the fact that fruit and vegetables are not bought but donated by greengrocers when there is an excess of it. Therefore, the Sustainability Club sheds light on another important environmental issue which is relatively new to our country- food waste and the importance of redirecting it to other uses before it goes to waste.

Another important aspect which also requires due recognition is the fact that being a small island state, Malta faces big challenges to recycle glass waste. This club is reusing a substantial amount of jars which otherwise would only add more stress to the present situation.

This action can be reproduced in other entities and educational establishments, especially secondary schools. It is also a very effective way of putting environmental education into practice. The Sustainability Club has been established for some years and will continue to perform and emphasise that sustainability and waste reduction is tangible and can be achieved with a little bit of creativity and good practices.



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7. Please provide us with photos, videos, weblinks or any other material to better understand the EWWR action.

