



VOLUNTEER COLLECTION OF PAPER AND BOARD



Background (REF: 1)



“Volunteer collections” are an interesting way for your municipality to start going green... and get a reward for it!

Volunteer collection is an initiative that public or private organisation (e.g. schools, sports, clubs, charity organisations, etc.) at local level (neighbourhoods, sports clubs, etc.) can implement in a municipality by collecting paper and board separately.

This collection is done apart of the regular municipal collection system, hence, depending on the municipality a special permission may be needed.

Volunteer collection can entail a benefit for the entire community, not only by raising money but also by increasing environmental awareness in people.

ACTION

Separate collection of paper and board by public and private organisations at local level (e.g. schools, sports clubs, charity organisations, etc).

Examples of good practice implemented

Kempton, Oberallgäu and Lindau (Germany) (REF: 2)

The counties of Oberallgäu and Lindau together with the city of Kempton consolidated to a common public association for waste and resources collection, “Zweckverband für Abfallwirtschaft Kempton” (ZAK). **A special permission allows not-for-profit associations, NGOs, or sports clubs to collect PfR on their own behalf and by their own means. This system collects selectively graphic paper in bundles or boxes directly from households, via private cars, transporters, tractors, etc.** These are local collections and usually just cover one village or town. Frequency varies, depending on the village/town. By experience volunteer collection takes place 2-6 times per year. Separate collection of PfR has a long tradition on this territory: Volunteers collection since a long time, paper containers (BB) in 1980s, and recycling yards in 1990s. The paper bin (door-to-door collection of paper & board) was introduced in 2008. Paper bins are provided to the households free of charge and the next bring bank is within walking distance (one per 500 to 600 inhabitants). For selective collection of graphic paper citizens can make use of the recycling yards (one for 7500 to 8000 inhabitants) and the volunteer collection. 60% of the households have a paper bin and those provide 40% of the collected paper.

Fire brigade Wolsdorf (Germany) (REF: 3)

The volunteer fire company Wolsdorf collects each year recovered paper from houses of the villages. The proceeds are donated to the Wolsdorf Children's and Youth Fire Brigade.



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Keep in mind that...

- ⚠ The “volunteer collection” would be more suitable to be implemented on those territories where are just starting off and don't have a very well established public collection system.
- ⚠ Good coordination and communication among the municipality and the volunteer group is important.
- ⚠ Evaluate the impact of this type of collection in the overall collection of the municipality. Especially, ensure that the volunteer collection system is mainly able to divert paper and cardboard from the residual household waste stream (dedicated to landfill or incineration) rather than create difficulties at the existing selective collection of the municipality.
- ⚠ Such collection can affect quantities of paper for recycling (PfR) collected by the municipality itself.

How to start? (REF: 4)

- ✓ Give a special permission which allows not-for-profit associations, NGOs, schools or sports clubs to collect PfR on their own behalf and by their own means.
- ✓ Give recommendations and information on methods to collect paper and board and how to communicate results to the municipality.
- ✓ Establish an efficient communication channel to allow the organization to communicate with the municipality.
- ✓ Evaluate and monitor the quantities of PfR collected by the organization.



Potential benefits

			
Increase in the collection of paper and board		●	●
Better quality of collected material, reducing therefore sorting costs	●		
Collect funds for a social cause	●		●
commitment of citizens on paper and board separation at home by financing both a social and environmental cause		●	●



References:

1. GREENWORLD 365: School Fundraisers Go Green to Raise Money
2. IMPACTPAPEREC (2016): Kempten, Oberallgäu and Lindau, Germany
3. The Wolsdorf Volunteer Fire Brigade, Germany
4. APPLGATE INSULATION: Tips for Organizing Your Newspaper Recycling