



Civil Society Dialogue on Sustainable Development

Different perspectives on the global issue waste

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(Not) a world for the bin: Your trash is also mine!

The Kiel City Council unanimously adopted the Zero Waste Concept on November 19, 2020. With the 107 measures presented in it, the state capital Kiel wants to become the first Zero-Waste-City in Germany. The aim is to avoid waste and return resources to the circular economy.

The twin city of San Francisco (USA), which set itself the goal of significantly reducing its waste volume back in 2003, serves as a role model. Thus, in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2018, the two partner cities agreed to exchange ideas closely in the areas of waste avoidance, recycling and waste management.

Waste is a global problem. Accordingly, the UN's 12th Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) **"Sustainable Consumption and Production"** addresses the issue in its sub-goals 12.4 "Dispose of waste responsibly" and 12.5 "Avoid and recycle waste". No matter what country or city we call home, waste concerns us all. As consumers, we produce a lot of waste every day.



This makes it all the more important for civil society to play a central role in organizing appropriate measures. In the case of Kiel, more than 450 Kiel residents actively participated in the development of the concept. And the association Zero Waste Kiel e.V., founded in 2016, has also actively pushed the process forward. This shows the driving force that civil society can have for the formulation of policy.

It is precisely this potential that the city partnership project Civil Society Dialogue on Sustainable Development, funded by the state capital Kiel, aims to develop. The project has set itself the goal of creating a platform on which civil society actors from four different partner cities of Kiel (Brest, Hatay, Mosh District, San Francisco) can exchange ideas on topics of sustainable development - Kiel's civil society is of course also on board. To start with, we have chosen the ubiquitous topic of waste.

On November 5, 2020, participants from a total of five different cities met online for the first time and, following a presentation by Dr. Dietrich Sturm, discussed what challenges the topic of waste poses locally and globally from their perspective.

True to the principle of "think global, act local," the participants were then asked to highlight the global issue from their local perspective in the form of a video. To this end, they had the opportunity to participate in an international video workshop, which pro-



vided them with the tools for producing short films. At the end of the pilot phase, the participants presented their works to an interested audience on 15.12.2020. Everyone agreed that the exchange brought to light exciting aspects of previously unknown cities and how they deal with the issue of waste.

"The ubiquitous topic offers a good occasion to bring actors from five such different cities into dialogue with each other for the first time," explains project manager Lotte Nawothnig.

A look at the bigger picture shows that the issue of waste touches on many other areas of sustainable development. These areas include issues of environmental and marine pollution caused by improperly disposed waste (SDG 14+15), resource and climate protection (SDG 13) as well as the problem of waste export and the associated unequal burden sharing (SDG 10).

All these and many other topics, which are reflected in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030, are ones that we would like to illuminate together with the civil society actors of our partner cities from different perspectives. We hope that this dialogue will anchor the Sustainable Development Goals more firmly in the city partnerships and at the same time strengthen the role of civil society.



No food for the garbage can in Brest on the Atlantic coast



Distance:
Kiel – Brest (France):
1,207 km

The partnership with the second largest city in Brittany dates back to 1964, making Brest Kiel's very first twin city. The partnership, which was established shortly after the Élysée Treaty (1963), aimed to contribute to a united Europe by intensifying French-German relations.

Brest is a city in Brittany, a province in the north of France and also the westernmost part of the country. The peninsula juts out into the Atlantic Ocean and sheltered in a bay is the port city of Brest. Of the approximately 3 million inhabitants living in Brittany, about 140,000 people live in Brest. The city's area is just under 50 km² and due to its location has a temperate climate with cool summers and mild winters. The Port of Brest is an important fishing, cruise and commercial port as well as a base for the French Navy.



Due to its proximity to the coast, the issue of ocean pollution through (plastic) waste plays a major role in Brest. Basically, the city addresses the issue of waste by creating offers to carefully separate the waste generated in everyday life - this way, recyclable materials can be returned to the material cycle more easily.



There are also several **second-hand stores** and an **unpackaged store** that allows citizens to reduce their own waste by purchasing food and other goods without producing packaging waste.

As part of the 2019 project initiated by the French-German Society **Intergenerational Dialogue and Exchange - Young and Old**, 10 people aged 18-70 traveled for the most part by train from Brest to Kiel to engage here in an exchange of a special kind – not only serving as a trip for cultural exchange, but also with a focus on sustainability. During their stay in Kiel, the group visited, among other things, the Kiel unpacked store as well as the Alte Mu Impuls-Werk e.V. On the occasion of a visit to Kiel's city hall with a reception by the city's president Tovar, the group listened to another lecture on the topic of sustainability in Kiel, which focused on the "Sustainable Development Goals" and their implementation in the state capital.



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EMBALLAGES EN CARTON ET PAPIERS
Boîtes en carton, cartonnets, briques alimentaires
Tous les papiers : journaux, magazines, prospectus, annuaires, courriers.

EMBALLAGES EN MÉTAL
Canettes de soda, boîtes de conserve, bouteilles de strop, aérosols, barquettes en aluminium.
Les petits emballages avec aluminium
boîtes de papier, aluminium, capsules de café, couvercles, capsules, plaquettes de médicaments.

EMBALLAGES EN PLASTIQUE
Bouteilles et flacons en plastique avec les bouchons, bouteilles d'eau, de lait, flacons de lessive, de savon, de produits d'entretien.

NOUVEAUX EMBALLAGES
Fruits en sacs en plastique
pots de yaourt, barquettes en plastique et polystyrène

Ban on throwing away food and obligation to take back old furniture

As a result of the Paris Climate Agreement, a number of legal regulations have been enacted to raise awareness of raw and recyclable materials. In 2016, this included bans on both **single-use plastic bags** and bags for vegetables and fruit by retail outlets (effective January 1 and July 1, respectively).

In addition, supermarkets have been obliged to donate or recycle their unsold but still edible food since 2016. Accordingly, supermarkets must sign agreements with aid organizations so that the food can be **donated**. If food that is still edible ends up in the trash, this can be punished by law. In this way, the amount of waste in the food sector could be significantly reduced.

The waste of **old furniture** has also been addressed by obligating furniture manufacturers to take back old furniture since 2013. Since then, consumers have also been paying an eco-contribution when buying furniture.

A law against waste has also been in effect since January 2020. It provides for industrialists to be held accountable, consumers to be better informed and the collection of waste products to be improved. The aim is to put a stop to the overall waste of resources (Loi Anti-gaspillage, 2020).

Innovative ideas for sustainable consumption in Brest

On the civil society level, the relations between Brest and Kiel are also historically consolidated. In order to reduce the amount of waste locally, civil society in Brest is making attempts in various areas to inform, raise awareness via workshops, and critically question current political measures.



Partnership Committee

Founded in 1979, the twinning committee's main objective is to promote exchanges between Brest and its twin towns in order to strengthen mutual understanding. In 1995, the committee became the "Association Bretoise des Jumelages et de Coopération Internationale" (ABJCI).

The organization facilitates numerous projects to promote exchange between the twin cities. For this purpose, formats are selected that reach as wide a mass as possible (e.g. cinema, student exchanges, cultural events).

It is true that partnerships are based on the agreements that elected representatives arrange. However, civil society has the opportunity to shape these partnerships. In addition, the organization raises awareness of various issues among the stakeholders (Jumelage, 2020).

www.facebook.com/JumelageBrestKiel



Zéro Déchet

The association **Zéro Déchet Nord Finistère** is a local subdivision of the association Zero Waste France, whose goal is to reduce the overall amount of waste by taking into account the potential waste already at the time of purchase.

"Our actions aim to make citizens aware of the cause of waste reduction: What purchasing decisions do I make to avoid "buying" trash and how do I avoid packaging when shopping?" (Marion Pfirsch, Zéro Déchet Nord Finistère).

Among the approximately 50 members, about 15 volunteers are actively involved in the actions, which are aimed at different target groups - including local schools or companies.

The activities of the association are based on the following five areas:

1. informing about the topic (presentations, stand support)
2. raise awareness via DIY workshops, chat café as well as actions in public spaces (e.g. inspection of garbage cans).

3. discussion rounds with the communities and other local actors and the preparation of political statements on current regulations,
4. ideas of solutions for sellers and alternative shopping possibilities for consumers,
5. networking with related initiatives to provide mutual support.

The association is also in direct exchange with representatives of the city administration, with whom the association exchanges information about topic-related projects.

www.zerodechetnordfinistere.fr/

Bocaux d'ana

A particularly committed member of the association decided in December 2019 to open an **unpacked store** offering a wide range of organic products. In addition to (dry) food, there is also a selection of hygiene and cosmetic products here.



The following SDGs are covered by the civil society actors portrayed here.



The premises of the store also invites people to exchange ideas on waste prevention or to participate in workshops on the topic.

In the context of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, entrepreneur Anaëlle Bellec quickly set up a delivery service for her customers: "This idea had been on my mind for two years. Even before I opened my unpackaged store. However, the idea was too risky, so I couldn't find a bank that would support me. Many customers would like to shop unpackaged, but don't have the time." (Ouestfrance, 2020).

Confessional diversity on the border with Syria: Antakya/Hatay



Distance:
Kiel – Hatay (Turkey):
2,834 km

A partnership agreement between Kiel and Antakya has existed since 2012. In the course of a territorial reform, Antakya County was incorporated in the metropolitan area of Hatay in 2014.

Hatay is located in the southernmost part of Turkey. In the east, the province borders on Syria, while in the west lies the Mediterranean Sea.

More than half of the region is crossed by a mountain range: The Nur Mountains are also called the Gavur or Amanos Mountains, meaning Mountains of the Infidels. It runs from northern Hatay south to Lebanon.

The longest river in Hatay has many names: The Asi, Orantes or also Ters akan nehir (in English roughly “backward flowing river”) flows from Lebanon via Syria into Turkey, where it flows into the Mediterranean Sea in western Hatay. It is also a natural border between Syria and Turkey. The population of about 2.2 million includes about 500,000 Syrians.



Hacipasha, a town in Hatay that has taken in many refugees from Syria, is located precisely on this border. With donations totaling 126,000 euros, Kiel citizens made it possible in 2016 to build a four-class school and a playground. Through a great deal of empathy, the school helps the children to better cope with their experiences during the civil war.

The religions of the people in Hatay are numerous. Turkish Muslims make up the largest part of the population. For this rea-



son, Arabic is spoken next to Turkish. In addition, Christians, Jews as well as Sunnis and Alavites live here peacefully together. The capital of Hatay, Antakya is a place of origin of Christianity. Due to the denominational diversity of the people in Hatay, along with numerous mosques, there are many Christian churches here as well. The most famous one is St. Peter’s Grotto (also St. Pierre Church), which was officially declared the oldest church in Christendom by the Vatican. The first mosque in Antakya is the Habib’i Neccar Mosque. It got its name from Habib al-Najjar, a carpenter who lived at the time of Jesus Christ.

The Archaeological Museum in Antakya is the second largest mosaic museum in the world. Here lies one of the most important collections of Roman mosaics. It underlines the once outstanding role of the city.



From April 23 to October 29, 2021, EXPO 21 is planned to be held in Hatay, for which preparations are currently underway accordingly. The topic of sustainability is also to play a major role here.

Huge statues made of trash draw attention to national zero waste campaign

Mervan Atinorak, mosaic artist from Hatay, produces sculptures from **garbage** to contribute to recycling and waste reduction. Among other things, he uses forks, plastic toys or leftovers from computer housings.



With his artwork, he wants to support the Zero Waste campaign of the First Lady. This has been launched in 2017 throughout Turkey to raise awareness of reuse, recycling and waste prevention. Turkey is preparing its phase-out of landfills, which will be accompanied by a shift to a comprehensive recycling system.

To this end, 400,000 people were trained over two years and 25,000 public buildings (schools, hospitals and administrative buildings) were equipped with a zero-waste system. The waste has been separated since then.

Peaceful coexistence in familial Hatay

With the cooperation agreement signed in 2012, the city partners decided to focus on the following topics: youth, sports, schools, social affairs, health, higher education/science, economy, environment, energy and interreligious dialogue. At the same time, the citizens of the two partner cities play an important role.

Hatay society is based on the following three fundamental principles: **Peace, Fraternity and Goodwill**. Given the proximity to Syria and the pronounced confessional diversity, peace naturally plays a very special role. The value of fraternity refers to a sense of family togetherness that also includes people outside the family. The benevolence that describes a welcoming culture is also easily seen in this context. In other words, the people of Hatay are well-disposed toward strangers.

International Cultural Association UKUD

The International Cultural Association was founded in 2016 under the chairmanship of architect **Adnan Taş**. This association, which reports directly to the Ministry of the Interior, works intensively to promote international partnerships. The interreligious working group *Brückenbauen* is an important partner from Kiel in this regard.



The Kieler association *Brückenbauen* works closely with the cultural association. A central field of action is the promotion of exchange between German, Turkish and Syrian students: In letters and pictures, they exchange ideas about how goals can be implemen-

ted and realized. The following school partnerships already exist:

1. Osman Ötken Lisesi (Antakya/Thor) and Heyerdahl-Gymnasium (Kiel)
2. ATA School (Antakya) and Hardenberg School (Kiel)

Among other things, the dialogue can provide an opportunity to talk about the issue of flight from Syria, which - in contrast to Kiel - has much greater relevance in Hatay due to its geographical proximity.

Leave no one behind

With the principle of **leave no one behind**, the UN Agenda 2030 calls for fighting poverty, ending discrimination and exclusion, reducing inequalities and strengthening the potential of individuals (UN Agenda 2030). The city and its civil society actors can thus make a substantial contribution to the realization of this principle.

Speaking about the exchange with citizens from Kiel, Adnan Taş emphasizes: "In the next dialogue, we would like to inform the German delegation about the city of Antakya/Hatay. One focus here should be on cultural aspects."



The following SDGs are covered by the civil society actors portrayed here:



This certainly includes a walk through Hatay's gastronomy, which has been awarded by UNESCO. Hatay's multicultural history has clearly left its mark here. At the same time, the catering businesses also play a major role in improving equal opportunities. For example, the numerous restaurants provide employment opportunities for many women. In 2016, the city supported the establishment of the Down Cafe, which makes social inclusion of people with disabilities possible (UNESCO, 2020). True to the UN principle, it *leaves no one behind*.





Kiel's sails are set on: think globally, take off locally

With this motto, the city wants to take responsibility worldwide. Overall, the state capital is pursuing ambitious goals in many areas to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For this, it was recently awarded the German Sustainability Award 2021.

Like Brest, Hatay and San Francisco, Kiel also has direct access to the water. Located on the Baltic Sea, Kiel's image is clearly defined by its port – from its historic naval base (which was almost completely destroyed during the Second World War), to its annual Kiel Week in June when sailing ships from all over the world come together every year to compete.



Large ship ferries depart daily from Kiel for Sweden (Gothenburg) and Norway (Oslo). These and other ferries heading out to sea are the subject of considerable criticism due to their high emissions during their laytime on site. The city is making efforts to counteract the emissions by installing electrically powered shore power systems.

In 1995, Kiel set a goal as a climate protection city to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 95% (compared to 1990) by 2050. The city underscored this commitment with the council's decision on May 16, 2019 to declare a *Climate Emergency*. Kiel was thus the first state capital in Germany to do so.



The city can also shine as a pioneer when it comes to waste avoidance: Following the suggestion of the Zero Waste Association Kiel e.V., Kiel decided in 2018 to become the first city in Germany with the title **Zero-Waste-City**. Together with 450 Kiel residents, the Kiel Zero Waste concept was developed. Once again, the local Zero Waste Association proved to be energetic and supported the process with a lot of expertise (Zero Waste concept, LH Kiel 2020).

By 2035, the total amount of waste in the city is to be reduced by 15% and the amount of residual waste halved. The commitment of the people of Kiel is again explicitly required in the implementation phase. A central goal of the concept is to collect the existing initiatives that already contribute to resource avoidance locally and thus make them more visible.

In November 2018, Kiel also declared itself a safe port, thereby pledging to take in refugees in distress at sea. Kiel was thus one of the first cities to decide to act - despite the pending agreement by the European Union.

Kiel goes reusable: Coffee-to-go in trendy deposit cups

Since September 2019, many bakeries, refectories and cafés have offered the option of "having a coffee to go without leaving any waste behind" (City of Kiel). In total, around 110 outlets offer this service.



The Blue Angel-certified cups cost a €2.00 deposit, which can then be refunded at one of the participating sales outlets.

In this way, the people of Kiel can make a contribution to waste prevention, because after all, in Kiel alone, an average of 918 disposable cups pass over the counter every hour.

In the context of the pandemic, however, sellers and buyers in many places were clearly reluctant to use this - and comparable reusable products - even though it was not prohibited in principle. It remains to be seen how the spread will develop in the course of the hoped-for decline in Covid-19.

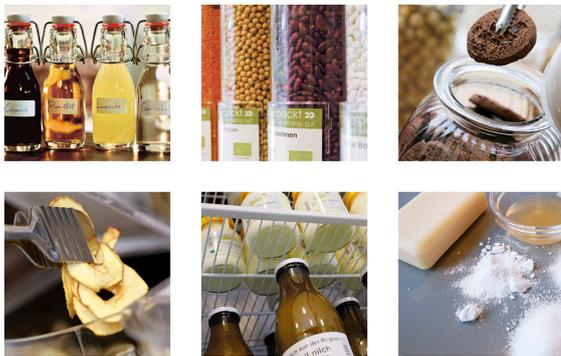
Bottom-up: Kiel's civil society as a driver of sustainable consumption

The sails are set: Kiel is heading straight for the goal of becoming a Zero-Waste-City. Numerous highly motivated civil society actors are on board and driving the project forward.

unpacked store - initial spark for a waste-free Kiel?

On February 1, 2014, Marie Delaperrière opened **Germany's first unpackaged store**. Here, customers can shop without disposable packaging and thus make a substantial contribution to reducing waste in their everyday lives. She was inspired in 2012 by Béa Johnson, who manages, since 2008, to live her family's everyday life in the USA without producing any waste.

unverpackt
lose, nachhaltig, gut



In the meantime, the Kiel model has found numerous imitators throughout Germany. In almost every major city, for example, there is a store where people can store without packaging (enorm, 2020). www.unverpackt-kiel.de/

Zero Waste Kiel e.V.: from waste collection campaigns to political participation

Soon after, a lively exchange arose with customers about ideas on how waste avoidance could be further developed in everyday life in Kiel. And so, in 2016, Zero Waste Kiel e.V. was founded with the goal of contributing to waste avoidance.



With **trash collection events, workshops, lectures** and much more, there is a variety of ways to learn how to reduce waste in your own everyday life.

One of the association's great successes was that, following the association's proposal, the city decided in 2018 to become a Zero Waste City. The association was also instrumental in the development of the concept adopted in November 2020. www.zerowaste-kiel.de/



Einfach leben – Zero Waste Network

Comparable to the Zero Waste Verein Kiel e.V., Lena Stöcker and Philipp Walter from Kiel invite us to rethink our everyday lives with their Zero Waste network "Einfach leben". Through online courses, as well as their blog, the two offer instructions, tips and background information on how we can reduce our daily waste consumption.



"My goal is for our children's generation to be able to live as well later as we do today." (Philipp Walter)

"I am primarily driven by the question of what our society of tomorrow should look like and how we want to meet current social and environmental challenges." (Lena Stöcker)
www.einfachleben.blog/

One of the Zero Waste Kiel association's highlights is the organisation of the international conference "Kiel 2019: ein Meilenstein für Zero Waste Cities in Deutschland", March 2019.

The **yoowedoo** program, based at **Kiel Christian Albrechts University**, supports around **100 students from Kiel every year in changing the world a little with sustainable project ideas.**

Since its founding in 2010 numerous project ideas have been created in the Kiel area that are dedicated to reducing waste, including **Umtüten** (the alternative bread bags), the food waste-saving **Reste-ritter** or the **Spülbar** (dishwashing bar) that pushes back the use of disposable cups.



Umtüten
(alternative "Brötchen" (bread)-bag)



Reste-Ritter
(create new things out of leftovers)



Spülbar (mobile dishwasher)



School of Sustainability



Moshi District: Cleanest city in Tanzania



Distance:
Kiel – Moshi District (Tanzania):
6,890 km

Moshi District has been Kiel's first non-European twin city since 2013. The thematic focus of this partnership is on climate protection. They have been linked by a climate partnership since 2011.



Tanzania is located on the east coast of Africa and is about two and a half times the size of Germany. Located in the northeast of Tanzania, near the largest mountain massif in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro and in the region of the same name is Moshi District.

The majority of the more than 400,000 inhabitants of the approximately 60 km² Moshi District are employed in agriculture. The climate within the district varies depending on the altitude: the southern lowlands have a tropical climate with less rainfall than the north. There, a temperate climate prevails due to the altitude caused by the mountain massif.



Through their joint participation in Africa and climate conferences, both sides underline the importance of international cooperation to solve global challenges. With this in mind, representatives from Kiel and Moshi District have developed a number of joint project ideas in the areas of urban reforestation, education, health care and waste management. Some of these are already being implemented.

For example, a tree nursery was rebuilt in Himo in the spring of 2019 - with the support of Kiel's Parks Department. This is to raise trees for Moshi District and at the same time create jobs. In the meantime, fish are also being bred at the same location for local consumption. Overall, the protection of the Kilimanjaro region has been intensively promoted for several years: For example, since 2012, logging has been severely restricted and the planting of new trees has been promoted (WWF, 2015).

In addition, the nursery now also has a composting system that decomposes both the fallen leaves of the trees and the kitchen waste. However, as this system is rather labor-intensive overall, requiring regular watering and heating, it has not yet been easily transferable to other facilities.

The population of Moshi District produces an average of 0.5 kg of waste per capita per day. However, a large part of the garbage ends up in public spaces. To address this problem, the local government is working hard to improve waste collection. Project activities include education on waste separation as well as composting and recycling. In addition, waste collection is to be expanded geographically and better coordinated (Moshi District, 2020).

The city has been declared Tanzania's cleanest city for the second time in 2019 (Tunza, 2020).



Prison sentence for plastic possession

Anyone in possession of a plastic bag in Tanzania faces fines of up to 70,00€ or imprisonment for up to 7 days.

A plastic bag ban has been in force in Tanzania since 2016. Incidentally, the same applies in numerous other African countries, namely: Kenya, Mali, Cameroon, Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Morocco, South Africa, Rwanda and Botswana.

In June 2019, the Tanzanian government extended the ban to inbound tourists. There is a **general ban on the import of plastic bags** of any kind. In this way, the government wants to make a substantial contribution to environmental protection.

Let's Move Forward Together and Make a Difference in Life: Strong Women on Kilimanjaro

Self-confident and purposeful, TUSONGE, an organization made up primarily of women, is working in the Kilimanjaro region for a society in which people share the right to a sustainable, good life and actively help shape society.

TUSONGE – Community Development Organization

Founded in 2011 as a non-governmental organization, the organization aims to eliminate social injustices and thus strengthen the rights of disadvantaged groups (e.g. women, people with disabilities) (TUSONGE Profile, 2016).

Specifically, the organization assists in **developing business models, providing essential services** (health care, education, access to water and electricity, and housing) as well as addressing **gender inequalities**.

Some time ago, the organization started a project for people with disabilities. They collected empty plastic bottles, filled them with dishwashing detergent (liquid) and then sold them. In this way, the waste that would otherwise pollute nature can be recycled. At the same time, disadvantaged groups can be (re)integrated into society.



Together with the Kiel-based prevention office PETZE, the TUSONGE organization also strengthens the rights of children and women in order to prevent abuse and violence. To this end, the prevention exhibition ECHT KLASSE traveled to Moshi, where it educates people about children's and women's rights under the title "My Life first".



In an interview with Aginatha Rutazaa, Executive Director of the NGO, she made it clear that the sustainable development goals of the UN Agenda 2030 basically point in the right direction. However, it is imperative that "all individuals are involved in the implementation process" (interview, October 2020). This makes it much easier to address local specifics.



All people need to be involved in the SDGs implementation process so that it does not remain just a top-down process.

Aginatha Rutazaa,
TUSONGE



The following SDGs are covered by the organization TUSONGE:



On the ground in Moshi, she said, there are still a number of problems, ranging from climate protection to unequal opportunities for education and work to access to vital resources such as water and electricity. When asked which issue should be at the top of the agenda, however, the answer was clear: eliminating gender inequalities would definitely be a priority.

From hobby waste collector to employed environmentalist

A few years ago, Saul was collecting paper and plastic bottles in the neighborhood to turn it into money. Since then, he has been interested in the topic of waste avoidance, reuse and recycling.

The graduate geographer and environmental scientist was involved on a voluntary basis in the reconstruction of the tree nursery in Himo, which was supported by the city of Kiel. Now, as the coordinator for town twinning between Moshi and Kiel, he continues to keep an eye on it from his working place at the environmental office.

During a visit to the waste management company in Kiel (ABK), he was quite enthusiastic to have a similar system in Moshi as well. There are still a few steps to go, but he said progress is being made to achieve this goal.

Saul Samwel also reported that a number of NGOs have been founded in the field of waste management, which call for waste products to be reused or recycled as far as possible with the slogan "waste is not waste rather it's a resource". The NGO *Tourism and Environmental Social Organization* (TESO) is an example of this.





Distance:
Kiel – San Francisco (USA):
8,820 km

Together against waste: Zero Waste partnership between Kiel and San Francisco

In 2018, the two partner cities agreed in a *memorandum of understanding* to work closely together on the topics of waste prevention, recycling and waste management and to jointly advance the solution to the global problem of “waste” by drawing on their own experience.



© Pixels / Tae Fuller

San Francisco is located in the state of California on the west coast of the USA on the Pacific Ocean. The approximately 600 km² city in the north of the peninsula of the same name is characterized by a hilly to mountainous landscape and a year-round mild climate with cool summers and low precipitation. Together with San José and Oakland, San Francisco is part of the San Francisco Bay Area metropolitan region.

It is best known for the Golden Gate Bridge and the sometimes very steep streets, whose courses are laid out at right angles, contrary to the geography. The second world-famous symbol of San Francisco is undoubtedly the cable car, which travels

up and down the steep streets of San Francisco.

San Francisco’s city council decided as early as 2003 to become zero waste city. This goal implied to actually bring the waste volume to zero by 2020. By 2018, it was apparent that this goal would not be feasible. Accordingly, the target was adjusted to 2030 that the share of recyclable waste is to be reduced by 15% and the amount of residual waste by 50%.

In order to achieve the goals, the city administration put together a Zero Waste team that focuses solely on anchoring the Zero Waste specifications within the administration. In this way, the administration wants to set a good example.

San Francisco’s Zero Waste concept also includes measures such as the introduction of a deposit system for plastic and glass bottles, a ban on single-use packaging for transporting food, a waste separation system, a shift in the proportion of residual waste in favor of recyclable waste, and a ban on free single-use plastic bags. The fees charged for single-use plastic bags increased again in July 2020 and are now 25 cents (21 euro cents).



Monetary incentives for correct behavior: Pay as you throw!

The secret of San Francisco’s Zero Waste strategy is probably to create **monetary incentives for correct behavior**. Most waste companies in the U.S. operate landfills themselves. As a result, they have a fundamental interest in dumping rather than recycling a large proportion of waste. On the other hand, there’s Recology, a company contracted by the city of San Francisco. The more it recycles, the more money it makes; the more that is landfilled, the less money the company earns.

The city has equally applied this system to consumers: the less waste they produce, the less they have to pay (Recology, 2020).

Recology also attaches great importance to the satisfaction of its employees, who own the company. In addition to paying above-average wages (in the sector), the company concept also includes deploying employees as close as possible to their own place of residence. This allows them to better identify with their work in their own neighborhood.



© pixabay / Duane Retzlaff

A sea of civil society engagement

A wealth of civic groups are engaged in the Bay Area metropolitan region (San Jose – San Francisco – Oakland). Topics range from environmental education to waste reduction and empowerment of disadvantaged communities.

Brightline Defense: Empowering Communities, Sustainable Environments

Brightline Defense was founded in 2005 and began as a legal aid organization. Through the support of environmental justice activist Espanola Jackson, the non-profit organization became a powerful entity working to strengthen communities and create a sustainable environment.

They place a special focus on the already disadvantaged regions and communities in and around California. In addition to a clean energy supply, they are committed to recruiting employees primarily from the communities themselves.

In addition, the organization promotes networking among community representatives with the aim of supporting low-income communities of color. In September 2016, for example, they held the first Sustainability Summit where policymakers exchanged ideas with community activists on climate change and unemployment in the context of low-income communities.

www.brightlinedefense.org/

UpStream



The non-profit organization Upstream has been active for almost 20 years and is made up of zero-waste activists from the USA and Canada. They believe that the focus is too much downstream: recycling, for example, is about what happens to the waste in the end. Instead, they say, it is important to change the system from the ground up, that is, to think upstream. Upstream does not see itself as a conventional non-profit organization. They want to create a space where policy makers, CEOs and other creative minds can come together to change the world. They do not believe in simple solutions, but rather that the system changes gradually in a dynamic process.

www.upstreamsolutions.org/

Re-Up Refill

The Re-Up Refill Shop is similar to the unpackaged stores in Brest and Kiel. The products offered are environmentally friendly and include cooking items, bath and body care products, and cleaning products. Customers bring their own reusable containers, which

are then cleaned in the store. Products can be ordered online and are then either ready for pickup at the store or delivered right to the door with a free bike delivery service. The store is located in Oakland, but pick-up locations are also available in San Francisco Point Reyes. Such stores offer us consumers an excellent opportunity to reduce our own waste production without having to do without.

www.reuprefills.org/

Other organizations in the field of sustainability

garden for the environment:

www.gardenfortheenvironment.org/

recycle for change:

www.recycleforchange.org/

scrap:

www.scrap-sf.org/

ecology center:

www.ecologycenter.org/zerowaste/

zero grocery:

www.zerogrocery.com/

literacy for Environmental Justice organization:

www.lejyouth.org/

fillgood:

www.fillgood.co/9

The following SDGs are covered by the civil society actors portrayed here:



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Think global, act local – around the world!

The first step has been taken! With the project **Civil Society Dialogue on Sustainable Development**, the city of Kiel has brought together civil society actors from five different cities to discuss issues of sustainable development. To kick things off, the topic of waste was on the agenda - an omnipresent issue with which we are all familiar.

The discussion showed that civil societies from five different cities perceive the issue of “waste” very differently. While it is undisputed that it is a (global) problem, opinions differed on how to deal with it.

What contribution do waste incineration plants make to “solving” the problem, for example via energy generation? How can we counter the export of waste to other countries? And what is our role as a consuming civil society?

The exchange gave a good impression of how the issue is viewed elsewhere. In particular, the vivid short videos that the participants had created themselves within a month made a valuable contribution here. “It was good that we spent more time thematically dealing with the intercultural exchange in connection with the video project. This made it easier to process the content. The video format also allowed for a creative approach to the topic.” (Perrine Cardinal, Brest-Kiel Partnership Committee) The project is to continue as early as next spring. The follow-up project Upside-Down invites these and other groups of Kiel’s twin cities to jointly develop solutions for selected topics of the 17 sustainable development goals and to derive political demands from them.

We can only achieve the sustainable development goals of the UN Agenda 2030 if a broad majority supports them and is willing to take responsibility accordingly. This is why we need a strong civil society that initiates processes from below.

However, since the fulfillment of the sustainable development goals does not relate solely to one’s own country or city, transnational exchange formats are so important. They enable us to better understand the global context. In this way, we can succeed in pulling together for sustainable development worldwide.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all participants for their outstanding commitment. They invested a lot of time in answering numerous emails, compiling information and creating great videos.

Thank you! Dankeschön! Merci! Teşekkürler!

Links

AFP: **Neues Recyclingsystem in Frankreich**: Alte Möbel kommen nicht mehr auf den Müll: STERN
Birpınar, Mehmet Emin (25.01.2020): **Turkey’s zero waste initiative**: Past, present and future: DAILY SABAH.
Britschgi, Christian (4.6.2020): **San Francisco was the first major city to ban plastic bags**. Now it’s banning reusable bags to combat coronavirus: REASON.
Buring, Andrea (30.06.2016): **Plastiktüten in Frankreich**: Kommt nicht mehr in die Tüte: EURONEWS.
Celebi, Omer Faruk (2020): **Hatay, gastronomy**: UNESCO HATAY CITY.
Enorm (2020): **Zero Waste: Diese Unverpackt-Läden gibt es in Deutschland**: ENORM.
FB Attorneys (20.0.2019): **Plastic Bags Prohibition Regulation Issued** (Legal Update): FB ATTORNEYS.
Garver, Gabriela (21.09.2020): **Artist creates scrap metal sculptures to support Turkey’s Zero Waste campaign**: DAILY SABAH.
Interreligiöser Arbeitskreis
Jacobsen, Martin (11.11.2015): **The cleanest town in East Africa**: WWF.
Krause, Susanne (30.06.2016): **Frankreich will Plastiktüten teilweise verbieten**: DEUTSCHLANDFUNK.
Ouest-France: Brest. **L’épicerie vrac Les Bocaux d’Ana lance un drive zéro déchet**: OUEST-FRANCE.

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c/o Bündnis Eine Welt Schleswig-Holstein e.V. (BEI)
Dachverband für entwicklungspolitische Organisationen
Sophienblatt 100
24114 Kiel
Phone: 0049 431 679399-00
Fax: 0049 431 679399-06
www.eineweltforumkiel.de

Chief editor/project leader
Lotte Nawothnig

Editor
Jennifer Patton (English)
Angelika Bürkner-Dehmer (German)
Perrine Cardinal (French)

Translations
Ann-Catrin Sievers (English/French)
Filiz Çetin (Turkish)

Graphic design
Ulrike Heinichen, Grafitypus

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