U-ECO Upskilling for more creative circular economy 102 Learning from real life

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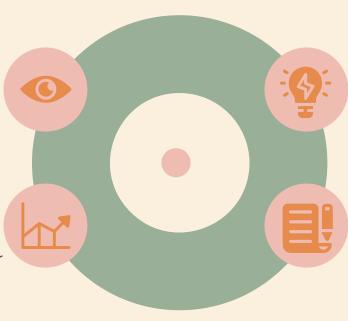
Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

How to generate enough heat for comfort while reducing energy usage and costs

Impact or economic information

The impact made on individuals is personal (better health conditions thanks to better air) and economic (lower energy usage costs)



Value proposition

Atelier's understanding of energy problems is multi-lateral and seeks to help individuals, the environment, and economic needs

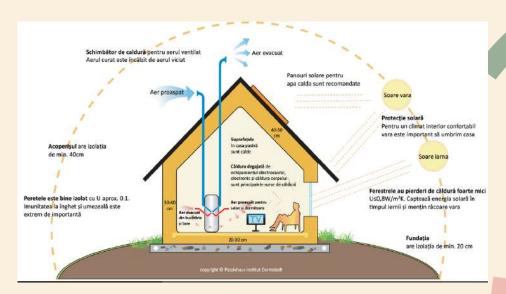
Description

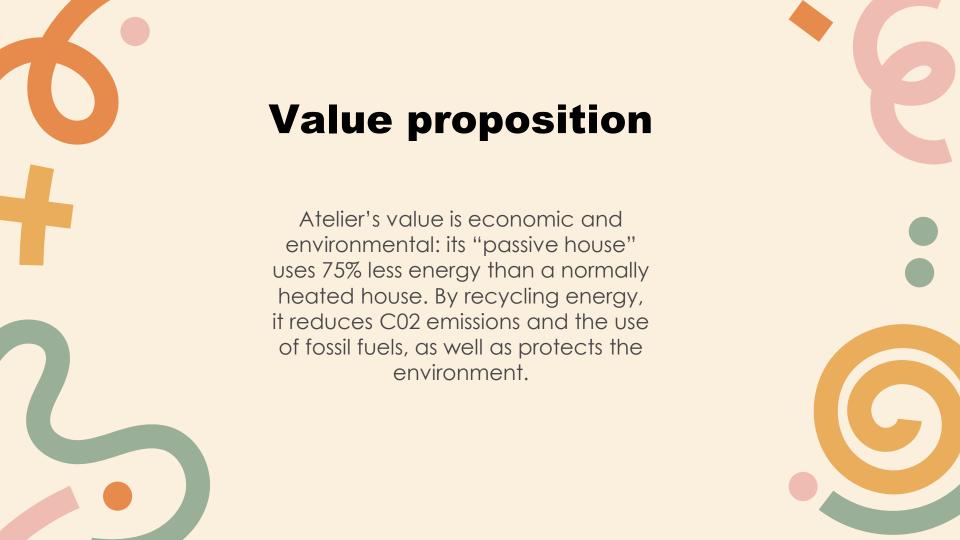
Atelier uses "passive energy" to recycle naturally generated heat

Description of the Case study

The Atelier "passive house" effectively places together the thermal comfort people actively want with a reduced energy consumption that translates into an economic and environmentally friendly proposition. The "passive" energy is recycled from various places- such as rooms in the house that are naturally warmer, solar energy, and the occupants of the house who produce thermal warmth. The minimum amount of heat needed is provided by a ventilation system with heat recovery.

The construction of a passive house, in addition to the effective design, which respects certain principles, involves a series of complex calculations of energy modelling of the building in a program specially designed for passive buildings (PHPP) and numerical modelling of thermal bridges. The resulting project is of a superior quality, precisely due to these computer simulations, of the building's behaviour over time, and problems can be foreseen and cancelled in terms of the physical behaviour of the future building (atelier1.ro)





What makes it circular?

Circular inputs

Atelier harnesses "passive energy" from such places as: the sun, people within a "passive house", and the heat found within rooms of the house. This heat is recovered and used to completely heat the house.

Environmental and economic impact



For the construction of a passive house, the extra-investment in materials with a higher performance does not exceed 10-15% compared to the investment in a conventional building (pressone.ro)



"The additional costs required for a passive house are recovered in 5-10 years of use of that building, precisely by the low energy consumption" (pressone.ro)



Passive houses conserve fossil fuel resources by using alternative energy forms



Atelier systems filter air within a house throughout the day. Individual health is positively impacted as breathing is less inhibited by allergens and asthma-triggers.

References and useful info

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Atelier1: http://atelier1.ro/servicii/proiectare-case-pasive
Garaiman, R,(2017), What it is and how to build a passive house[Online], Available at: https://pressone.ro/ce-este-si-cum-se-construieste-o-casa-pasiva

Useful info:

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https://aov-architecture.ro/ce-sunt-casele-pasive

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Recordarium

Funeral Services,
identified under the
category of Construction
and Demolution
Spain



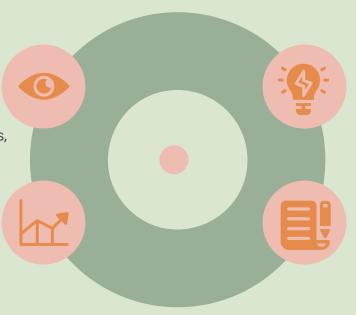


Challenge

The funeral industry has a deep negative impact on the environment, with direct consequences such as emissions, waste of water and constant combustion

Impact or economic information

Reduction in emissions and the use of fossil fuels, creation of green jobs, increase human well-being



Value proposition

An ecological alternative to burials, where the ashes from the cremated person biodegrade in the earth and serve as fertiliser for the trees and flora.

Description

Development of a forest which will serve as a basis for the spreading of the ashes from the incineration of our beloved ones.

Description of Recordarium

- In 2019, 417,625 people died in Spain. An average of 1,144 deaths occur each day in Spain, a country with 47 million inhabitants (España Mortalidad 2019, 2020). 41% of the population already chooses cremation these days, and this share is predicted to rise to 56% by 2025 ('Recordarium', el final ecológico, sostenible y legal para las cenizas de un ser querido, 2020)
- This industry is quite polluting and its consequences are harmful to public health and the environment. The direct consequences are the production of greenhouse gases through the combustion of fossil fuels in funeral homes, crematoriums, and other such facilities. Indirect effects, associated with the funeral home but physically occuring elsewhere, include: the wood used to make coffins, the chemicals used in thanatopraxy (body preservation), and the emissions associated with the management of other waste generated



(Recordarium, 2020)

- Recordarium is just 30 minutes away from Madrid (Spain). It is a place dedicated to the memory of those who are not with us anymore. A natural environment made up of forests, vineyards, fields and lakes. It is a place where the ashes are used as biodegradable fertilizer for the trees, so that in each tree the positive memory survives and the cycle of life continues. It is a legal alternative to depositing the ashes in a natural and ecological way.
- It helps reforestation, recuperation and maintenance of a natural environment by planting native trees and flora.
- Recordarium is open to every person, respecting every belief. The families can decide their preferred type of ceremony, it being possible to play music, recount memories of the person's life, and share a video stream, among other services.

Value proposition Recordarium offers a legal and ecological alternative to say goodbye to those who have departed. The clients can choose either to bury the ashes in a biodegradable urn or directly spread the ashes in their favorite part of the facilities. It is a space in nature, a reforestation area, a garden for depositing the ashes of loved ones. It offers an eco-friendly way to become part of the circle of life. In addition, it decreases the amount of land being used for graveyards, which prevent that land being used for other purposes, and imposes no maintenance or land rental costs on the families of the deceased.

What makes it circular?

- The main idea of Recordarium is to allow those who have passed away to return to nature by using their ashes as ecological fertiliser, promoting reforestation and flora maintenance.
- The main building which Recordarium use on-site is intended to achieve 100% ecological efficiency and sustainability. They have opted for it to be a lightweight, modular construction without foundations or concrete, which therefore does not harm the environment.
- The building has only one floor, so it does not cause visual contamination and integrates well with its environment as part of the landscape.

Environmental and economic impact



Use of renewable energy through photovoltaic and thermal solar panels. Aerothermal heating and cooling system.



Natural supply of water from their own well, with water pumped up during the hours in which they produce energy in order to make maximum use of renewable energy. Wastewater evacuation with compact anaerobic purification.



Contribution to the UN
Sustainable Development
Goals (SDG's):
SDG 6: Clean water and
sanitation
SDG 7: Affordable and clean
energy
SDG 8: Decent work and
economic growth
SDG 9: Industry, innovation
and infrastructure
SDG 12: Responsible
consumption and production
SDG 13: Climate action
SDG 15: Life on land



Ecological mission involving replanting local trees and plants.







References and useful info

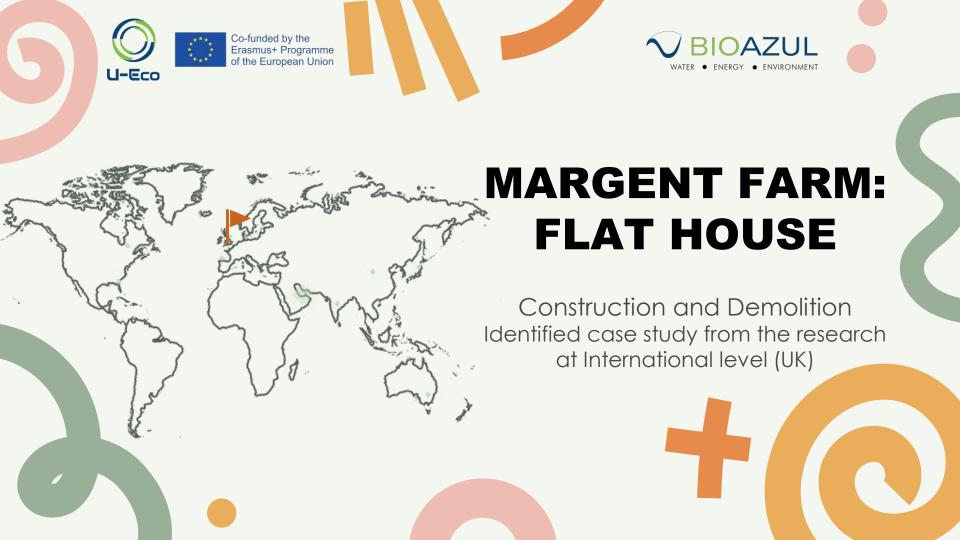
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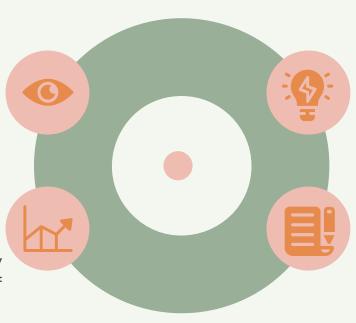
Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

Many of the core materials used in construction are carbon intensive and also difficult to separate and reuse at their end of life stage.

Impact or economic information

Hemp is increasingly being employed as an eco-friendly building material because of its ability to sequester carbon.



Value proposition

Development of an innovative bio-based material, "hempcrete", using their own crop, to use on construction.

Description

Flat House is located on Margent Farm, a 53-acre farming facility that aims to show off the capabilities of hemp – a fast-growing strain of the cannabis plant.

Description of the Case study

Margent Farm's farmhouse, Flat House, was designed by Practice Architecture and made of 'hempcrete' (a mixture of hemp and lime) produced from their first year's crop.



Flat House was designed with the aim of prototyping pre-fabricated sustainable hemp-based construction to be applied to larger scales of house-construction.

Working closely with engineers and material specialists they developed a prefabricated panel infilled with hemp grown on 20 acres of the farm (dezeen.com, 2020).

The hemp plant's long tap roots can also help to regenerate the soil by channeling water deeper and holding the soil structure in place. The 'hempcrete' was created from farm waste and hemp fibers and the property is powered by a sustainable biomass boiler and energy from the sun (Bitc.org.uk., 2020).

Fig 1. Margent Farm Flat House



Value proposition

The Flat House project was approached from the perspective of using the raw material that was grown on the farm (farm waste and rests of hemp fibers) and demonstrating how hemp-based products can be used as more sustainable building materials.



What makes it circular?

Circular inputs

- Hempcrete was created as a way to use farm waste and rests of hemp fibers.
- The property is powered by a sustainable biomass boiler and energy from the sun, so it is powered by renewable energy sources.
- The Flat House was built with the aim of having a construction that retains more carbon that what it consumes.

Resource recovery

 The Flat House is designed to be disassembled so that at the end of it's life the materials can be separated to be reused.

Environmental and economic impact



Hemp is increasingly being employed as an eco-friendly building material because of its ability to sequester carbon.



The house is also offgrid, with heating and power provided by a biomass boiler and a photovoltaic (PV) array – a system of solar-energy panels – on the roof (dezeen.com, 2020)



The annual **CO2 emissions** of the property were calculated based on the construction of the home, its heating system, internal lighting and renewable technologies which were installed.

Impact Data (Bitc.org.uk., 2020):

- Annual CO2 emissions -2.32 t/year
- Dwelling CO2 Emission Rate -21.52 kg / m2



The Flat House can serve as inspiration for sustainable construction and material innovation







References and useful info

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- https://www.dezeen.com/2020/01/09/flat-house-hempcrete-practice-architecture-margent-farm/

Useful info:

- Website: https://www.margentfarm.com/
- https://practicearchitecture.co.uk/project/flat-house/
- https://www.dezeen.com/2015/10/27/martens-van-caimere-architecten-hempcrete-hemp-render-striated-skin-renovated-house-belgium/

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Circle Centre

Digitalization, Sharing Platforms, and Services

(Identified case study from the research in Sweden)

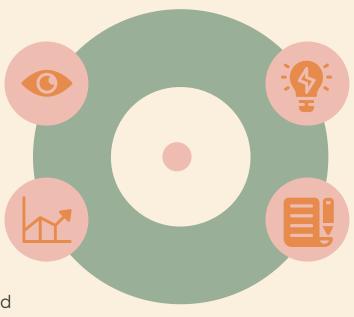
Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

Tackling overconsumption.

Impact or economic information

Considerable social, economic and environmental gains derived from the practice of reuse.



Value proposition

In order to tackle the increasing issue of overconsumption, Circle Centre offers a "library of goods".

Description

Circle Centre created a "library of goods" where items can therefore be borrowed instead of being purchased.

Description of the Case Study

Circle Centre is about **sharing**.

In order to fight overconsumption, Circle Centre created a "**library of goods**", where items can be **borrowed** instead of being purchased. They can be borrowed for a short time (up to 2 weeks, and free of charge) and a long time (up to 12 months, and subjected to a small charge). The "library of goods" offers several kinds of items: whether it is outdoor, sport, art and crafts, kitchen, or electronic goods, the choice is wide. The image below shows an example of the online "library of goods"

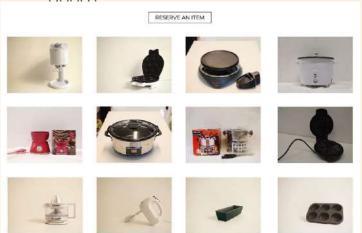


Fig 1. Example of the items available on the "library of goods" in the section kitchen.

Circle Centre does not only become a place where to borrow items from, "but also a common workspace for personal projects", where members can "work independently or collaboratively on their own DIY or art projects" (About I Circle Centre Lund, n.d.). For instance, one can bring a fabric and use the in-house sewing machine (ibid).

Finally, Circle Centre also becomes a place where educational **events**, **workshops** focused on sustainability, repair cafés, documentary screenings and open discussions are hosted.



What makes it circular?

The circularity of the initiative "library of goods" lies within its **sharing** feature, which allocates it in the circular business model of "**Product as a service or Product Service System (includes Sharing Economy)**".

Environmental and economic impact



Decreased waste generation.



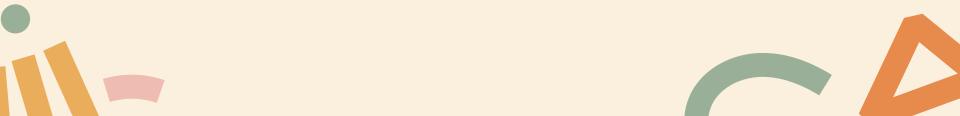
Increase of the intrinsic value of resourses, as the goods are continuously being reused.



Significant money saving.



Promotion of sharing, reuse and cooperation.







References and useful info

References:

Circlecentrelund.org. n.d. About I Circle Centre Lund. [online]
 Available at: https://www.circlecentrelund.org [Accessed 21
 October 2020].

Useful info:

Website: https://www.circlecentrelund.org

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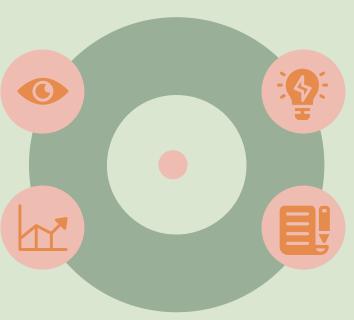
Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

Encouraging consumers to choose environmentally-friendly products and services

Impact or economic information

Resource saving; reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels, energy, and water.



Value proposition

A type of untaxable bonus that companies can pay to their staff which can only be spent on sustainable products and services

Description

Ecocheques are a kind of voucher, payable to private-sector employees, which may only be spent on certain green products and services.

Description of the case study

Ecocheques are a popular initiative of the Belgian Labour Council which private companies in Belgium can use as a form of payment for their staff.

The difference between them and normal pay is that ecocheques are untaxable and can only be spent on selected environmentally-friendly products and services.



Fig 1. Examples of types of second-hand products that can be bought with ecocheques. (MyEcocheques, 2020)

Employers can give each employee ecocheques worth up to €250 per year, valid for up to 2 years. The cheques themselves are not physical, paper vouchers; they come in the form of credit loaded onto a payments card.

Since 2009, ecocheques have allowed consumers to choose from a long list of things payable with ecocheques, including (but not limited to):

- Second-hand electrical products
- Recycled products
- Products made from recycled/salvaged materials
- Repair services
- Bicycles, scooters (manual and electric)
- A diverse range of other sustainable products and services.



What makes it circular?

By incentivising the purchase of a broad range of eco-friendly products and services, ecocheques are circular in terms of product life extension (repair services), resource recovery (recycled products), and circular inputs (products made of wellsourced, biodegradable/recyclable materials).

Environmental and economic impact



The year 2019 saw
€256 million issued in
ecocheques by 80 000
companies to 1.85
million members of
staff.



Use of ecocheques in 2019 is estimated to have led to savings in CO2 emissions equal to the yearly emissions of 22 573 Belgians, or 0.23% of the national total.



41% of ecocheques are spent in local shops, 49% in specialist businesses, and only 10% in supermarkets.



Ecocheques have the effect of channeling consumer spending to ecological and sustainable companies and sectors. This in turn creates profits and new jobs in those green companies/sectors.

(Ecocheque | VIA, 2020)

(Tondreau, 2017)





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Useful info:

http://www.myecocheques.be/

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Challenge

The current energy model based on fossil fuels is unsustainable. Nowadays, energy consumers have too little ability to influence the decision-making processes in traditional energy providers.

Impact or economic information

Reduction in energy consumption, reduction in CO2 emissions, creation of green jobs, increase in social participation in the energy consumption process.



Value proposition

Som Energia is a cooperative where all partners have a voice and vote in the decisions of the company.

Description

The company is a non-profit green energy consumer co-operative. Its main activities are the commercialisation and production of renewable energy and it is committed to promoting change in the current energy model to achieve a 100% renewable model.

Description of Som Energia

Som Energia was born in 2010 in Catalonia, Spain. It is a consumer cooperative set up as a non-profit which produces and commercialises renewable energy. The company is committed to promoting a change in the current energy model to achieve a 100% renewable model. They also aim to make the whole process of energy consumption more participative in order to empower consumers.



What do they do?

- <u>Production</u>: They produce electrical energy in generation facilities from renewable sources (sun, wind, biogas, biomass) financed by donations from partners.
- <u>Commercialisation:</u> They manage, buy, and provide bills for the electricity consumed by their members, according to certificates of guarantee of origin. Individuals and companies can acquire energy from them without the need for any rewiring or electrician's services.



What makes it circular?

- Making the energy-consumption process accessible and participatory through local groups, aiming to create an innovative movement.
- Promotion of a green and efficient economic model in which citizens are key.
- Favouring the growth of a more social and solidarity-based economy.
- Reducing the market power of the major energy suppliers that have traditionally dominated the market
- Creating in a social movement that promotes transparency and change.

Environmental and economic impact



The cooperative started with 150 members. By 2020, this had already risen to 66 000 members receiving energy through 108 000 contracts.



Transparent leadership and decision-making with participation of the consumers in the process. Decentralised into 53 local groups spread across Spain.



Is seeing rapid growth in its provision of renewable energy. Provided 32% more energy in 2019 than in the previous year.



Generation of green jobs such as for solar panel installers, green energy agents, and others. By the end of 2019 the company employed 73 people, with almost gender parity.





References and useful info

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Together we cultivate solidarity! Bio&Co

Food and Biomass (Agriculture, Forest, Food and Energy), Romania

Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

A large amount of food is wasted every year. A part of the food is represented by biodegradable materials that could be recycled by composting.

Impact or economic information

Impact on comunity trough the support of local consumption of organig food; food diverted from waste and used as compost in organig farming; Green Jobs for people at risk of poverty

Value proposition

The Bio&CO model promotes a responsible waste management process, and foster solidarity and responsibility for sustainable development.

Description

Bio&Co collects food waste and uses it together with crop residues to make compost, which is used in organic farming



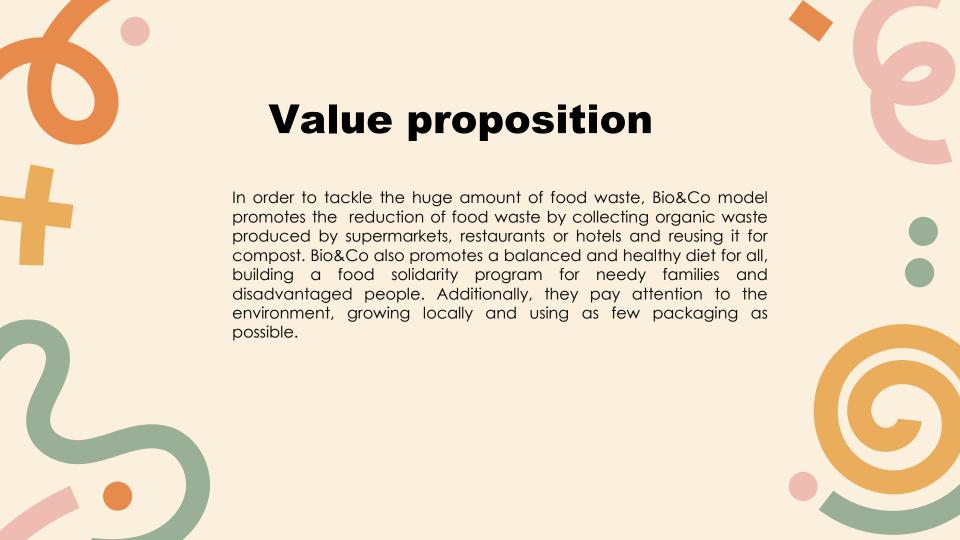
Description of the Case study

Bio&Co is a local project of the NGO "Ateliere fara frontiere" and produces locally grown vegetables, respecting ecological norms, which are further on distributed in a short circuit directly to the consumer, without polluting by transport for hundreds or thousands of kilometers.

As they are a social farming, waste is recycled on the composting platform together with food waste from supermarkets, or restaurants and hotels. In this way, the food waste is reuse or composting to produce natural fertilizer for organic farming. Ateliere fara frontiere association which implements the project, uses four hectares of agricultural land and 4000 m2 of solariums through which it produces 80 varieties of vegetables grown according to the principles of organic agriculture, vegetables delivered to 160 consumers -tori subscribers.

In addition, the NGO also has a 1000 sq m platform for composting food and organic waste collected from its own farm, but also from restaurants, hotels and supermarkets. The organic farm, where all the resulting waste is recycled on the composting platform, is an example of a circular bioeconomy.





What makes it circular?

Resource Recovery

The organic farm is an example of circular economy of biological flows, because all waste is recycled on the composting platform together with food waste from supermarkets. Also, to the protection of the environment and the preservation of biodiversity, soil quality, air and groundwater, respecting the European and national norms of organic farming and integrating the principles of sustainable development in everything they do.

Environmental and economic impact



contributes to the protection of the environment and the preservation of biodiversity, soil quality, air and groundwater, by growing locally and respecting the European and national



supports local consumption of organic food trough the programme food solidarity for needy families and disadvantaged people (over 4783 vegetable baskets delivered to over 200 subscribers)



Contributes to create green jobs, (20 green jobs for people at risk of poverty and exclusion were created)



reduce of waste and pollution by collecting food and organic waste and composting them, turning them into fertilizer for agriculture BIO



norms of organic farming



References and useful info

References:

http://www.bio-co.ro/

Useful info:

https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/goodpractices/item/1894/social-enterprise-in-composting-and-organic-farming

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Municipal Waste Management Program in Krakow

Food and Biomass (Agriculture, Forest, Food and Energy) (Identified case study from the research in Poland)

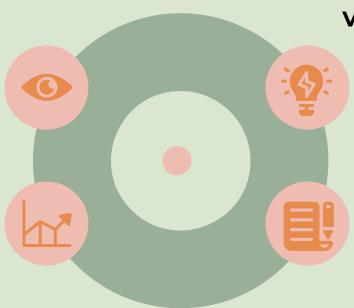
Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

Efficiently eliminating waste while harvesting clean energy.

Impact or economic information

The program fulfills sanitation needs and provides low-cost energy.



Value proposition

Waste is disposed of using the thermal waste disposal method. Energy is harnessed from the process and recycled back into the community.

Description

The program addresses pressing waste disposal needs while also generating clean energy.

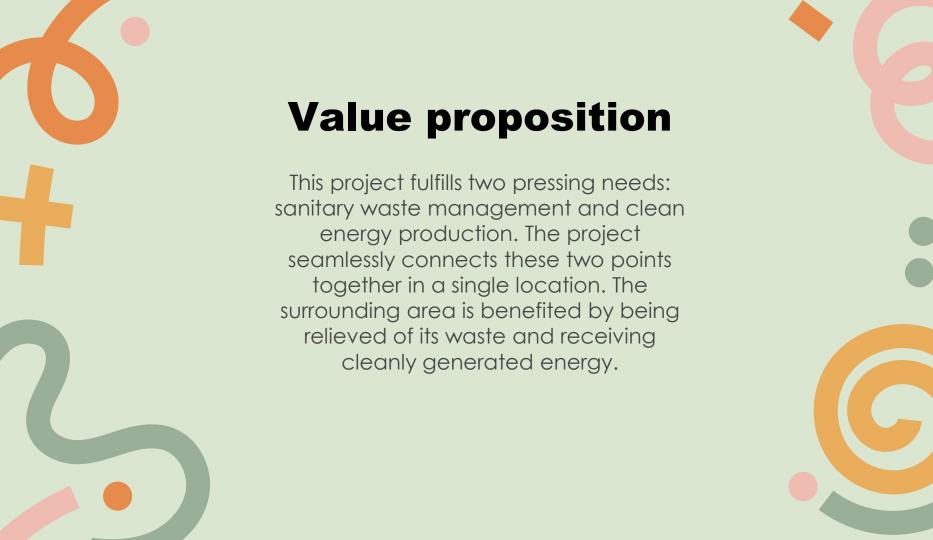
Description of the Case study

The "Municipal Waste Management Program in Krakow" program addresses the important threat to the world's environment presented by landfills. This problem is becoming increasingly more relevant as scientists have indicated the environmental harm suffered by areas situated around landfills, as well as the potential health risks presented to humans by improper disposal of waste. The "Municipal Waste Management Program in Krakow" uses the thermal waste conversion method to hygienically dispose of waste and extract clean energy from the process of disposal. Harmful gases are incinerated during the process, as the temperature generally is above 850 °C.



The residual heat from the process converts water passing through the boiler into steam. The resulting steam then propels a turbine engine, which so produces clean electricity. The electricity powers the waste management plant, and excess energy enters the GPZ Wanda station and provides a source of municipal energy.

Source: http://old.ekospalarnia.krakow.pl



What makes it circular?

The project is made circular by time its extraction of clean energy from the environmentally-friendly incineration of urban-generated waste. Specifically, its circularity lies within the "thermal waste disposal" method, which allocates it within the "Resource Recover" business circular model.

Environmental and economic impact



By extracting energy from waste disposal, less environmentally friendly methods of energy usage are avoided and fossil fuel resources are conserved as their usage may ultimately be reduced.



The generation of clean energy opens the potential to reduce reliance on environmentally-damaging means of energy.



Human health is relieved from the effects of the toxic presence of landfills, which do not only harm the environment, but human-wellbeing as well.



Air quality in the surrounding area is improved by the lack/reduction of land fills.

Source: Ekospalarnia Kraków. Krakow Holding Komunalny Spółka Akcyjna w Krakowie. Krakow. https://khk.krakow.pl/pl/ekospalarnia



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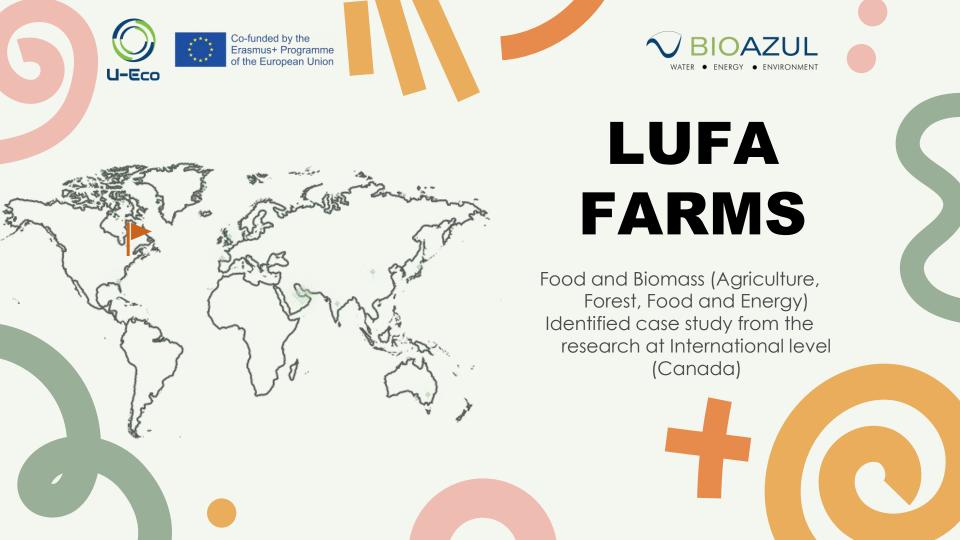
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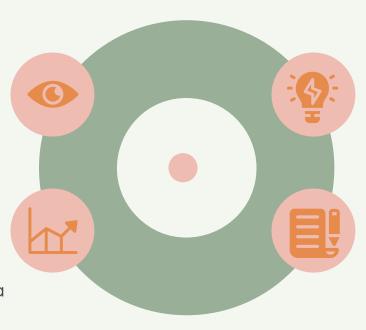
Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

Rural land is becoming more degraded and constantly pushed back as cities expand. Food value chains need to become more sustainable

Impact or economic information

While many urban farmers struggle to make a living, Lufa Farms has proven as a profitable solution for local production



Value proposition

It combines innovative rooftop hydroponic farming with an online market that includes like-minded local producers

Description

They started by creating a business around rooftop farms and now their Marketplace serves as a source of locally produced vegetables in Montreal.

Description of the Case study



Fig 1. Lufa Farm rooftop hyfdroponic farm (About I Montreal Lufa, n.d.)

Lufa Farms built the world's first commercial rooftop greenhouse on an industrial building in Montreal, Quebec, to prove that high-yield, year-round farming is a smarter, more sustainable, and commercially viable way to feed cities. Since then, they've built new, bigger and better rooftop greenhouses, to grow more and more vegetables (About I Montreal Lufa, n.d.).

Being in a rooftop allows them to use **rainwater** and use the **residual heating** from the buildings. The closed-loop hydroponic system they use recirculates water and nutrients saving more than 50% of water than a conventional farm (lbid).

Rooftop farms aren't meant to replace local farms and food makers (not everything can be grown on rooftops after all). Altogether, Lufa Farms and their partners are building a healthier, more sustainable local food system. They seek out partners who share their values of transparency and sustainability and work closely with them for their **online** farmer's market, the Marketplace, to offer locals a full

How does Lufa Farms work everyday?

Over the years they developed a **community** of hundreds of **neighbourhood pick-up points** to get food from their rooftops and partners to "Lufavores" (how they call their clients) as directly as possible. Their goals are efficiency, convenience, and community-building. They also have a fleet of electric cars to supply eco home delivery (About I Montreal Lufa, n.d.).

As they affirm, "reinventing a broken food system without a community is unthinkable", so on Lufa Farms **communicate with their clients** daily and have their doors open for **community visits and open houses**, for people "to know their farmer, know their food, know where it's from and how it's grown" (Ibid).

Their local partners are all like-minded farmers and food makers who share Lufa Farms' values of proximity, quality, transparency, and sustainability. Every producer wishing to sell on their Marketplace must meet Lufa Farms standards and ensure that their products are excellent and truly responsibly produced (lbid).



Fig 2. Local farm in Montreal (About I Montreal Lufa, n.d.)



What makes it circular?

Circular inputs

- Cities have acres of unused roof space which can be used to grow crops.
- Rooftop farms are perfect for rainwater irrigation as well as benefiting from free energy from the sun and residual heat rising from the buildings below.
- Building and city infrastructure can also benefit as rooftop farms provide cooling/insulation as well as attenuate run-off.
- Hydroponic **system** allows recirculation of nutrient-rich irrigation water.

Dematerialisation

 Distribution costs are greatly reduced as a result of promoting local production both in rooftop hydroponic farms and nearly like-minded farms.

Environmental and economic impact



Less than one acre
of roof produces
enough fresh
products each
year to feed 2000
people





- 50% less heating energy
- 50 90% less water and nutrients and reduce energy demands on the building underneath



It now delivers more than 10,000 baskets of food every week feeding about 2 percent of the population in that area.



The subscription model allows them to harvest to order for each day, reducing food waste







References and useful info

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Useful info:

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- https://www.flickr.com/photos/lufafarms/albums/72157681666196856
- https://urbanecologycmu.wordpress.com/2015/10/20/lufa-farms-food-systems-case-study/

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Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

Reducing e-waste (waste coming from electronic products).

Impact

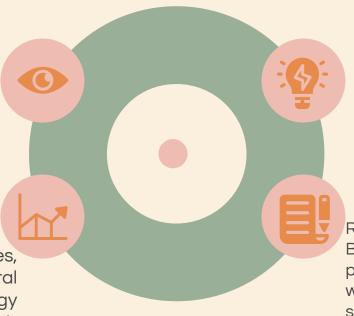
Saving of resources, reduction in the total amount of energy consumed, green job creation.

Value proposition

Collection of e-waste for its repurposing. Consumers being able to get rid of electronic devices easily, companies benefiting from Recupel's services.

Description

Recupel collects e-waste all across Belgium through drop-off points in places such as shops. Collaborating with producers, importers, and sellers, they contribute to and support the repurposing of e-waste.



Description of the case study

Recupel works all across Belgium to collect e-waste for various purposes.

They run collection points for electronic waste in public places such as shops, where anyone may drop off those products.

Recupel also cooperates with producers, importers, and sellers of electronic devices on the Belgian market to facilitate the collection of the devices. Through Recupel, such companies can fulfill their legal requirement to ensure safe and environmentally friendly disposal of these products. By joining Recupel as a member and paying a membership fee, businesses ensure that this will instead be handled by Recupel.



Fig 1. A screenshot from the website of Recupel showing how it informs users of what can be recycled.

For all household (i.e. non-company) appliances, a "Recupel contribution" is charged to the purchaser at the point of purchase, which covers the device's disposal costs for Recupel.

Recupel then either sends items to "reuse centres" to be put back into use, if still functional, or dismantles them to extract the raw materials for reprocessing and reuse if the device is no longer usable.



What makes it circular?

Recupel is circular in that it facilitates **product life extension** in terms of the products it sends to re-use
centres, as well as promoting **resource recovery**through the raw materials it extracts from non-reusable
ones.

Environmental and economic impact



Over 7 000 collection points in use as of 2018.



122,548 tonnes of electrical and electronic appliances collected in 2019



90% of e-waste put to good use in 2019

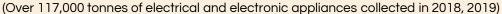
- **79.3%** is recycled,
- 10.7% is incinerated, with the heat generated being recovered and used as an energy of heat source



Result per material stream:

- Ferrous materials: 99.99%
- Non-ferrous materials: 99.98%
- Plastics: 95.47%
- Other materials: 65.71%







References:

 Recupel.be. 2019. Over 117,000 Tonnes Of Electrical And Electronic Appliances Collected In 2018. [online] Available at: https://www.recupel.be/en/blog/over-117-000-tonnes-of-electrical-and-electronic-appliances-collected-in-2018-discover-our-new-annual-report/ [Accessed 30 October 2020].

Useful info:

https://www.recupel.be/

https://annualreport.recupel.be/processingresults-en/#tabs

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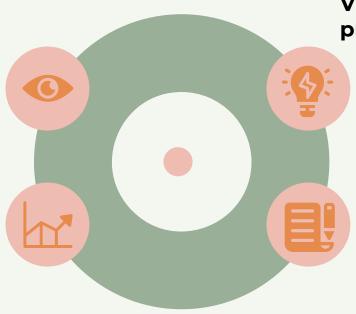
Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

Elevated negative environmental impact of the textile industry: need for reuse and recycle of textiles.

Impact or economic information

By increasing circularity in the textile value chain, the benefits are not only environmental, but also economic and social.



Value proposition

Given the negative environmental impact within the textile sector, SIPTex offers an innovative bridge between waste textiles and high quality recycled products.

Description

SIPTex is the world's first automatic largescale textile sorting plant.

Description of the Case Study

Every year, in Sweden, each person buys over **13 kg** of textiles, of which around **8 kg** is **thrown away** (Sysav -Sydskånes avfallsaktiebolag, 2017). "**20%** of the textiles are collected for **reuse**, but only around **5%** are recycled" (ibid). Sweden therefore holds a great potential in improving and increasing reuse and recycling rates.

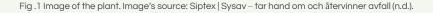
However, when it comes to recycling, "it is difficult to sort different types of textile fibres manually. Besides, many garments consist of mixed materials" (ibid). And, this is where SIPTex (Swedish Innovation Platform for Textile Sorting) takes action.

Funded by Vinnova, and led by IVL Swedish Environmental Institute, together with a broad

SIPTex is the world's first automatic large-scale textile sorting plant (see Fig. 1).

SIPTex contributes to the waste into high quality recreate a circular cycle for

SIPTex contributes to the transformation of large amounts of textile waste into high quality recycled products: an essential step to create a circular cycle for textiles (Sysav, 2019).



How does the machine work?

"The sorting machine uses optical sensors to identify the textile type. The machine can be programmed to sort, for example, white garments of 100% cotton. Then an infrared light is used on the garments. Different materials absorb different wavelenghts of light. The sensors then register the dispersed light, that forms a spectrum. Based upon this spectrum, the machine can determine the type of fibre the garment is made of. For example, 100% cotton. The technology allows for sophisticated sorting, with high precision and purity for different fibres. The sorting solution is tailored to the material recyclers' requirements and needs" (Sysav-Sydskånes avfallsaktiebolag, 2017).

SIPtex allows to close the loop and to put large volumes of textile back into the society.



Fig. 2 Image showing the materials when they enter the plant.



Fig. 3 Image showing how the sorted materials look like once they are about to leave the plant.



What makes it circular?

SIPTex allows to extend the life of textiles that would have otherwise been thrown away. This feature allocates SIPTex in the circular business model of "Product life extension".

Environmental and economic impact



Only about **5%** of the total disposed clothes is **recycled** in Sweden (Sysav - Sydskånes avfallsaktiebolag, 2017). SIPTex contributes to increase recycling rates.



SIPTex leads to the creation of "functional markets for recycled textiles", as well as to "established automated textile sorting capacity in Europe" (Sysav, 2019).



Increased
"circularity in
the textile
value chain"
(ibid).



Contribution to a "secured supply of raw materials for textile producers" (ibid).









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 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mppx3OXO-jA8feature=youtu.be [Accessed 19 November 2020].

Useful info:

Sysav's website: https://www.sysav.se/en/siptex/.

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Water2Return

Water treatment and reuse

Identified case study from the research in Spain



Challenge

The EU slaughtering sector, characterised by its high water and energy consumption, produces large amounts of wastewater (~750,000 m3 /year), containing relevant nutrients that are daily discarded.

Impact or economic information

Wastewater discharged reduction: 9 0% Fresh water savings: 20-40% in

the meat industry Nutrients recovery: 90-95%



Value proposition

A circular economy approach to turn wastewater treatment facilities in slaughterhouses into "bio-refineries" to recover valuable nutrients and water

Description

W2R proposes a process using biochemical and physical technologies and a positive balance in energy footprint to be implemented in a real case study, the slaughterhouse "Matadero del Sur" (Salteras, Spain).

Description of Water2Return

Water2Return is a real technological breakthrough based on a Circular Economy approach. It aims to treat slaughterhouses' wastewaters and recover nutrients with high market value that can be injected back into the economy as new raw materials, becoming a resource and not a waste anymore. Thus, maximum value from slaughterhouse waste extraction, supply security increase and landfilling/emissions avoidance are achieved.



Fig 1. W2R pilot plant at "Matadero del Sur"

W2R proposes an integrated full-scale demonstration process (treatment capacity: 50 m3 wastewater/day) in cascade using biochemical and physical technologies and a positive balance in energy footprint to be implemented in a real case study, the slaughterhouse "Matadero del Sur" (Salteras, Spain).

Outcomes of the Project Water2Return:

- Integrated system to treat wastewater while recovering nutrients consisting of a novel combination of technologies and processes in cascade maximising the extraction of valuable products. The system can be customised according to the needs of the end user.
- 3 different raw materials which will be the basis for further manufacturing the agronomic products. These raw materials, concretely nitrate and phosphate concentrate, hydrolysed sludge and algal biomass, will be obtained at different stages of the process.
- 3 agronomic products manufactured in production lines built up within the Water2REturn project, free of pathogens and pollutants and ready to be commercialised: 1 organic fertiliser and 2 biostimulants, that will enhance nutrition efficiency, abiotic stress tolerance and/or crop quality traits.



What makes it circular?

Resource recovery

- Water2Return is built on a bottom-up approach based on a current market demand. It constitutes a real technological breakthrough conceived to recover and recycle nutrients from slaughterhouse wastewater in the framework of a Circular Economy model.
- Nutrients recovered are turned into value added products for the agro-chemical industry and, consequently, for the agricultural sector, that seeks more sustainable products fulfilling the increasingly restrictive legislation requirements.
- At the same time, slaughterhouses solve their wastewater management problems, and reduced costs related to water consumption by reusing the water.

Environmental and economic impact





90-95%



30% Costs Savings.

Treatment costs:

Conventional

solutions: 2.63

€/m3

Water2REturn

system: 1.85 €/m3



Potential production more than 4% (of total chemical N-fertilisers consumed in EU).



Payback period:
APs production lines:
2.38 years
Wastewater treatment
system: 6,98 years







References and useful info

References:

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Proeko: Industrial Water Filters

Water Treatment and Reuse Identified case study from the research in Poland

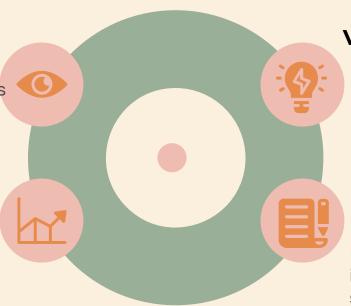
Brief overview of the Case Study

Challenge

How to treat the mineral and chemical components of water while efficiently using raw materials and reducing the generation of waste and emissions being released into the environment.

Impact or economic information

Proeko's water filters enable individuals to benefit from clean drinking water, while the local environment benefits from from the lack of harmful pollutants being released from unsafe filtration. (Ibid).



Value proposition

Modern water filtration solutions for an effective water treatment to all who need them. (Contamination and Geo-tech Expo . "Proeko. Stand: 4-G90". RoarB2B. https://www.contaminationexpo.com/exhibitors/proeko)

Description

PROEKO provides innovative water treatment solutions for individuals, industries, and institutions

Description of the Case study

The modern world struggles with various threats from pollution. These harm the environment, the water system, animals in the local area, as well as human beings. PROEKO works to provide individuals, industries, and firms with water purification solutions that address the concerns of their daily lives, while at the same time considering immediate and long-term impacts on the environment. It works across a wide spectrum of water testing; everything from making analyses of chemical content in water to designing individual solutions to understanding how best to help customers while also protecting the environment.



PROEKO works directly with its customers and fulfills an advisory role in the process of identifying which type of technology is necessary for their water needs and can assist with installation as well. Finally, PROEKO conducts user-training for all its products to guarantee wise and effective usage, and so guarantee the safety of individuals and preserve the health of the environment. (PROEKO. 2008. *Proeko Industrial Water Filters*. http://proekojp.com/research-projects/)



Value proposition

Proeko's inherent value lies in its ability to formulate and implement ecologically-friendly, effective water treatment solutions to all who need them. It utilizes its products in such a way that local water resources are able to be purified and delivered to the individuals who benefit from the clean drinking water. Pressure on the environment is limited with the reduction of emissions from the filtration process

What makes it circular?

PROEKO may be considered circular due to its treatment of water which allows for the usage and availability of clean water and reduction of emissions and chemicals entering the environment. The circularity of the initiative lies within delivery of water filtration solutions to customers, which allocates it to the circular business model

Environmental and economic impact



PROEKO reduces costs by operating without power supply needs. An unlimited amount of water is provided by its redistillation offer. (PROEKO. 2008. Proeko Industrial Water Filters. http://proekojp.com/research-

projects/



Services are cost effective as all PROEKO products have a 10 - year guarantee; needed spare parts are available for up to two years after purchase. (Ibid.)



Green jobs creation:
PROEKO produces
the need for jobs
which may be
termed "green" due
to work in purifying
water and
preventing waterwaste.



In addition to products and services, PROEKO also researches and develops products to propel research forward in the field of water purification and to investigate its acidification. (Ibid.)







References and useful info

References:

- PROEKO. 2008. Proeko Industrial Water Filters. http://proekojp.com/research-projects/
- "Proeko". Environmental Expert .
 https://www.environmental-expert.com/companies/proeko-36228
 - Contamination and Geo-tech Expo. "Proeko. Stand: 4-G90". RoarB2B.

https://www.contaminationexpo.com/exhibitors/proeko

Useful info:

To find out more about thermal waste reduction, please follow this link from the The Government of the Hong King Special Administrative Region, Environmental Protection Department: https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/prob_solutions/WFd ev IWMFtech.html

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