

ENVIRONMENTALIST'S

BEGINNER



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Water quality technicians

Looking for creative solutions to a water quality control problem, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Electricity began dropping about three million polyethylene balls into the Ivanhoe Reservoir in the summer of 2008.



The tank water had concentrations of natural bromides and chlorine additives that kill bacteria, and when this combination is exposed to ultraviolet light it produces bromine - an unwanted carcinogen in 58 million gallons (220 million liters) of water used by about 600,000 Angeles.



Engineers flooded the surface with the same type of balls used by airports to prevent birds from flocking to wetlands along runways, where they pose a danger to aviation. This solution

is not typical, because outdoor chlorine-containing tanks are becoming increasingly rare. But water quality problems abound and controlling them is an increasingly important green job around the world.



Climate change

The effects of climate change on humans are far reaching and include effects on health, environment, displacement and migration, security, society, human settlement, energy, and transport. Climate change has brought about possibly irreversible alterations to Earth's geological, biological, and ecological systems.

These changes have led to the emergence of large-scale environmental hazards to human health; such as extreme weather, ozone depletion, increased danger of wildfires, loss of biodiversity, stresses to food-producing systems, and the global spread of infectious diseases. In addition, climatic changes were estimated to cause over 150,000 deaths annually in 2002, with the World Health Organization estimating this number will increase to 250,000 deaths annually between 2030 and 2050. A growing body of research explores the many impacts of climate change on human health, food supply, economic growth, migration, security, societal change, and public goods, such as drinking water.



The consequences of these changes are most likely detrimental in the long term. For example, Bangladesh has experienced an increase in climate-sensitive diseases; such as malaria, dengue fever, childhood diarrhea, and pneumonia, among vulnerable communities.

Upcycling

Are you hiding a few pieces of old clothes at home that you may have never worn because it does not fit or you just dislike, but are you sorry to throw them away? Do you believe or are you attracted to minimalism, zero waste and an ecological lifestyle? If you want to try something creative, try upcycling! Upcycling is something like direct recycling. With the help of a few steps, in the form of undemanding adjustments, and clever tricks, you can make new things from old things at home without higher costs, which you can proudly wear as homemade. Proof that fashion designers "stay" their lives.



There are many forms of upcycling in which you can give new life to disused clothing and fashion accessories!

One of the ways to upgrade undamaged pieces is to paint with markers or paints on textiles! To help, always take a tape or a piece of cardboard on which to put on clothes and tighten the material properly. You can paint pictures, shapes, or abstraction. If you don't feel very skilled, try pinterest and try basic graphic design. Inscriptions, mottos written with a marker, stamps carved from potatoes or cut-out letters from paper are also effective.



Certainly most of us tried batik coloring as children ... The edge of this trend has already come to an end, but it can still be used!

Buy clothes colors at the drugstore and follow the instructions on the packaging. Depending on the expected outcomes, you can use 2 forms of batik. Roll up or squeeze a piece of clothing, wrap it tightly with string to create rings, or fold it into strips.



If you are one of the more adventurous, and do not mind spending more times wing clothes. You can sew the clothes to your liking and needs. For example, beautiful dresses, blouses and belts can be sewn from an unused men's shirt. There are no limits to creativity!

EU Environment strategy 2030

The new biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, systematic and ambitious long-term plan to protect nature and reverse ecosystem degradation. It fundamentally supports the European Green Agreement and the EU's leading international position in the field of global public goods and sustainable development goals.

The strategy to steer European biodiversity towards recovery by 2030 sets out new options for more effective implementation of existing legislation, new commitments, measures, targets and management mechanisms. The European Green Deal is the first priority of the current European Commission under the leadership of President Ursula von der Leyen. It represents the European Commission's plan for the green transformation of the European Union's economy in the interests of a sustainable future. The whole world, including Europe, will have to deal with the growing and challenging challenges of the environment and climate change, including halting the loss of biodiversity. It is the European Green Agreement that is the tool to meet these challenges and turn them into opportunities.

The primary objective of the European Green Agreement (EES) is to ensure that Europe becomes the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. To achieve this long-term goal, net greenhouse gas emissions produced by the Member States of the European Union by 2050 will need to be zero. This means that EU Member States will only be able to emit enough CO₂ to capture natural and artificial carbon sinks. The EES also aims to decouple economic growth from resource use and to ensure that the planned changes are fair and inclusive, without forgetting any individual or region. EGD includes several supporting elements. Among the most important are a significant increase in the European Union's climate change ambitions for 2030 and 2050, as well as securing clean and affordable energy supplies, with the EU focusing on strengthening renewable energy production, expanding international cooperation to improve energy infrastructure, or to combat energy poverty. Furthermore, according to the EGD, the EU wants to focus on faster and more efficient development of the circular economy, especially in resource-intensive sectors (textiles, construction, electronics and plastics) and have a positive impact on consumer behavior (preference for reusable durable products). Energy-intensive areas such as the construction and renovation of buildings or transport, which account for an extremely high share of greenhouse gas emissions, will also be addressed. The development and subsequent implementation of the Farm-to-Table Strategy should in turn lead to a more sustainable food policy by involving all stages of the food chain, while being in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. Together, these two strategies should ensure nature protection, biodiversity, ecosystems and their services.



The EGD was presented on 11 December 2019 in Brussels and is part of the strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitments made under the Paris Agreement. In order to achieve its ambitious goals, a number of partial measures are gradually being taken in all these areas. Their nature is complex and cross-cutting, and will therefore require the coordination and involvement of all components and actors of society at Member State level, as well as cooperation at EU and international level. An important aspect of these measures is that, in addition to achieving the ambitions set, they should also be a tool to stimulate economic growth, support businesses and create jobs.

Can active citizenship solve environmental issues?

"Active citizenship" is the philosophy that states that citizens should work towards the betterment of their community through various ways to improve life for all citizens.

Some people may say that only government and public institutions should maintain and improve people as community's lives. But government is just a part of our society. Therefore, communities can always contribute either to government decisions, or to environment themselves. Active citizenship is about people engaging in communities as big live organisms.

There are many ways of being active regarding environmental issues. Here are the types of environmental issue management activities according researchers A. Reisinger and K. Bandy (2018):

- 1) Environmental conscious activity – getting information about environmental issues, collecting litter, selective waste collection, purchasing environmentally-friendly items, energy-saving practices;
- 2) Supporting environmental issues – donating to civil/non-profit organizations dealing with environmental issues, sharing information in any way, writing letters to local representatives about environmental issues, signing up petitions, volunteer activity or job in civil/non-profit organizations dealing with environmental issues;
- 3) Citizen initiated participation – organizing petition, protesting, collecting litter;
- 4) Decision-makers initiated – participating in local forums, giving opinions and ideas to environmental strategies and plans, protesting through legal way.

The cooperation of local small communities is an important tool for ecological sustainability and environmental protection. Local cooperation induces global results. For example, there are studies about specific global initiatives as Te Szedd Program (the program is about collecting litter in an organized campaign in Hungary). The movement was first organized in Hungary in 2011 as an action against the illegal dumping waste. It was very successful program. In addition, in 2014, when Hungary first joined to the ‘Let’s Clean Up Europe’ international program, the country alone (among all EU participant countries) fulfilled the collection of the amount of waste which the EU expected to be collected by all EU members in a four-year period. Moreover, the value of the work done by the volunteers is around 5 million euros per year.



All in all, it is important to be actively involved in your local community to protect local habitat and solve other environmental issues. Let’s hope this article will inspire you to be an active citizen, if you are not yet 😊

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Game

Active citizenship and how important is to be actively involved in our community to protect local habitat and other environmental issues.

Game Packaging - waste

In the first part of the activity, participants individually or in groups draw up a list of subjects for one use. These should be items that they normally encounter on a daily basis (cans of cans, soft drinks, various paper packaging, PET bottles, plastic bags, etc.). Subsequently, for each subject on the list, participants determine its “double”, which means an article for multiple or permanent use which could replace a disposable article. This activity can be carried out in the form of a group competition, where one group orders disposable products to the others and the others designate reusable items for them. Participants think about the problem of packaging materials, the possibilities of their reuse and the generation of waste.



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