

USER-FRIENDLY COLLECTION CONTAINER



Background (REF: 1)

Recycling should be easy and encouraging for all the population. Thus, the design of the collection infrastructure should be appealing and adapted to all the users. Furthermore, proper maintenance and clean surroundings are also important to boost paper and board recycling as well as the adaptability of the frequency of collection and opening hours of recycling yards to all citizens.

User-friendliness, i.e. comfort and convenience, are particularly decisive characteristics of successful bring collection systems. (REF: 5)

ACTION

Use of containers with ergonomic design adapted to different kind of users (i.e. children, elderly and disabled people) and ensure their proper condition and maintenance as well as the adaptability of the frequency of collection and opening hours of recycling yards to all citizens

Example of best practice implemented

Ljubljana experience (Slovenia) (REF: 2, 3)

In 2013, Ljubljana introduced a simpler and more user-friendly method of collecting packaging, which was going to increase the quantities collected. Using their own bins/containers outside their buildings, residents collect residual waste, biowaste, packaging and paper. They also collect packaging at collection points or eco-Islands situated in public areas.



Figure-1. Picture of ergonomic underground container in Ljubljana. Source: European Green Capital 2016

Furthermore, since 2008 Ljubljana government has been replacing ordinary containers in the centre of the city with underground collection points, thus rationalising waste management and improving the appearance of the city. Glass, packaging and paper can be deposited by anyone, while a card is required to deposit organic and residual waste (available free of charge to all household users living in the area).

ECOLOGICAL COLLECTION SITES:

Ecological collection sites for the separate collection of waste are intended for all users who wish to deposit separately collected waste, not only those living in the vicinity. As a rule, they are located at a permanent collection and pick-up public site and comprise the bins for collecting packaging, paper and glass. Additionally, there are established several ways to obtain the dates and the schedule of waste removal for the citizens.

In the territory covered by SNAGA (waste manager in Ljubljana), there is one collection unit for separate fractions per 124 inhabitants, which is twice as much as foreseen in the ordinance.

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Keep in mind that...

- ⚠ Design is important. It should be inclusive for the maximum part of the population (specially considering children, elderly and disabled people).






Figure-2. Containers for recycling adapted to the material and to disabled people in Ljubljana (Slovenia). Source: European Green Capital 2016

How to start? (REF:3)

- ✓ Make a cleaning plan for the containers and the surroundings (adapted to the needs).
- ✓ Check for container maintenance regularly.
- ✓ Make an analysis of your containers. Are they ergonomic and adapted to the users? To analyse this, surveys can be very useful to hear users' opinions. If this is not the case, consider it for future container purchase.

Potential benefits

			
Easier use of the containers for the citizens	●	●	●
More comfort and convenience for the citizens			●
Cleaner city		●	●
Prevention of other material in the paper and board container		●	●
Increase of paper and board collection rates	●	●	●



References:

1. ECOPAPERLOOP, Optimising paper products, Packaging and collection systems EU (2012-2014)
2. LJUBLJANA (2016): European Green Capital 2016
3. SNAGA (2017): Waste manager in Ljubljana
4. SEPARATE COLLECTION IN LJUBLJANA (Slovenia) (2015): Capital factsheet on separate collection
5. ECOPAPERLOOP: Guideline: Recommendations on collection strategies