

Unedited interviews

I. In School: Primary School Anton Martin Slomšek Vrhnika

1. – Benjamin: Lea Tori

INTERVIEW WITH LEA TORI

1. Which eco projects do you have?

-We have Plastic pirates, Promote the environment, Rubbish sorting, Eco reading mark and Cleaning school surroundings

2. How do you contribute to a healthy environment?

- I separate waste, I'm trying to have zero waste, in school we read and presentate eco content and I participate in eco projects

3. What environmentally friendly things you use?

-I use eco cleaners, clothes from natural fabrics, organic bags and already recycled things like bottles

4. How do you encourage recycling among students?

-We have a talk, I try to demonstrate them something and of course we are eco school and we are committed with such things

5. How do you reduce plastic use?

-We don't use plastic straws, we use glass cups so we can re-use them and we exchange pen fillers from highlighters instead of buying new ones

6. How do you reduce water usage?

-We don't bath so much and we closure water when we don't use it

7. Plastic and microplastic pirates?

-our school was first to start this projects with kids. Last year we went to Ljubljana to search for waste. Some of the results were shocking like that microplastics were already at the source of rivers.

2. – Filip: Mitja Močilar

INTERVIEW

(With Mitja Močilar)

Do you organize any workshops or presentations at school about the impact of waste on the environment?

Yes, in the 7th grade, pupils have an ecoday where they measure how much plastic in in water. They also pick up trash from the floor and sidewalks. Also in 6th grade there is a theme at the science lessons about waste.

Does the school have any projects about less waste?

Yes, we are trying to recycle as much as we can. We also encourage pupils about the recycling. We also measure how much waste food we produce in school and in the corner of school botanical garden we have compost where we put some reusable waste food as a fertilizer.

3. – Karmen: Darja Šega

Which projects are you going to perform this school year?

This year I am going to perform four projects; The optional subject of beekeeping, the organization of a school fair, and two more with the Ecoschool program (School VRTilnica, School eco garden).

Does the school carry out waste reduction awareness projects? If so, what are the results?

Yes, the school carries out awareness projects regarding waste reduction, such as the School VRTilnica (food reuse) and the School Ecogarden (students take care of vegetables). The results so far are satisfactory in terms of the time spent performing a particular project.

Do you organize any school workshops or presentations on the impact of waste on the environment?

Yes, this school year myself together with teacher Mateja Čadež and Petra Vogrinc have organized a Cultural Week for the 4th grade students where they

learned about the history of Vrhnika and made Vrhnikiški štruklji and in cooperation with the teacher Mitja Močilar, we will organize Ecoday for classes from 6th - 9th grade.

4.- Ema: Petra Vogrinc, principal Sonja Strgar, teacher Mateja Čadež

INTERVJU

(Petra Vogrinc)

1. How does the school manage wasted food from the school canteen?

We separate food into wasted and leftover food. Leftover food goes to compost, while wasted food is put into barrels. These barrels are then taken away by Ganga, and we must provide at least four barrels of wasted food per week.

2. Does the school run awareness projects about reducing waste? If so, what are the results?

Last year, we carried out a project where the kitchen weighed food waste from lunches, and fourth graders measured waste from snacks. We recorded the results.

3. How do you reduce plastic use in the school canteen?

Instead of single-portion jam, we buy jars of jam and serve them in small cups for snacks. We also buy liters of juice instead of small juice boxes.

4. What is your vision for the future?

To encourage children to eat healthy food and waste as little as possible.

INTERVIEW

(Principal)

1. How does the school encourage recycling among students and staff?

We have several projects that promote recycling, such as Eco School, Healthy School, the ninth graders' trip to the waste management facility, discussions during class hours, and much more.

2. Does your school use digital materials to reduce paper usage?

Yes, we use digital materials extensively.

3. How does the school manage food waste from the cafeteria?

What can be composted is composted; otherwise, the leftovers are taken away by Ganga.

4. Does the school implement awareness projects on waste reduction? If so, what are the results?

We have many projects; one of them involves weighing waste to determine how much we throw away. We then publish the results.

5. How do you encourage the reuse of school supplies such as notebooks, pens, and textbooks?

We use textbooks for several years, and anything that is worn out is collected for a paper recycling campaign.

6. **How does the school promote the use of sustainable materials in projects and creative activities?**

We reuse old calendar pages for student projects, use waste packaging whenever possible, and purchase long-lasting materials.

7. **Does the school have collection bins for recycling and composting in classrooms and hallways?**

Yes, we collect used cartridges, batteries, electronics, bottle caps, old paper, and we also compost.

8. **Are students and teachers involved in planning initiatives to reduce waste at school?**

Very much so. We have many discussions with teachers and numerous class sessions with students.

INTERVIEW

(Mateja Čadež)

1. **What projects are you working on for the Eco School?**

Currently, I am working on a clothing exchange project. This is a project where children bring in used clothes, which we then donate to those in need.

I am also involved in the Alteredmed project, where we educate children about healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle.

II. Shops

1. - Hana, Mila: Lidl

INTERVIEW WITH LIDL

Hana and a Lidl employee had a very concrete and informative conversational exchange. Hana asked questions focused on sustainable practices and responsible environmental behavior, while the employee provided answers that show the store sometimes follows such practices, but there are still opportunities for improvement.

It seems that the store is already implementing some sustainable practices, such as food donations, selling biodegradable bags, collaborating with local producers, and separating waste. However, there is still room for improvement, such as greater use of reusable packaging or collaboration with suppliers who would use sustainable packaging.

Hana: Does your store offer products without packaging or in reusable packaging?

Employee: No.

Hana: How do you encourage customers to bring their own bags or packaging?

Employee: We sell biodegradable bags.

Hana: Does the store cooperate with suppliers who use sustainable packaging for their products?

Employee: No.

Hana: How do you reduce the amount of wasted food and other products that you don't sell?

Employee: We donate fruits and vegetables three times a week.

Hana: Does the store have any programs for recycling or returning packaging to customers?

Employee: No.

Hana: Do you cooperate with local producers or suppliers to reduce packaging and transport waste?

Employee: Yes, "Naše nam paše".

Hana: How does your store reduce the use of plastic bags and encourage alternatives for reuse?

Employee: We sell biodegradable bags.

Hana: How does the store manage waste from logistics, such as pallets, plastic film, or cardboard boxes?

Employee: We take them to the central warehouse and separate the waste.

Hana: Do you cooperate with food or product donation organizations for items that are still usable but can no longer be sold?

Employee: Yes, we donate to organizations like the Red Cross and Lice Kids Vrhnika.

2. – Veronika, Neja: Spar

1) -Yes, for example fruit. You can buy it in a bag that you could use mmore times or you can bring your own bag to the store.

2)How do you encourage customers to bring their own bag with them?

-We encourage them by charging a price for the bags in the store.

3)How do you amount of wasted food and other products that you don't sell?

-We give the products customers don't buy to other companies. They drive them elsewhere.

4)Do you make any offers for recycling to the customers?

-Yes, for wasted oil and packings back to the customers.

5)Does your store offer encouragement for customers that which to return recycled materials?

-No, we don't.

6)How does your store manage whit waste for their logic, like boxes, plates and foils?

-We offer them to the customrs to take. We take the pallets back.

7)Do you work whit any companies for donating food or materials that are still for good use, but you can't sell?

-No, we don't.

3. - Zala, Zarja: Merkator

Interview Mercator (Loka)

On 13.2, Zala and I went to Loka shopping center. The teacher gave us an assignment to interview a person who works at Loka.

How do you encourage customers to bring their own bags or packaging?

We tell customers to bring their own bags by reminding them at the checkout, and we also have reusable bags available.

Does the store work with suppliers who use sustainable packaging for their products?

Yes, we do. We also cooperate with those who sell products in bottles, such as a dairy products like milk, yogurt and kefir.

How do you reduce the amount of wasted food and other products you don't sell?

Wasted food must be disposed of as bio waste by law so there is nothing they can do.

Do you implement recycling or return packaging initiatives for customers in your store?

Yes, people can bring back bottles of Radenska, Jamnica, beer and more.

Do you work with local producers or suppliers to reduce packaging and transportation waste?

Yes, we do. We cooperate with local producers, for example Laze kefir, Lušt tomatoes and others.

How does your store reduce the use of plastic bags and promote reusable alternatives?

We try to sell as many things as possible in boxes, bottles and reusable bags, and they also have cardboard boxes available, which are free and customers can take instead of plastic bags.

Does your store offer incentives for customers who return recyclable packaging or containers?

Yes, our costumers can take the packaging for free and then return it.

How does the store manage waste from its logistics, such as pallets, plastic film or cardboard boxes?

We have separate containers or locations for different logistics waste, which are then taken back by the suppliers.

Do you work with organizations to donate food or products that are still useful but can no longer be sold?

We donate leftover baked goods to Caritas four times a week.



III. Companies

1. - Žan, Nik: Adamič cookies

Interview

English version:

1. Do you use recyclable materials such as paper bags?

Answer: Yes, for cookie boxes we use recycled plastic.

2. Do you monitor the amount of waste packaging?

Answer: Yes, we monitor it, and if possible, we use it again. If not, we send it for recycling.

3. Do you work with other companies to improve recycling?

Answer: Yes, we work with one company.

4. Do you check and improve the efficiency of raw material use?

Answer: Yes, because we can use all of it since it is dough.

5. Do you have dangerous waste in your production?

Answer: No, we don't need anything like that in production.

2.- Maj, Jure: Elmer electronics

1. How do you optimize (make efficient) production processes to reduce waste material?

Answer: We use the most suitable dimensions of raw materials to minimize shavings and waste material during the manufacturing process.

2. Do you use recycled materials in your production? If so, what percentage do they make up?

Answer: We use recycled plastic for our product housings and recycled cardboard for their packaging.

3. How do you monitor and reduce the amount of packaging waste in production?

Answer: We purchase materials in bigger packages, ensuring that items are not individually packaged.

4. What steps have you taken to reduce energy and water consumption in production?

Answer: We shorten the manufacturing cycles of individual product components. Water is not directly used in production.

5. Do you collaborate with other companies to improve recycling or reuse of industrial waste?

Answer: Yes, we mainly work with companies that recycle plastic waste, shavings, and plastic chips.

6. How often do you improve the efficiency of raw material usage in production?

Answer: This is done very frequently. With every change, innovation, or new product, we focus on reducing resource consumption.

7. Do you have programs in place to reduce production defects that result in waste?

Answer: All our products come with a five-year warranty, ensuring that there is no room for mistakes or defects.

8. How does your production manage hazardous waste, and is there a way to reduce it?

Answer: We collaborate with specialized companies for hazardous waste disposal. Due to high management costs, we try to keep hazardous waste to a minimum.

9. Do you conduct life cycle assessments (how long a product lasts) to reduce its environmental impact?

Answer: Yes. All our products come with a five-year warranty, and even after that period, repairs are possible.

10. How do you encourage your suppliers to use sustainable materials and practices?

Answer: Unfortunately, our supplier selection is primarily based on the balance between quality and price.

1. How can producers reduce waste through eco-friendly packaging?

If they use recyclable or biodegradable materials.

2. What are the benefits of optimising production to create more durable products?

It reduces waste because if the product lasts more time it is going to be thrown away a lot later.

3. What strategies can manufacturers use to minimise waste during production?

They can improve production efficiency, optimize packaging and logistics, reuse and recycle waste materials and much more

3. – Brigita, Siliko

Interview with Siliko

Siliko d.o.o. is a company that develops and makes technical products from rubber and plastics. I did an interview with an employee who wants to stay anonymous.

How do you make your production processes more efficient and reduce waste?

Accurate calculations are very important for reducing waste when making rubber products. As manufacturers, we can use the right amount of materials by calculating exactly how much is needed for each production cycle. This way, we use less material and create less waste. Advanced software helps us calculate the exact material needs, which makes production more efficient.

Do you use recycled materials in your production? If yes, what percentage?

We don't use recycled materials to make rubber, but our rubber products can be recycled. This helps create new industries and jobs and is good for the economy.

Waste is turned into rubber granules, fuel from rubber, and fine rubber powder, which is used in making asphalt and sports surfaces.

How do you reduce packaging waste in production?

The involvement of employees is very important in reducing packaging waste. Training programs that teach employees how to manage waste can have a big effect on the production process and packaging waste.

What steps have you taken to reduce energy and water use in production? We have reduced energy use by installing new solar power systems. To cool the machines, we use water from a nearby river.

4. – Jure, Ruben, Paurus (electro engineering)

1. We use precise machines and 3D printing to avoid wasting materials.
2. Yes, we use recycled aluminum, plastic, and metals from old computers.

About **40%** of the materials in our products are recycled.

3. Our products are packed in recycled cardboard, with no unnecessary plastic.
4. We use energy-saving machines and LED lights. Smart sensors turn off devices when not needed.
5. Yes, we send old electronic parts to companies that recycle them.
6. Every three months, we check how much material we use and look for improvements.

We test new materials that are lighter and stronger.

7. We use smart cameras to find mistakes during production.

This helps us reduce broken products that would otherwise be thrown away.

8. Toxic materials, like old batteries and metals, are sent to recycling centers.
9. Yes, we design our products so they can be repaired and upgraded instead of thrown away.
10. We mostly work with suppliers that use eco-friendly materials.

IV. DRŽAVNI NIVO

1. – Matevž: Nataša Kebe

Regarding legislation, the Ministry of Environment, Climate, and Energy operates in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act. The ministry's specific areas (waste, air quality, climate change, industrial pollution, industrial accidents, environmental assessments, light pollution, electromagnetic radiation, soil protection, noise, etc.) operate in accordance with regulations. More about the legislation <https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-okolje-podnebje-inenergijo/zakonodaja/> Companies must follow the Environmental Protection Act or specific regulations for waste management, depending on their activity. The Ministry of Environment, Climate, and Energy, as part of the CARE4CLIMATE project <https://www.samo1planet.si/> raises awareness about food waste with the goal of reducing its amount.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate, and Energy has defined strategic goals in the **Strategy for Less Food Loss and Food Waste in the Food Supply Chain: "Respect Food, Respect the Planet."** These goals focus on managing food surpluses and reducing food loss and waste. They help achieve **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3**. In 2015, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. One of them is **SDG 12.3**, which states:

"By 2030, halve the amount of food waste per person at retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses in production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses." The **EU and its member states** have committed to this goal. As part of the **LIFE CARE4CLIMATE** project, the Ministry of Environment, Climate, and Energy works to reduce food waste, mainly in households, where **44% of all food waste** is created. Currently, the project includes several activities, such as: **Sorting analysis** of separately collected biological waste to determine the amount of food waste.

