

SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO WASTE

TO MAKE A SHOT DOES NOT YET MEAN TO WIN.

The quantity of generated waste in Slovenia has been increasing over the past years. In 2020, we “produced” a total of 7.6 million tonnes of waste (Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia). 630 000 tonnes of waste came from households. Can you imagine? It’s hard. Visit your closest waste collection centre, which is responsible for waste management in your municipality, including collection, sorting, selection, processing, and treatment of waste.

HOWEVER, SLOVENIANS COULD ALMOST SERVE A ROLE MODEL IN WASTE SEPARATION!

Separated waste accounts for nearly 72% of all collected waste. Nearly 60% of waste is recycled. Over the recent year this level has increased in line with expectations. Nevertheless, we need to reflect on the fact that we discard nearly 68 kg of food per capita, of which nearly half is still edible. One of the critical environmental factors has always been plastics. Here, we still have a lot of room for improvement to reduce the 67,000 tonnes of plastic waste that we generate each year. Yes, it’s all about packaging...

So, we have adopted an Olympic approach to waste separation, but we are still fighting (at least) a biathlon with waste, so a part of the journey towards the finish includes decreasing the quantity of waste.

EACH SLOVENIAN GENERATES APPROXIMATELY HALF A TONNE (498 KG) OF COMMUNAL WASTE PER YEAR. YOU CAN HELP DECREASE THIS NUMBER!

By following the recommendations below, which we prepared in cooperation with experts from the Jožef Stefan Institute, you will not only benefit yourself, but you will also benefit everyone else. The individuals, the society, and the nature that surrounds us. However, this is a long journey and a responsible investment. Every step matters. Together we can!

1. ENSURE YOUR PURCHASES ARE WELL-THOUGHT-OUT AND, IN TURN, DECREASE YOUR CONSUMPTION.

Keep it short, simple, and clear. If we throw away 68kg (!) of food per capita, the first step is simple. Decrease consumption. Before you throw away the trash, weigh it, and after a month you will be able to calculate where you belong, and use the collected information to decrease your consumption.



2. BEFORE A PRODUCT TURNS INTO WASTE, THINK THINGS OVER. IS IT POSSIBLE TO REUSE THE PRODUCT?

If not by you, perhaps by somebody else. In centres for re-use of products and second-hand centres they will help you extend the life cycle of the product. You can gift the item, exchange it for other items or also, last but not least, sell it. To summarise, a shot to the basket, even if it is the right basket, is not always the best solution.



3. PROVIDE YOUR OWN PACKAGING.

Purchases with your own packaging (bulk) should become a rule rather than an exception. Glass and wooden packaging, and bags made from natural materials should become your mandatory equipment. How to start? Reuse the plastic bottles and plastic bags, which you find in your closets and basements. Many other materials are an excellent substitute for the too convenient plastics.



4. MAY YOUR NEWEST PRODUCT BE ACTUALLY “OLD”.

Second-hand use is becoming increasingly popular. Adopt a sweater, bicycle, vacuum cleaner, or iron and give it another opportunity. Before you google the online shops, keep in mind the worrying numbers provided above. With every purchase of used functioning equipment you can contribute to better statistics.

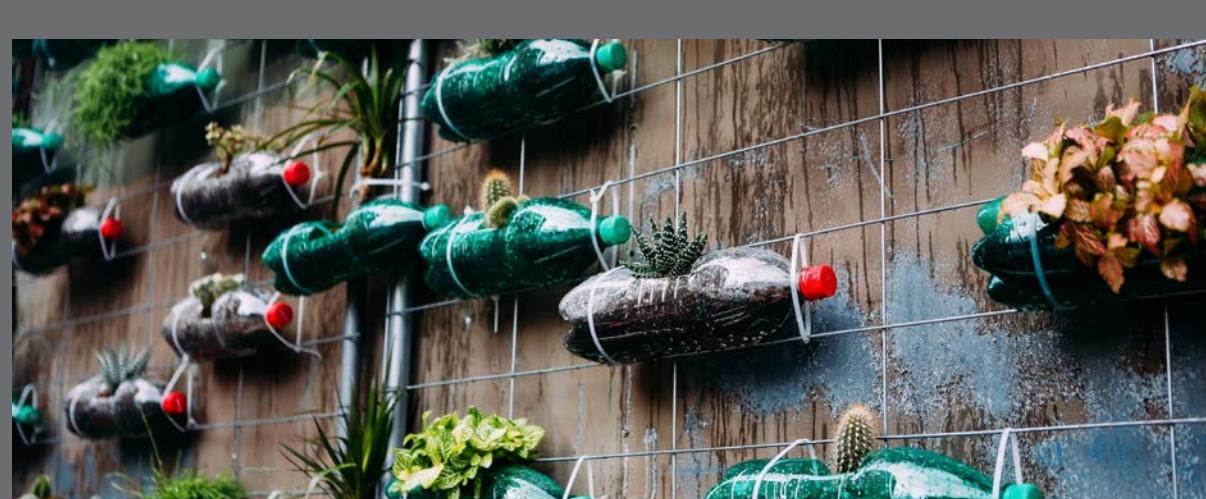


5. ZERO WASTE BIRTHDAY?

May festive events and celebrations be no exception. Challenge? Ensure that your next birthday celebration is zero waste. Forget the rubber balloons and plastic cups, pull out your grandma’s porcelain, and don’t throw away any food and drinks. Integrate good habits in all aspects of your life. And paint another celebration or festive event in the colours of sustainability.



LET YOUR STEP BECOME A PART OF THE RELAY RACE! PASS THE MESSAGE!



The report of the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC August, 2021) clearly states that climate warming is the result of human activity. Don’t turn a blind eye. This is my, your, our problem. Take action! Accept the challenge! Inspire your friend, neighbour, mother, acquaintance and trigger the wave of change. Together we can move mountains!

You can find more content on Facebook and Instagram under the [#belivrhovi](#) and [#misijaledenik](#) tags.



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